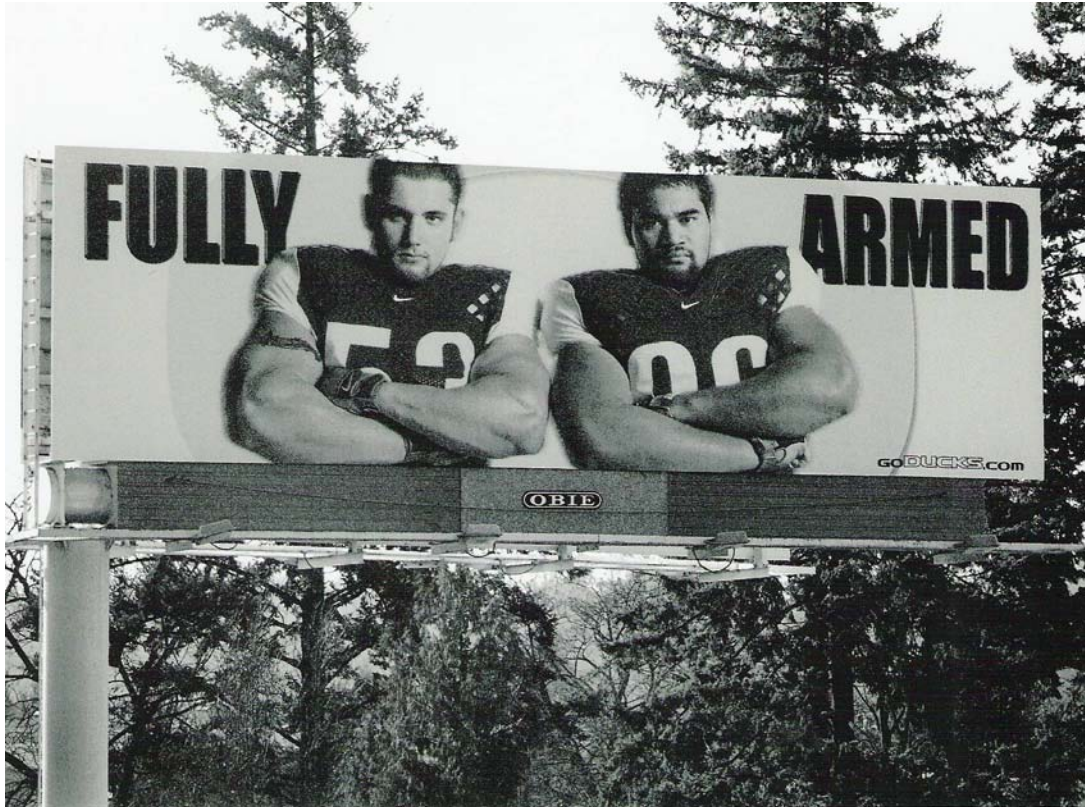


GI SPECIAL 3A46:



In football, when the play is blown dead, the players get back up. In war, they are just dead. Comparing football to war is like comparing a county jail to a concentration camps.

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

**“Soon I Will Be On Stage
Speaking Out Against
This Sick War.”**

From: Soldier X, Iraq

To: GI Special
Sent: February 12, 2005
Subject: One Week

I am down to one week. My missions are over and I have plenty of time to write. Not much internet access though. We are all still cramped up in a bay with a hundred bunks inches apart. It stinks and it is crowded, but there is so little time left no one really argues.

I hear a lot of people tell me they have no idea what it would be like to be here in Iraq and experience being a soldier for the last year. I am very happy in many ways that is true. No one should have to fully understand this war. It is well enough to know it is wrong and that there are better ways to do things than use military power.

So it is back to (xxx) for a few months, and I go on leave to (xxx) soon after I get back. By June I should be a civilian again. I plan on traveling in the States to see many of my friends before I get into the rut of regular life again. First place I hit is (xxxx) to see my daughter.

I saw the props to soldier X comment. It is encouraging to hear feedback and know some peoples attention is still on this criminal occupation.

That really fires me up when I now people are listening to the soldiers. Even the lost souls with no clue on what is going on behind the scene should be heard.

They will give an insight to the war and a raw feeling of what it is like.

Also a good window of the mind fuck the Army can put on our children the moment they step into a recruiter's office. I can still see the sparkle in my recruiter's teeth when he lied straight to my face.

Soon I will be on stage speaking out against this sick war. Until then I think you guys are doing a fantabulous job.

I will keep my SEER skills honed.

Stay fashionable,
The Mutant Soldier X

"What we give to the poor, we take with us in death."-a Chinese proverb

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

ONE TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED, THREE WOUNDED BY BAQUBAH IED

February 14, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-02-17C

TIKRIT, IRAQ – One Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed and three wounded when an improvised explosive device struck a Coalition combat patrol near Baqubah at about 4:50 p.m. Feb. 14. The three wounded were taken to a Coalition Forces medical treatment facility.

San Antonio Airman Dies In Balad Canal Rescue Attempt



Air Force Staff Sgt. Ray Rangel

February 14, 2005 KSAT.com, SAN ANTONIO

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ray Rangel of San Antonio died Saturday in Iraq while trying to rescue soldiers from a military vehicle that rolled into a canal.

Rangel's body was found hours after he disappeared during the rescue effort, Dyess Air Force Base officials in Abilene said.

"I can't believe he is gone," Cynthia Rangel, the Air Force fireman's mother said Sunday in an interview with KSAT 12 News. "I just don't know what to think. I just feel numb."

Ray Rangel was a firefighter with the 7th Civil Engineering Squadron at Dyess.

Cynthia Rangel said her son died doing what he loved -- helping others.

"We are very proud of him," she said.

Ray Rangel leaves behind a wife and four children.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

“We Just Couldn't Stop Them,” Captain Smith Said

Feb 14, 2005 KIRKUK, Iraq (Reuters)

The Kurds won 59 percent of the vote in elections to the regional assembly.

The results prompted jubilant celebrations in Kurdish areas Sunday night. Hundreds of people gathered at a roundabout in the northern Tapa area of the city and danced in front of a monument to Ahmedi Xani, a 17th century Kurdish poet.

They draped themselves in the red, white and green Kurdish flag and held posters aloft of Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the two big Kurdish parties which stood together in the Jan. 30 vote.

U.S. soldiers and Iraqi policemen initially tried to dampen the party by confiscating flags and posters and banning celebratory gunfire, but were overwhelmed and had to give up.

"There was so much going on we just couldn't stop them," Captain Mitch Smith, a company commander in the heart of Kirkuk said. "We just changed plan and decided to keep an eye on them instead to make sure they weren't causing trouble."

"Besides, it's hard to get mad at them for celebrating the fact that they're free people."

TROOP NEWS

Delaware Marine To Be Buried Today At Arlington:



“He Was Tired, Had Aged Beyond His Years And Was Ready To Come Home.”

02/14/2005 By MOLLY MURRAY, The News Journal

LEWES -- Marine Lance Cpl. Richard Chad Clifton spent the last few months of his life on the razor's edge of war:

"I scan the darkened streets for a target, listening always for the thump of a mortar round or the deeper horror of an RPG screaming like a banshee overhead, howling someone's name. The halting silence here is punctuated by anonymous gunshots and hissing radio traffic," he wrote just days before Christmas.

Clifton, 19, of Broadkill Beach, who was scheduled to come home next month, died Feb. 3 in Iraq.

He will be buried today with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

As family and friends looked back Sunday on Clifton's life, it was his mother, Terri, who captured the significance of the loss.

"The road you had chosen was so difficult," she wrote in a letter read by family friend Sergio Huerta. "The whole time you were teaching us about courage. ... Here we are in the moment of our greatest heartbreak. We have to let you make the rest of your journey alone. ... You are our hero."

But there was another side to Clifton, friends and family recalled. Clifton graduated from Cape Henlopen High School in 2003, played lacrosse and was a member of the high school rifle team.

A friend recalled that in middle school Clifton sported a mullet haircut and by high school could out-debate anyone. He was, friends recalled, a realist, a poet and a gifted writer.

After six months in Iraq he was tired, had aged beyond his years and was ready to come home.

In an Internet message he posted in December, which he titled "Somewhere Over the Rainbow/ The Emerald City," he wrote: "I click my boots together in vain," as Dorothy did when she tried to return home from Oz. "There's no place like home."

Aaron Moore said he met Chad Clifton in 1999 at Cape Henlopen High School.

"It seems like I have a thousand memories of Chad," he said. "He was quick to laugh but never quick to judge."

Moore recalled when Clifton got a Cougar.

"I had a Mustang," he said.

The combination of two guys and two fast cars was irresistible, so they decided to race down Del. 1 - in front of the Delaware State Police barracks, Moore recalled.

They didn't get caught, but Moore said he still questions the wisdom of what they did.

Moore likened his friend to remarks by the late poet and musician, Jim Morrison: "I see myself as a huge, fiery comet, a shooting star. Everyone stops, points up and gasps: "Oh, look at that." Then whoosh and I'm gone. ... "

Clifton's brother, Ryan, helped put together a slide show of pictures to remember his brother. The background music was the Rolling Stones' "Paint It Black" as moments from his brother's life flashed on a screen. The slide show ended with Clifton and his fellow Marines in Iraq.

The memorial service ended with a song performed by two friends who play in a band with Richard Clifton, Chad's father.

They chose the Green Day song "Time of Your Life:"

"Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road, time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go. So make the best of this test and don't ask why. It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time. It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right. I hope you had the time of your life."

1. War Profiteer Hogs Get \$696,565 A Year For Bomb Disposal: How Much Do Soldiers Get For Bomb Disposal?

February 14, 2005 The Associated Press

The high-risk, high-reward experience of U.S. companies in Iraq has meant big bucks for a small Charlotte engineering company with an important skill.

Charlotte's Zapata Engineering is working to help dispose of captured explosives. The first one-year contract the company received in September 2003 totaled \$3.8 million for five management positions in Iraq.

Taxpayers paid \$350,000 in salary for the company's top manager, a liaison officer, plus \$850,000 in overhead, insurance and profit costs, an analysis by the Winston-Salem Journal found.

A separate analysis by the Center for Public Integrity said Zapata's \$3.8 million task order on its services contract paid the liaison officer \$696,565 for 52 weeks, based on an 84-hour work week.

In addition, four project managers on the Zapata contract were budgeted for a total of \$2.7 million, which includes \$275,000 in annual pay for each and \$1.6 million for overhead, insurance and profit, the Journal reported. The figures did not include security, food and lodging, which were provided under separate contracts, the newspaper reported.

The Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit watchdog group that does investigative reporting on public policy issues, **said each program officer is paid \$520,928 for 52 weeks.**

In total, \$2.8 million of the military's \$3.8 million task order for Zapata could be spent just for the salaries of the five-person team, the center said.

2. This Soldier Gets Dead For Bomb Disposal

February 14, 2005 Woodbridge, Va. (AP)

A Woodbridge family is mourning the loss of a husband and father.

The Pentagon says Staff Sergeant Kristopher Shepherd died on Friday in Baghdad when an improvised bomb was detonated during a clearing operation. The 26-year-old soldier was assigned to the Army's 767th Ordnance Company at Fort McNair in D.C.

Shepherd leaves behind his wife Ruby and two children - 6-year-old Cheyenne and 4-year-old Erik.

Ruby Shepherd tells The Washington Post that her husband joined the Army to support his family.

Shepherd worked as a truck mechanic before studying bombs and how to dismantle them. He went to Afghanistan in 2003 and was wounded with second-degree burns. He left for Iraq last month.



Frank Willis, left, a senior Coalition Provisional Authority aviation and communications adviser from July through December 2003, and Darrell Trent stand in front of a pile of money **at an undisclosed location in Baghdad** in this 2003 photograph provided by Willis. (AP Photo/HO)

How The Disgusting Scum In Command Deliberately Tormented

Injured Soldier With Filthy Lies And Slanders -- And Got Caught Doing It

They feel more like prisoners than patients. "I fought for this country, but now I'm in a situation that is tearing my family apart.

February 14 2005 By Wes Smith, Orlando Sentinel

HINESVILLE, Ga. · Staff Sgt. Howard LeRoy Hizer made it back from Iraq with a Bronze Star in November 2003, but he's still fighting to get healthy and get home.

More than a year after the rest of his Florida National Guard unit returned to civilian life, the St. Cloud reservist has a drawer full of medications, a Jeep with 265,000 miles on it and a bed in a 16-man trailer on a military base 300 miles from his family.

Hizer, 41, was called to active duty in December 2002 and served 11 months as an infantry-squad leader in the Persian Gulf before being sent to Fort Stewart, Ga., because of severe back and neck injuries. He was hurt when he fell from a truck on its way to help a military police unit that had been attacked.

The staff sergeant, an Osceola County volunteer firefighter who works at St. Cloud's wastewater treatment plant, is now into his second year of what the military calls "medical holdover." He gets his military pay and free treatment for his injuries, but except for the time he spends on leave, he can't return to his wife and two young children.

"He's very frustrated, and I'm beyond frustration," said his wife, Lynette Hizer, a registered nurse. "He is back in the States, that's true, but he's not home."

Col. Barbara Scherb of U.S. Army Forces Command in Atlanta acknowledged last week that at least 15 wounded or injured Iraq veterans who were among the first to arrive at Fort Stewart have been blocked from seeking treatment at home, even though other soldiers in similar circumstances have been allowed to do so. Hizer, whose job is being held open for him by St. Cloud officials, has petitioned repeatedly to get into the community-care program, but so far his requests have been denied.

"I just want to get fixed so I can go home and pursue my job," he said. "It's almost like they want to wait you out until you just say you want to quit and go home."

Last spring, the Army also unveiled a \$23 million Community-Based Health Care Organization to relieve overburdened bases by allowing soldiers such as Hizer to get medical treatment near their homes. The community-care headquarters for Florida, Georgia and North Carolina is in the National Guard Armory in Plant City. Since April, staff workers in Plant City have helped more than 280 Reserve and Guard soldiers on medical-holdover status find treatment closer to home, said the officer in charge, Lt. Col. Bruce Cornelison.

"We have discovered that sending soldiers home works better just as a matter of policy and practice," Scherb said.

Hizer and other medical holdovers at Fort Stewart agree, and they can't understand why they haven't entered Scherb's program even as newer arrivals at the base are welcomed into it.

There are still 157 National Guard or Reserve soldiers on medical holdover at Fort Stewart. Though living conditions and medical treatment there have improved considerably since the complaints surfaced three years ago, ***Hizer and other wounded or injured soldiers from Florida said they feel more like prisoners than patients.***

"I fought for this country, but now I'm in a situation that is tearing my family apart. I've already done two years away from home, and I'm looking at another year now," said Guard member Hubert Aris, 38, of Fort Lauderdale, who has been on medical-holdover status at Fort Stewart since March.

Shortly after he returned a year ago from an 11-month tour in Iraq, National Guard Sgt. Bob Gipson, 44, of Tampa heard a presentation on the community-based health-care program that gave him hope of seeing more of his 3-year-old.

"The people who run the program were here, and they said, 'Everybody from Florida, pack your bags because you are coming home.' But I've tried to get into the program, and they say I can't go. It's crazy," said Gipson, a 23-year military veteran and former Army Ranger who injured his leg, back and neck when diving from a Humvee under fire in Iraq.

Hizer and others at Fort Stewart said the methodical and labyrinthine process seems designed to drive Guard and Reserve veterans out of the military system.

It took Hizer more than a year and more than 140 appointments to finally get an examination by a neurosurgeon -- and he had to travel more than three hours to a veterans hospital in Augusta, Ga., for that meeting.

Fort Stewart officials have also sent him to a pain clinic in Statesboro, Ga., about 50 miles from the base, and to a neurologist in Brunswick, Ga., 60 miles away, he noted. Yet, one of the reasons given for keeping Hizer at Fort Stewart is that the base is the only place he can get the medical care he needs, he said.

The Guard member from St. Cloud Hizer has made repeated attempts to be assigned to the community-based care program in Plant City, but his supervisors have rejected his request each time, he said.

"The first time they said I was ineligible because I had missed medical appointments. So I got copies of my 148 appointments, and I hadn't missed any," he said.

His supervisors next said that he couldn't participate in the Plant City program because he had been uncooperative.

"I got a memorandum from the department head of behavioral health, which said I'd done what I was supposed to do," he said.

Next, Hizer was turned down because of claims that he hadn't been a model soldier.

Former National Guard 1st Lt. Ted Pratchios, 33, of Jacksonville was Hizer's platoon leader in Iraq. Now a civilian, Pratchios recalled that he recommended Hizer for the Bronze Star based on his coolheaded leadership of his nine-man squad, often under fire.

Even after his injury, Hizer stayed with his men and rose above his pain and discomfort, according to Pratchios.

"The rest of us who did not get hurt have been demobilized and gone back to our civilian lives," said Hizer's former platoon leader.

"I can't believe he is still at Fort Stewart. It's like guys are being punished for being hurt," Pratchios said. "Certainly there is something not working the way it should be there."

How The Disgusting Scum In Command Deliberately Ignored A Court Order And Kept On Injecting Soldiers With Anthrax Vaccine

2.14.05 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

A federal judge wants government attorneys to tell him why Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other government officials should not be held in contempt of court because the military's mandatory Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program was not halted as he had ordered.

Government officials admit that some anthrax shots were given to troops after U.S. District Court Judge Emmet G. Sullivan effectively shut down the program by ruling Oct. 27 that the shots could be given only with an individual's informed consent or if the president waived that right to consent.

"It's a troubling revelation," Sullivan told Brian Boyle, principal deputy associate attorney general with the Department of Justice, which is representing the government in a lawsuit filed by six service members and Defense Department civilians to halt the anthrax vaccine program.

A records review showed that about 250 people were vaccinated in the ensuing few months.

Under Sullivan's Oct. 27 order, no one can be forced to take the shots.

The violations of Sullivan's order came to light when he directed the government to report on how they were complying with that order.

"Would I have even learned of this information if I had not issued" a call for such a report? Sullivan said.

NY National Guard Division Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse

[New York Times, February 14, 2005]

The 42nd Infantry Division of the New York National Guard is deploying to Iraq. **It will be first time since the Korean War that an entire National Guard division is fully deployed to combat, and is also believed to be the first Guard division to command active duty units in combat.**

Marine Recruiters Try "Explaining Away" Iraq War

[Miami Herald, February 14, 2005]

"Marine Corps recruiters face the challenge of explaining away the Iraq war when it comes to attracting potential enlistees." [Let's see them explain away the funerals and the troops missing army, legs and eyes, all to invade and occupy somebody else's country. The recruiters should be hiding their faces in shame. Bush and the corporate elite that organized this war on a platform of lies have betrayed every man and women in the Corps.]

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)

How Dare Some Say, “Support Our Troops”?

[Thanks to PB and PH who sent this in.]

I bet Rumsfeld doesn't have to pay for calls and e-mails back home, and I find it unbelievable and unacceptable that Rumsfeld has not been fired while the troops have been treated so poorly. Support our troops?

February 14, 2005, MAINE VOICES: J. Kamilewicz, Special to the Press Herald

Someone recently informed me that they didn't know that my son was being deployed to Iraq and asked why I hadn't told them. I really didn't have an answer.

That is when I began to be annoyed by those ever-present, good-intentioned but mindless ribbons stuck on the back of cars and SUVs exhorting, "Support Our Troops."

I find those magnetic messages to be offensive when I think of parents and friends of National Guard soldiers who purchased expensive Kevlar armor for their soldiers while Donald Rumsfeld said they didn't have any in stock.

Those marketing messages seem so empty when soldiers are told to "up-armor" their Humvees because the Department of Defense had not asked the manufacturers if more could be done.

I am saddened when veterans wait over a year for appointments at veterans' hospitals and soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and places like Walter Reed Hospital are required to pay for phone calls and emails home.

I bet Rumsfeld doesn't have to pay for calls and e-mails back home, and I find it unbelievable and unacceptable that Rumsfeld has not been fired while the troops have been treated so poorly. Support our troops?

I accept that there are justifications for going to war. However, I cannot find anyone who can give me a solid reason to justify our going to and continuing the war in Iraq.

SEEKING REASONS

There seems to be no question in America more avoided, particularly by elected officials, than a discussion of the war in Iraq. I asked Maine's members of Congress those questions.

U.S. Rep. Tom Allen said the war was not justified, but to abandon Iraq and its people now would be a mistake. Sen. Susan Collins said that going to war in Iraq was a problem of faulty intelligence, but the chaos in Iraq required us to stay.

Sen. Olympia Snowe blamed Saddam Hussein as the revised apparent rationale for invading Iraq, and she focused on the need for global support for the U.S. efforts in Iraq. U.S. Rep. Michael Michaud agreed with Snowe.

Those answers translate that we got there by mistake, and we are staying there by mistake.

There is no plan, there is no discussion and there is no leadership. Didn't we go into Iraq to protect ourselves from weapons of mass destruction and because of Iraq's connections with the terrorists, reasons that have been found to be utterly in error? Support our troops?

The pointless death and maiming of this war is pure insanity and probably even criminal.

In this war, many times those who died in the World Trade Center have been wounded or killed. Over 1,400 American soldiers are dead, over 10,000 soldiers are physically wounded while uncounted others are psychologically wounded, and, by some estimates, over 100,000 Iraqis have been killed and maimed.

How can the killing be justified? Are we going to destroy a nation and kill its people to save it? We tried that once before. Support our troops?

I am afraid for my son. I certainly worry about his being killed, but I am also worried about his being placed in the position of killing, too. **Most of all, I am angry that we are sending our soldiers to a war that nobody can justify.**

Most Americans, especially members of Congress, do not have to worry about a loved one in the middle of this war, and they duck the tough questions.

Why do we permit a defacto back-door draft of the National Guard and recycle them, too? We were lied to once before, and we must avoid being lied to again. Will President Bush be this generation's Robert McNamara? I hope not. Will the Congress have the courage to ask the relevant questions? I hope so. Support our troops?

PLEASE DON'T ASK

Now you know why I didn't go out of my way to tell people that my son is being deployed to Iraq, and please don't ask about him if you really don't want to know.

Instead, please know that you will be in my shoes or his shoes unless you ask questions and demand answers of those in power. In the meantime, please excuse me if I have a painful lump in my throat or tears brimming in my eyes and that I am so angry with this damned war and the people who declared it.

Support our troops. **Ask tough questions. Bring them home now.**

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

Roots Of A Tragedy In Texas: “The War Changed Who My Son Is”

February 11, 2005 By Cindy Beringer, Socialist Worker

JUST BEFORE the Iraq war began, Rev. Johnny Williams Sr. and his wife Patricia went on an East Texas television station to talk about their faith that God would protect their Marine son in that war, and send him home “better and whole.” Now his mother says, “Something happened to my son. Some of the things that he endured I may never know. But it changed who he is, and I’m sorry.”

Johnny Lee Williams was arrested January 22 in Arizona and charged with the murder of Megan Holden of Tyler, Texas. The abduction of the 19-year-old woman from a Wal-Mart parking lot as she left her job around midnight on January 19 was recorded on a surveillance tape and received national media attention. Holden’s body was found two days.

According to police, Williams then robbed a convenience store in Odessa, Texas, and was shot in an attempt to rob an RV park store in Arizona. He was arrested when he went--in Holden’s truck--to a hospital to have his wound treated.

Williams’ parents said on ABC’s Good Morning, America that their son came home from Iraq a “different person.” He was quieter, slept in his clothes, and often asked friends to “come over and just stay while he was going to sleep,” they said.

Rev. Williams said that his son was especially troubled by having killed three people, including a child, while stationed in Iraq. Williams’ mother told television station KLTV of her son’s flashbacks about things he had to do in Iraq and his deepening depression. “Mom, some of the stuff they make you do is all messed up,” her son told her.

Like many other soldiers with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, Williams sought, and didn’t receive, help from the military and Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals.

His aunt told a Tyler newspaper that Williams had been quieter and angrier since he returned from Iraq. “I guess he just snapped,” the aunt said. “He’s been asking for help ever since he came home.”

Williams' former high school classmates echo his mother's description of her son's happy-go-lucky personality before he went to war. They were shocked that Williams had been arrested for murder.

Patricia Williams wants to know what happened during the war to change her son and why the military and VA refused to help him with his depression. "Somebody had to see the difference," she said. "Why wasn't something done?"

Williams had received several awards for exemplary service during his three-and-a-half years in the Marines. The military takes every opportunity to parade such "trophy soldiers" before the cameras--but has no support for them when they show signs of post-traumatic stress. Williams was given a bad-conduct discharge for using marijuana a year ago, and has been on appellate leave awaiting a review of his case ever since--without pay and allowances, and without any help for his depression.

Now, he is behind bars awaiting an extradition hearing to the east Texas town of Tyler--which is known for its azalea trail, its racism and its stagnant economy.

Speculation that Williams, who is African American, would face the death penalty began as soon as he was arrested. If the media coverage so far is any indication, there will be a lot of talk about Williams' drug use and traffic citations--and little about his military service.

"This crime was very barbaric and torturous," said Smith County District Attorney Matt Bingham added, "and we fully intend to get justice for Megan Holden." But what about justice for Williams and other soldiers like him who crack after being forced to view and commit crimes of barbarism and torture on a much wider scale in Iraq?

Johnny Lee Williams' mother got it right. "They trained him to go to war and to kill," she said. "I don't know how many months went into that training, but how many months went into getting him back to being in society?"

The answer is none. When their "heroes" are no longer of any use to the military, they are sent back home to their communities--to deal with their demons on their own.

No one can know for sure if Holden would be alive today if Johnny Lee Williams had not been forced to kill in a war based on lies and empire. But it would be worth it for the town to consider. **Williams deserves a good lawyer and a fair trial. And if justice is to be truly served, the entire senseless war on Iraq and its perpetrators will be on the stand with him.**

Military Amputee Seeks Help For Wounded Facing Financial Ruin; "I Didn't Know If We Could Keep Making Payments On The House"

Feb. 13, 2005 SAM HANANEL, Associated Press, WASHINGTON

Ever since Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly lost his right leg to a roadside bomb near Baghdad more than a year ago, he has been on a mission. It was more than just learning how to walk again on a prosthetic limb or figuring out what to do with his life after 13 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Kelly, 24, of Prescott, Ariz., saw a need to help other wounded soldiers and their families cope with the financial struggles that come with months of rehabilitation.

In the past month, Kelly and an advocacy group for veterans have persuaded several lawmakers to support the idea of creating a self-financed insurance plan that would award \$50,000 to severely disabled soldiers before Veterans Affairs' benefits kick in. **The federal money can take a year or more to get to recipients.**

Injured soldiers become eligible for VA benefits after their discharge. But it can be more than a year before those benefits are available, based on the recovery period. Soldiers continue receiving military pay during hospitalization, but often the money does not cover all of a family's expenses.

Extended hospital stays can require a soldier's spouse or parent to leave work for months at a time, depriving the family of income and sometimes meaning costly travel costs during a stressful time. Also, many soldiers are reservists earning less than in their civilian jobs. Long recoveries only extend the difficulties.

Marine Lance Cpl. Ian Lennon, 25, of Lindenhurst, N.Y., said his mother took a leave of absence from her job to take care of him after he was burned over one-third of his body in a fuel tank accident in Kuwait.

"As I was going through rehab, I was thinking, 'Am I going to have a place to go when I come home because I didn't know if we could keep making payments on the house,'" said Lennon, who spent a year at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Kelly heard story after story about soldiers losing homes or racking up debt during their convalescence.

[Billions for war profiteers, and..... Enough said.]

FIGHT FOR THIS!
Florida Legislators And Indiana
Senator Demand Cash Relief For

Deployed Guards As Their Families Beg Charities For Food

Bayh said most payouts would be a few thousand dollars — a small amount “compared to the tens of billions we’re spending annually in Iraq.”

“They’re discouraged. They feel like they’re all by themselves and they’re not,” said Stradley, whose group has provided military families \$300,000 in food vouchers since the start of the Iraq war.

Miami Herald, February 14, 2005 & By Kimberly Hefling, Associated Press

Two South Florida legislators are pushing a bill in Tallahassee to help state National Guard and Reserve soldiers who lose wages when they are called up for active duty.

The Florida legislature will consider a bill that would help private businesses make up the difference between a Guard or Reserve soldier's civilian base pay and his or her pay as a soldier.

Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, a Democrat, is proposing a measure to eliminate the “patriot penalty” and offer tax breaks up to \$15,000 annually to corporations that supplement the incomes of employees called to service.

Many soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq suffer from the so-called “patriot penalty” — the gap between what deployed Guard and Reserve troops are paid and their civilian salaries. Legislation being proposed would eliminate that penalty by reimbursing troops for up to \$50,000 of their lost income.

Bayh said he would offer his plan as an amendment to President Bush’s proposal to boost government payments to families of U.S. troops killed at war.

About half of all troops in Iraq are in the Guard and Reserves. Based on a Pentagon study, Bayh estimates 40 percent of those troops make less money while deployed.

“These families are trying to do the right thing for our country, and it’s not right they should be struggling when we’re in the right position to help them out,” Bayh said.

Bayh said most payouts would be a few thousand dollars — a small amount “compared to the tens of billions we’re spending annually in Iraq.”

Roger Stradley of USA Cares, a Radcliff, Ky.-based group that works to help military families in crisis, said many are embarrassed to seek financial help.

“They’re discouraged. They feel like they’re all by themselves and they’re not,” said Stradley, whose group has provided military families \$300,000 in food vouchers since the start of the Iraq war.

Lunatics In Command: South Korea Says U.S. Has Our Back

February 14, 2005 BY BILL HUTCHINSON, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

With growing concerns about North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the United States is vowing to defend South Korea with much of its military power, a top official said yesterday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki Moon confirmed a Financial Times of London report that a Korean Peninsula "emergency" would trigger a U.S. plan to send 40% of the Navy, half the Air Force and 70% of the Marine Corps to the region.

[The Marine Corps is currently about 175,000. 70% of that is 122,500. The idea that 122,500 troops can fight off an army of one million is laughable.

Seventy percent of the North Korean active force, including approximately 700,000 troops, over 8,000 artillery systems, and 2,000 tanks, is postured within 90 miles of the Demilitarized Zone. T]

Marvelous New British Army Radio System Deadly To British Troops

[Thanks to Artisan, who sent this in. He writes: Some of these articles seem straight out of a Monty Python comedy...it would b funny if it wasn't true. (Recently when thinking about purchasing a high powered microwave signal device one of my main questions to the supplier was in terms of signal power ie radiation and possible health effects...surely it is only common sense to ask this type of question b4 laying the cash down.) What kind of minds are making these terrible and expensive decisions? A]

The latest problems follow an earlier disaster when it was found that the new system is also too heavy for the British Army's armoured "snatch" Land Rovers, widely used by our troops throughout the world.

Feb 6 2005, By Rupert Hamer, Defence Correspondent, SundayMirror.co.UK

A BRAND new £2.1 billion Army radio system is so dangerous troops have to be issued with health warnings before they can use it.

Soldiers issued with the new Bowman radio system will be told never to use it on full power - for fear of receiving harmful doses of cancer-linked radiation.

Troops will also be warned to stay at least two metres (6 1/2ft) away from radios in armoured Land Rovers and other military vehicles while the system is being switched on.

Last night a senior Army source said: "This is basically the new showpiece bit of kit for the British Army - and it is a disaster. It is eight years late in being introduced, has cost the British taxpayer millions in extra funding and now, if not used properly, presents a safety hazard to tens of thousands of British soldiers.

"Not being able to use the radios at full power will limit their range and standing two metres away while a system is switched on is just not practicable in a war situation.

"Last year our forces in Iraq were being hit by ambushes regularly in Al Amarah and Basra. They should not have to worry about whether their radios are giving them radiation poisoning."

Army top brass have now decided to cancel a wholesale trial of Bowman in Iraq this year from May to October, partly because of the problems.

That plan has now been scrapped because of delays in training troops to use the radios safely - although a few units may still test the system in Basra on a much smaller scale.

The latest problems follow an earlier disaster when it was found that the new system is also too heavy for the British Army's armoured "snatch" Land Rovers, widely used by our troops throughout the world.

Land Rovers fitted with Bowman had to stick to a 40mph speed limit because at higher speeds the extra weight would result in the vehicles rolling.

Yet driving at speeds of up to 80mph out of an ambush is vital for troops being attacked by insurgents throughout southern Iraq.

The weight blunder means that thousands of Land Rovers are now having to be modified at a cost of millions to the British taxpayer.

Problems with radiation levels first came to light when soldiers using the portable version of Bowman reported receiving burns when it was set at full power.

As a result experts from the National Radiological Protection Board, who monitor radiation level, were brought in and warned that the system should not be used at full power while being carried.

Tests found that the equipment gave out doses of radiation which exceeded safety guidelines when at full power and while being switched on. Excess radiation can result in burning and damage to DNA - which could result in potentially deadly cancers.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Two Senior Occupation Cop Officers Killed In Baghdad

February 14, 2005 By CHRIS TOMLINSON, The Associated Press

Insurgents firing from a car killed two senior police officers in Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said Monday

Insurgents also fired six mortars at a police station in central Baghdad, but there were no immediate reports of injuries, police said.

Two Resistance Attacks Hit Oil Pipeline



A Kurdish man walks away from a burning Iraqi oil pipeline following an explosion northwest of the northern city of Kirkuk February 14, 2005. Photo by Salah al-Deen Rasheed/Reuters

February 14, 2005 By CHRIS TOMLINSON, The Associated Press & (Xinhuanet) & Energy Security

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Insurgents blew up a pipeline in Iraq's northern oil fields and set it on fire on Sunday evening.

The oil field attack occurred at the North Oil Company's Al-Dibbis oil field near Kirkuk, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammad Amin. The pipeline supplied oil for internal use and the damage will hamper the country's oil production, he said.

It would take workers at least three days to extinguish the blaze and repair the pipeline due to enormous heat near the fire zone, Amin said.

Energy Security reports there were two attacks on the pipeline: 10:00pm attack on oil pipeline at the al-Dibbis oil field north of Kirkuk and another attack on oil pipeline at al-Dibbis after that.

Roadside Bomb Kills Three Baqouba Occupation Guards

February 14, 2005 By CHRIS TOMLINSON, Associated Press Writer

A roadside bomb killed three Iraqi National Guard troops Monday.

The three troops were killed by a bomb that detonated in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, as their convoy passed, said Mudafar Al-Juburi of the Dyala police station. Three other soldiers were wounded, he added.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Bush Has Taken Denial To Unprecedented Highs

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

12 -13 February 2005 By Paul Craig Roberts, Counterpunch. Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration.

The Bush administration, which already held the world record as the most deluded government in history, has now taken denial to unprecedented highs by blaming Syria and Iran for its "Iraqi problem."

Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Rice, Cheney and Bush blame Syria and Iran for the troubles that they brought upon themselves. The Iraqi insurgency, say the Five Morons, is the fault of Syria and Iran.

Are Iran and Syria going to quake in their boots after witnessing the success of a few thousand insurgents in tying down 8 US divisions? The bulk of the US force in Iraq is engaged in protecting its own bases and supply lines. It was all the generals could do to scrape up 10,000 Marines for their pointless assault on Fallujah.

What is the point of the Bush administration's bellicosity when it has been conclusively demonstrated that the US has insufficient troops to successfully occupy Iraq, much less Syria and Iran? The American people should be scared to death that they have put in power such deluded people.

Are Americans going to fall for the same set of WMD lies a second time? Are Americans going to deliver up their sons, and perhaps daughters as well, to be drafted and sent to the Middle East to be killed and maimed for no American cause?

The US Treasury is empty. The once "almighty" dollar is tottering. The US military is stretched to the breaking point. Former allies look askance at America. Hatred of America has reached an all time high.

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.

Same Old Same Old

"The slavemasters, with a craftiness peculiar to themselves, by encouraging the enmity of the poor laboring white man against the blacks, succeeded in making the said white man almost as much a slave as the black slave himself.....the white laboring man was robbed by the slave system of the just results of his labor, because he was flung into competition with a class of laborers who worked without wages. The slaveholders blinded them to this competition by keeping alive their prejudice against the slaves as men -- not against them as slaves...." [Life and Times of Frederick Douglass (NY Collier 1962) p. 172]

How It Is

February 7, 2005 Justin Raimondo, AntiWar.com

We can't leave until the insurgency is quelled, but our presence is the cause of the insurgency in the first place.

We proclaim the advent of "democracy" and "self-determination," yet the American occupation continues.

We celebrate the "rule of law," even as we insist American soldiers and military contractors cannot be prosecuted or sued in Iraqi courts – because Americans are above the law.

Symptoms Of A Lost War

February 6, 2005 William Pfaff, columnist for the International Herald Tribune

Destroying cities and torturing prisoners are things you do when you are losing the real war, the war your enemies are fighting. They are signals of moral bankruptcy. **They destroy the confidence and respect of your friends, and reinforce the credibility of the enemy.**

We Have The Right To Remain Silent But The Duty To Speak

[Thanks to Liz Burbank for posting this.]

2.12.05 By Mickey Z., Pressaction.com

You have the right to remain silent?
Fuck that right
I want the right to talk; I want the right to speak
I want the right to walk where I wanna, yell and
I'm gonna tell and rebel every time I'm on a
microphone on the stage cold illin'
The knowledge I drop will be heard by millions
We ain't the problems, we ain't the villains
It's the suckers deprivin' the truth from our children
-Ice T, Freedom of Speech (1989) ...

Today we have Ward Churchill taking a hit for words of a different kind...words deemed obscene for their political weight. You may agree or disagree with his thesis and/or his method of articulating that thesis, but to support the witch hunt is to contribute to the current zeitgeist of fear and conformity. To those who call Churchill's opinions "treasonous," I declare that the genuine treason we Americans can engage is to accept the silencing of others (most recently Lynne Stewart) and to remain silent ourselves.

**Eugene Debs had a reply when the same charge of treason was leveled at him:
"Do not worry over the charge of treason to your masters, but be concerned about**

the treason that involves yourselves. Be true to yourself and you cannot be a traitor to any good cause on earth.”

William Burroughs had this to say about keeping our opinions to ourselves: “Modern man has lost the option of silence.”

Lenny Bruce summed up: “Take away the right to say fuck and you take away the right to say ‘fuck the government’.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Wants Another \$80 Billion To Keep His Imperial Slaughterhouse In Business

February 14, 2005 Associated Press

President Bush was poised to officially ask Congress Monday for an estimated \$82 billion in additional funds to cover the costs of continuing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. [And we'll just how many “anti-war” Democrats vote against giving one more dime to keep this war for oil and Empire going so more troops can die for nothing but corporate greed.]

CONDI OFFERS TO GIVE FRANCE MICHAEL MOORE: Gift of Filmmaker Seen as Olive Branch

February 12, 2005

In a major foreign policy speech in Paris today, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice extended an olive branch to the French by offering to give them the filmmaker Michael Moore.

"We hope you will put aside past differences to work for peace and stability in the Middle East," Dr. Rice told her audience at the Institute of Political Studies. "And in exchange, we will give you Michael Moore."

In addition to the handover of Michael Moore, Dr. Rice offered to change the name of "Freedom Fries" back to "French fries" and to order Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to start calling Old Europe "Good Old Europe."

While Dr. Rice's offer to transfer sovereignty over Mr. Moore appeared to be unprecedented, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said today that "there is nothing in the United States constitution that explicitly prohibits" the White House from giving the controversial film director to France.

Received:

Abolish The Feres Doctrine

From: Leigh E. Wise VERPA Assistant Public Relations Coordinator
To: GI Special
Sent: February 09, 2005
Subject: Peace Action - request from VERPA.org

To whom it may concern:

Many Americans, including most serving military members, are not aware that the very United States Constitution they have sworn to serve and defend does not apply to them.

Henry Kissenger once stated, "Military men are just dumb, stupid animals to be used as pawns for foreign policy." (Quoted from "The Final Days" by Woodward and Bernstein).

And though this "war tactic" has been used to the fullest, many of the actions our organization is trying to EXPOSE includes the battle being fought by our service members within the military.

There is a secret unconstitutional law that prohibits military members from seeking final redress for wrongful actions taken upon them while serving. These certain actions may include murder, severe reprisal (to individuals exposing fraud, waste, and abuse under the "whistleblower protection act"), rape, human experimentation, medical malpractice, gross and criminal negligence, etc.

The shameful law is called the Feres Doctrine, named after the young Lt. Rudolph Feres, who died in a barracks fire caused by the negligence of the Army.

This doctrine bars constitutional redress of wrongful acts or omissions resulting in injury or death arising from non-legitimate military necessity or decisions.

The Feres Doctrine law was not created by the United States Congress, who makes laws and oversees the military, but judicially created.

This law has been in existence for over 54 years, however Congress and the United States “mainstream” media refuse to address and report respectfully. Most of the tax paying public is unaware of the extreme human and constitutional abuses being silenced by this law as it is staying locked behind the iron gates of the military. Will your organization assist in broadening public discourse in this matter?

Veterans Equal Rights Protection Advocacy is comprised of true American patriots seeking your support to ensure Military Members and Veterans are afforded equal protection of the United States Constitution. Our Feres Doctrine abolishment initiative seeks to restore constitutional rights to the men and women serving in our military.

Our Congress continues to use American military personnel to provide protection of human rights around the world, yet those very military personnel are not afforded the same protection in the United States due to the Feres Doctrine. At the least, I respectfully request that you contact both of your US Senators and Senator Arlin Specter (PA) who is the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Also, please sign our on-line petition.

We owe every freedom we possess to those who have fought for "US" and this Country. For more in depth information please go to www.VERPA.org.

Please pass this information on to all Citizens you believe might be interested in this information, especially those who may be affected by the Feres Doctrine.

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: www.gifightback.org,
<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>, www.williambowles.info/qispecial,
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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

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