

## **GI SPECIAL 3B49:**



**After all of these years, it is still “regret to inform.”**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (Contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) for more of his outstanding work. T)

**“I Want My Fucking Soul  
Back”**

**“I Could Never Sit Here And Tell  
You That I Believe In Our  
Mission”**

**i could never sit here and tell you that i believe in our mission in iraq at this point., though that doesn't mean that i didn't believe it at one point.**

i'm simply here to do a job and get out. i'm simply a cog in the machine, but i'm a cog with some very real concerns that need to be addressed before the next generation of soldiers suffers in the same way we do.

**2.) that being said, i'm sick to fucking death of people telling me that i need to "man up" and "get back out there".**

ptsd is a sickness, not a weakness, and it's sad that most people in the military are too concerned with appearances to actually take a stand and do something about it.

**instead of medicating us (which they are altogether happy to do, and i'm almost-living proof of that), why not get to the root of the problem?**

**yeah, i've been in counseling, but all the counseling sessions in the world of the army are simply dedicated to getting you back to work so you can be enslaved.**

yes, i take zoloft, ambien and minipres, and the only thing it's served to do is make me a zombie.

**yes, i work hard and i work long hours and i don't really complain, but that's not natural because i have a million complaints in me and none of them are being fixed, only coated with a nice layer of narcotics.**

**at some point in the next month, i'm going to mental health and telling them to stick the medicine up their collective asses, because it's not helping me and i want my fucking soul back.**

**and if they have a problem with that, if they'd rather just have a zombie working for them instead of someone who has valid complaints about the bullshit they pull, then they can kiss my ass, because i'm done being medicated.**

**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**

# Guard, Reserve Monthly Death Toll At High; 3<sup>rd</sup> ID Also Hit Hard



Among May's National Guard casualties in Iraq is Spc. Danny Varnado of Gulfport, Miss., killed by a bomb May 23. Three of his comrades also died. AP

[Thanks to Phil G. who sent this in.]

06/03/05 By Robert Burns, Associated Press

**Thirty members of the Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve died in the Iraq war in May, matching the highest toll for any month of the war, according to Pentagon figures.**

The Guard and Reserve, which make up nearly half the force in Iraq, have generally had fewer than 20 deaths per month during the war, and it's not clear why their losses spiked to 30 in May. That matched the 30 deaths among the Guard and Reserve in January, and it compared with 11 in April, 13 in March and 16 in February.

**May also was a costly month for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which had 10 reported fatalities.**

**Since it arrived in Iraq in February to become the first Army division to return for a second combat tour, the 3rd Infantry has lost 34 of its soldiers, according to Pentagon figures. During its previous tour, which included the initial invasion in March 2003 and lasted about eight months, the division lost 44 soldiers.**

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## Marine Combat Death Toll Spiked In May

June 3, 2005 By Otto Kreisher, COPLEY NEWS SERVICE, WASHINGTON

**A series of offensive sweeps in volatile western Iraq sent Marine Corps combat deaths soaring in May, after three months of relatively low casualties. Marine reservists bore a disproportionately high share of those deaths.**

Twenty-five Marines and one Navy corpsman died in Iraq last month from enemy action and the midair collision of two Miramar-based F/A-18 fighters, according to a Copley News Service tally of the names of Marine casualties announced by the Pentagon.

**The monthly toll is the highest since 50 Marines and two Navy personnel died in January and exceeds the total of the three previous months.**

Two Marines also died fighting in Afghanistan last month.

**The naval services suffered one-third of the 78 U.S. deaths in Iraq last month, even though they account for only about one-fifth of the 140,000 American military personnel in Iraq. The May casualties brought Marine deaths in Iraq to 490, out of the total U.S. loss of 1,658 since the war began in March 2003.**

May's high toll reflected the combat sweeps in some of the smaller cities in Anbar province, including Haditha.

**At least 12 Marines killed in May were reservists, an unusually high toll because the 4,000 part-time warriors make up less than a fifth of the Marine force in Iraq.**

Currently, 10,648 Marine reservists are on active duty, out of the reserve force of 40,000. More than 21,000 were activated for the initial part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

Explosions from mines or improvised explosive devices caused most of the Marine deaths.

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## **Fort Bragg Special Operations Soldier Killed**

June 3, 2005 WSOC, FORT BRAGG, N.C.

**An Army Green Beret was shot and killed during combat in Iraq, the Pentagon said Thursday.**

Sgt. 1st Class Steven M. Langmack, 33, of Seattle, Wash., died Tuesday in the western Iraqi city of Qaim from injuries suffered from small arms fire, the Defense Department said.

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# Seven U.S. Troops Wounded In Baghdad, Tank Damaged

6.3.05 By PATRICK QUINN (AP)

Car bombs targeted U.S. military convoys in the capital.

Two homemade bombs exploded separately in Baghdad Friday, wounding several U.S. soldiers mildly. ["Mildly?" What the fuck is that? How about wounding the reporter "mildly" and see if that's still what he calls it?]

Another blast damaged an American tank, but caused no U.S. casualties.

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**EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENT  
NO HONORABLE MISSION  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Isaiah Schaeffer keeps watch as his squad patrols the town of Ramadi April 3. Photo by Handout/Reuters

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Welcome To Guerrilla Warfare: (What Did You Expect?)

Fayette Observer, June 2, 2005

**U.S. troops operating in the province of Khost, in Afghanistan, are angry because after they treated 250 Afghans for various medical problems, the local leaders won't tell them who mounted an attack that injured three American troops.**



## Narco Nation

June 2, 2005 Arnaud de Borchgrave, Washington Times

**Drug Enforcement Agency veterans say that Afghanistan's drug trade has infected the country's still fragile institutions to such a degree that it makes Colombia look clean.** Poppy cultivation provides Afghans with well more than half the country's gross domestic product. **Government officials at virtually all levels are on the take.**

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## TROOP NEWS

# Soldiers Write In About "How Unprepared Our Military Is For This Fight"

**[Thanks to Ward Reilly, who sent this in.]**

22 Mar 2005 Operation Truth

“onelostsoldier” a Soldier from PA, submitted 1-5-05:

“We were in Sector 17 in downtown Baghdad in the medical city.

**3rd ID informed us when we first took the sector over that they could no longer support us because then they would not be able to fully support themselves.**

So we started to buy food from locals just so we could eat. And of course since we were eating foreign food. Everyone was sick and had Diariha (sp?).

**That is not good because now we were already rationing a bottle of water a day. Guys were getting even more dehydrated.**

And we were conducting missions in 130 degree heat with little or no water.

Most guys during the day slept in the lower auditorium because it was always cool. We had no a/c. So I tried to sleep but couldn't. So went back up stairs to me make shift bed in our squad area.

And that was the last thing I remember until I woke up in our battalion aid station. I was later informed that I had a mild seizure but to low blood sugar and dehydration. The medics told me if I would have gone another 10 min I could have gotten brain damage and another 30 min I could have died.

This story is not pointing fingers at any unit or soldier.

**Its just to make people aware of how unprepared our military is for this fight.”**

**MORE:**

“schreck” a Soldier from CT, submitted 1-23-05:

**“If there is one thing that has always stood out in my head during my deployment was Basic when we were told "The Army will never put you in a losing situation". [Right. Like Vietnam. And Iraq.]**

**At this point of my deployment that statement could not be farther from the truth.**

Not only were our vehicles in an unservicable condition we were also putting the unit whom we were escorting at risk...

**A bunch of illequiped reservists guarding Marine armor with beat up 5 tons.”**



What's wrong with this picture? What does a-r-m-o-r spell?

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT 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))

## **Sloppy “Unprepared” Hospital Kills Wounded Marine**

June 3, 2005 By PAUL DE LA GARZA, St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

TAMPA - Investigators say the death last year of a 21-year-old Marine at James A. Haley VA Medical Center might have been prevented if doctors had conducted more thorough tests.

Speaking of troops injured in the war zone, investigators said they found no evidence that Haley's acute care staff, "including its specialty medical and surgical consultants, had been properly prepared for these patients."



Lance Cpl. Jonathan E. Gadsden of Jamestown, S.C., was severely injured in Iraq last August by a roadside bomb.

**He was on the mend at Haley and was tentatively scheduled to be discharged, but he died unexpectedly of bacterial meningitis Oct. 22.**

Bacterial meningitis is an infection of the fluid in the spinal cord and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Doctors at Haley failed to diagnose the condition before his death, the report said.

**"An underlying theme that emerges is that many of the (Haley) clinical staff simply did not grasp how inherently fragile this patient was,"** the report released Wednesday said, resulting in "less intensive diagnostic evaluations."

Gadsden's family, which has been critical of Haley, could not be reached for comment.

But Rep. C.W. Bill Young, who helped push for the investigation, was not happy with the treatment Gadsden received.

**"Obviously, some things were overlooked in Gadsden's case," the Indian Shores Republican said Thursday. "Had things been thoroughly investigated, his life could have been saved."**

Young noted that doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., have successfully treated cases of meningitis. Young has asked VA Secretary Jim Nicholson to review the quality of care at Haley.

When Gadsden was admitted to Haley on Sept. 30, he appeared to be doing fine.

According to the first progress note that afternoon, clinicians found him "to be alert, cooperative and oriented to person, place, month, and year."

"He reported having a good appetite, and denied having any pain while lying at rest."

**During his stay at Haley, Gadsden complained of intermittent abdominal and back pain. On Sunday, Oct. 17, he appeared "shaking and restless," but was granted a day pass.**

"The pass included a visit to a Wal-Mart, the mother's hotel room and a fast food establishment," investigators said.

Zeada Gadsden did not describe any unusual symptoms in her son during the outing. But that evening, after Gadsden returned to the hospital, staff noticed "increased confusion" and "increased tremor/shaking, restless."

<b>A resident recommended a neurosurgery consultation, but canceled it several hours later. [Why?]</b>
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**Investigators said Gadsden's condition worsened and he hallucinated. On Oct. 19, he suffered cardiopulmonary arrest and other complications.**

**A followup exam concluded that "the patient had suffered severe anoxic brain injury, i.e., injury due to prolonged lack of oxygen to the brain."**

**He was clinically brain dead, the report said.**

On Oct. 22, at 2:15 a.m., with his family at his side, Gadsden was taken off the ventilator.

He died five minutes later.

**Investigators also found that once Gadsden's condition began to deteriorate, Haley doctors did not conduct thorough exams. For example, he was seen only once by an infectious diseases specialist before Oct. 19, the day he went into cardiopulmonary arrest.**

The infectious diseases section response "lacked depth of research into the patient's recent medical history and did not provide more than a general outline of how to proceed with the evaluation and management of this most complex patient," the report said.

It added, "The plan that was provided did not adequately consider the possibility that this patient could have an infection in the central nervous system, even though the patient had sustained skull and brain injury that had required recent neurosurgery."

Gadsden's confused mental state also should have been a warning sign, investigators said.

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## **U.S. Confirms Gitmo Soldier Pissed On Quran**

**[Thanks to PB who sent this in. He writes: BUSH TO NEWSWEEK: SEE YOU MORONS, YOU WERE WRONG! WE ONLY STEPPED AND PISSED ON THE QURAN - WE DID NOT FLUSH IT DOWN THE TOILET!]**

6.3.05 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

The Pentagon on Friday released new details about mishandling of the Quran at the Guantanamo Bay prison for terror suspects, confirming that a soldier deliberately kicked the Muslim holy book and that an interrogator stepped on a Quran and was later fired for "a pattern of unacceptable behavior."

In other confirmed incidents, water balloons thrown by prison guards caused an unspecified number of Qurans to get wet; **a guard's urine came through an air vent and splashed on a detainee and his Quran**; and in a confirmed but ambiguous case a two-word obscenity was written in English on the inside cover of a Quran.

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## **Sgt. Miguel Ramos; HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR?**



Sgt. Miguel Ramos, a 40-year-old Army reservist of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, was killed May 31, 2005, when a 12-millimeter rocket struck his base in Baghdad

**Ramos worked at a cement mixing plant in his civilian life and was scheduled to return home June 20. He's the 36th islander to die.** (AP Photo/Courtesy of the Ramos family)

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## **Shit-Head Bigots On The March: Wounded Gay Iraq Combat Soldier Thrown Out Of Army**

June 1, 2005 Associated Press

**CINCINNATI – An Army sergeant from Ohio who was wounded in Iraq and wanted to remain in the military as an openly gay soldier was officially discharged, according to an advocacy group.**

Sgt. Robert Stout, 23, was awarded the Purple Heart after a grenade sent shrapnel into his arm, face and legs while he was using a machine gun on a Humvee in May 2004.

Stout, of Utica in central Ohio, told The Associated Press in April that he wanted to remain in the military and be openly gay, but that would conflict with the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California-Santa Barbara, said Stout told him he was due back in the United States on Tuesday, the day of his discharge.

"I know a ton of gay men that would be more than willing to stay in the Army if they could just be open," Stout said in April.

**Stout said he was openly gay among most of his 26-member platoon, part of the 9th Engineer Battalion based in Germany.**

**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.**

## **War Profiteers Sued Over Faulty Sub Valves**

June 2, 2005 Newport News Daily Press

**Two whistleblowers are suing Northrop Grumman Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat for allegedly failing in their duty to ensure the safety of key part of their submarines.**

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## **Self-Proclaimed Traitor In Command At Air Force Academy**

May 28, 2005 by Christopher Brauchli, CommonDreams.org

*"Here's Johnny."*  
--The Shining

Life is full of surprises. Just ask Johnny. Johnny is Johnny Weida, the Lt. General in the air force who became the commandant of cadets at the Air Force Academy in April 2003 just as the sex scandal at the academy was in full flower. (A survey conducted in May disclosed that 68 percent of the 569 female cadets participating were the victims of some form of sexual harassment. In 149 of the reported incidents, attackers were cadets at the Academy.) Addressing the graduating class after his arrival at the Academy

Johnny told them: "If you don't think we have . . . a sexual harassment problem at the Air Force Academy, your head is in the sand."

**Notwithstanding those enlightened words, Johnny now finds himself the target of a comment from one graduate who was quoted in the Colorado Springs Gazette as saying: "The fish stinks from the head, and the head of this fish is (Superintendent) John Rosa and (Commandant) Johnny Weida."**

The graduate was not referring to Johnny's attitude towards the sex scandal. He was referring to Johnny's attitude towards God-his God.

**Pam Zubeck of the Colorado Springs Gazette has made it easy to trace Johnny's efforts to convert the Academy from a place where sexual abuse enjoyed free reign, to a place where there's freedom of religion if it's the right kind.**

According to Ms. Zubeck, no sooner had Johnny arrived at his new posting than he issued advisories urging staff, faculty and cadets to observe the National Day of Prayer. In an e-mail to personnel he urged all to "ask the Lord to give us the wisdom to discover the right . . . . the Lord is in control. He has a plan for . . . every one of us."

**In June he issued a commander's guidance telling cadets their first duty was to God. He did not explain how a cadet would be expected to respond if an officer said, "kill" and God said, "don't." ["Johnny" is a traitor, unfit for command, but definitely fit for the disciplinary barracks. The cadets' first duty isn't to him or his silly fantasies about "God," it's to protect the citizens against all enemies, foreign and domestic. And Johnny, by this statement, has told the world he expects his troops to betray their oath and their country, and obey his version of "god." That makes him a traitor and an enemy combatant.]**

In March of 2004 fliers promoting Mel Gibson's view of the crucifixion as portrayed in his movie about the event were placed on every chair in the cafeteria with a line added to the flier saying: "This is an officially sponsored USAFA event."

**In November the football coach hung a banner in the athletic department proclaiming: "I am a Christian first and last. . . . I am a member of Team Jesus Christ."**

**That was probably just a metaphor since Jesus never played football and probably disapproved of violent sports. He might have even disliked war although that's can't be said with certainty since so many of his most ardent admirers have no problem with war and are quick to let others know that they know what Jesus likes.**

**One chaplain, speaking to 600 cadets, told them to let their classmates know they would burn in hell unless becoming born again Christians. That's the kind of information cadets are grateful to receive since being warriors led by a president who is not afraid to send them off to war to do the Lord's work, they have a better chance of dying young than do the youth growing up in less devout countries that have not learned to appreciate all the good that can come from war.**

Working for the Lord has not kept Johnny out of trouble although the Lord has found a way to reward him. First the trouble.

Mike Weinstein is a 1977 graduate of the academy. Mike Weinstein is a Jew who has one son who graduated from the academy and another who is still there. Mr. Weinstein wrote Johnny complaining about the fact that his son Curtis was called a Christ-killer by some of his devout classmates who know the enemy when they see him even if he's not carrying a weapon.

In a letter responding to Mr. Weinstein Johnny ended with the Hebrew phrase "Shalom Aleichem" which means "peace to you." The message didn't take. Mr. Weinstein called Johnny's secretary and said he and the academy were at war. Writing another letter in hopes of avoiding all-out combat Johnny included a longer Hebrew phrase that Mr. Weinstein's Rabbi translated for him since Mr. Weinstein can't read Hebrew. It said: "May this be the beginning activity for the good of the Air Force Academy. Peace to you." It was that greeting that that caused Mr. Weinstein to invoke the fish metaphor. Now for Johnny's reward.

**On May 9 the pentagon announced that it was recommending Johnny for a promotion to major general. If Johnny's promotion comes through after what he's been through it will convince him there is a God. It will have the opposite effect on many of the rest of us.**

[When an open traitor receives a promotion, what does that make those responsible for the promotion?]

**MORE:**

## **Cadet E-Mail Casts Shadow On Bias Policy: Message Had References To Bible, Jesus**

June 1, 2005 Colorado Springs Gazette,

**The Air Force Academy's top cadet commander, who is graduating, sent an e-mail to all underclassmen making a dozen references to the Bible and several to Jesus. The e-mail comes as academy officials address claims that the school favors Christianity and a task force prepares a report about the institution's religious climate.**

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## **GOT THAT RIGHT!**

Washington Times, June 1, 2005

**A Wisconsin lawmaker thinks that if the U.S. military trusts 19-year-olds with a \$10 million tank, then the state should trust them with beer.** State Rep. Mark Pettis is pushing a bill that would drop the legal drinking age to 19 for Wisconsin service members---but only if the federal government agrees not to yank an estimated \$50 million in highway aid. [Knew it was too good to be true.]

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## **Army “Intelligence” Base Overrun By Mexican Immigrants**

Washington Times, May 25, 2005

**Fort Huachuca, a 150-square-mile U.S. Army base in Arizona just 20 miles north of the Mexico border, is home to the country's premier military intelligence school and, despite the sensitive nature of its assignment, has become a popular corridor for illegal immigrants headed to America.**

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## **Pentagon Delusional System At Work**

Jane's Defence Weekly, May 25, 2005

The Army is forming a small unit to help its deployed forces better understand asymmetric threats such as those used by insurgents in Iraq.

**The Asymmetric Warfare Group will reach initial operating capability by the beginning of 2006, at which time it will be able to send teams to forces in Iraq or elsewhere. [By 2006, it's very unlikely that it will be possible to send any troops to Iraq. The resistance is picking up speed, the recruiting stations are empty, and the politicians are pushing the troops to act for themselves to end this disaster, just like they ended the one in Vietnam, by rebelling wholesale and refusing to fight it anymore. Never doubt that the pressure to act is building up where it counts, down where the Imperial politicians can't see it, until it explodes in their fat faces.]**

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## **U.S. Sailors Slaughtered By Zionist Regime, With Help From The U.S. Government**

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

**All told, the attacks lasted a little over two hours. During that time, Liberty's calls for help reached the U.S. Sixth Fleet, despite Israeli jamming efforts, and the carriers Saratoga and America launched aircraft to assist the beleaguered vessel. But that help never arrived. The aircraft were recalled on direct orders from the White House.**

June 3, 2005 Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin

A week after Memorial Day, the one day a year we set aside to pay lip service to the men and women who died fighting for this country, a group of veterans will gather in Washington (June 8-11) to hold their own memorial.

There will be no bands to greet them, no parades and no presidential platitudes honoring their sacrifices. Not that they are undeserving. Far from it. They are survivors of the crew of one of the U.S. Navy's most decorated ships.

They were members of a crew that in one horrific day, in 1967, earned two Navy Crosses, 11 Silver Stars, 20 Bronze Stars and 204 Purple Hearts; a casualty rate of 70 percent in a crew of 294. And their skipper received the Medal of Honor.

**These are the men of the USS Liberty. If you've never heard of these men and their ship and their brush with death, that's by design -- the design of their own government.**

In 1967, Liberty was the most sophisticated intelligence-gathering or spy ship in the U.S. fleet.

**On June 8, during the Six Day War involving Israel and its neighbors, Liberty was in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula when it was attacked without warning by Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats.**

The attacks on the lightly armed vessel began with aircraft cannon, rocket and machine gun fire, and napalm. Following the air strikes, Liberty took a torpedo amidship.

**When crewmen lowered life rafts to rescue personnel and in preparation for abandoning ship if necessary, the torpedo boats machine-gunned the life rafts and crewmen.**

**All told, the attacks lasted a little over two hours. During that time, Liberty 's calls for help reached the U.S. Sixth Fleet, despite Israeli jamming efforts, and the carriers Saratoga and America launched aircraft to assist the beleaguered vessel. But that help never arrived. The aircraft were recalled on direct orders from the White House.**

**When Israel learned that the attack had been reported and Liberty was still afloat, it sent a helicopter to offer assistance, one of more hypocritical events in the annals of modern warfare. Liberty declined.**



Liberty eventually made it to a neutral port, with 34 of its crew dead and another 171, including its captain, Cmdr. William McGonagle, wounded.

What the Israelis did was unconscionable, but understandable. They reportedly believed Liberty was transmitting intercepted Israeli military radio traffic to the Egyptians.

**They also reportedly feared that information about Israel's plans to seize the Golan Heights from Syria would be revealed. So they felt justified in waging an act of war against the country that had sustained it politically and financially from its inception and still does.**

**It's worth noting, too, that some Israeli pilots refused to fly on the mission, knowing the target was an American ship.**

**The United States' behavior during and after the attack is even more unconscionable. When the carrier pilots were recalled from their mission to aid Liberty, it marked the first time in naval history that an American rescue mission had been canceled when a U.S. vessel was under attack.**

**Liberty crew members were ordered to remain silent about the attack and were threatened with courts martial and imprisonment if they talked. They were not called to testify in a Navy court of inquiry, and Congress never convened an investigation of the incident.**

Cmdr. McGonagle received the Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts to save his ship, but he didn't get it from Lyndon Johnson, as would have been customary. He got it from the Secretary of the Navy in a quiet ceremony at the Navy Yard in Washington.

Israel paid reparations to the survivors and next of kin of the dead, with money it got from the United States.

**So, as they have done since 1982, Liberty veterans will gather to recall the most memorable day of the lives, a day official Washington would just as soon forget.**

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## **Growing Problem for Military Recruiters: Parents**

[Thanks to PB and Phil G, who sent this in.]

June 3, 2005 By DAMIEN CAVE, New York Times

Rachel Rogers, a single mother of four in upstate New York, did not worry about the presence of National Guard recruiters at her son's high school until she learned that they taught students how to throw hand grenades, using baseballs as stand-ins. For the last month she has been insisting that administrators limit recruiters' access to children.

Orlando Terrazas, a former truck driver in Southern California, said he was struck when his son told him that recruiters were promising students jobs as musicians. Mr. Terrazas has been trying since September to hang posters at his son's public school to counter the military's message.

Meanwhile, Amy Hagopian, co-chairwoman of the Parent-Teacher-Student Association at Garfield High School in Seattle, has been fighting against a four-year-old federal law that requires public schools to give military recruiters the same access to students as college recruiters get, or lose federal funding. She also recently took a few hours off work to stand beside recruiters at Garfield High and display pictures of injured American soldiers from Iraq.

"We want to show the military that they are not welcome by the P.T.S.A. in this building," she said. "We hope other P.T.S.A.'s will follow."

**Two years into the war in Iraq, as the Army and Marines struggle to refill their ranks, parents have become boulders of opposition that recruiters cannot move.**

Mothers and fathers around the country said they were terrified that their children would have to be killed - or kill - in a war that many see as unnecessary and without end.

Around the dinner table, many parents said, they are discouraging their children from serving.

At schools, they are insisting that recruiters be kept away, incensed at the access that they have to adolescents easily dazzled by incentive packages and flashy equipment.

**A Department of Defense survey last November, the latest, shows that only 25 percent of parents would recommend military service to their children, down from 42 percent in August 2003.**

"Parents," said one recruiter in Ohio who insisted on anonymity because the Army ordered all recruiters not to talk to reporters, "are the biggest hurdle we face."

Legally, there is little a parent can do to prevent a child over 18 from enlisting. But in interviews, recruiters said that it was very hard to sign up a young man or woman over the strong objections of a parent.

The Pentagon - faced with using only volunteers during a sustained conflict, an effort rarely tried in American history - is especially vexed by a generation of more activist parents who have no qualms about projecting their own views onto their children.

**Recruiters, in interviews over the past six months, said that opposition can be fierce. Three years ago, perhaps 1 or 2 of 10 parents would hang up immediately on a cold call to a potential recruit's home, said a recruiter in New York who, like most others interviewed, insisted on anonymity to protect his career. "Now," he said, "in the past year or two, people hang up all the time. "**

**Several recruiters said they had even been threatened with violence.**

**"I had one father say if he saw me on his doorstep I better have some protection on me," said a recruiter in Ohio. "We see a lot of hostility."**

Many of the mothers and fathers most adamant about recruitment do have a history of opposition to Vietnam. Amy Hagopian, 49, a professor of public health at the University of Washington, and her husband, Stephen Ludwig, 57, a carpenter, said that they and many parents who contest recruiting at Garfield High in Seattle have a history of antiwar sentiment and see their efforts as an extension of their pacifism.

But, he added, parents are also reacting to what they see as the military's increased intrusion into the lives of their children.

**"The recruiters are in your face, in the library, in the lunchroom," he said. "They're contacting the most vulnerable students and recruiting them to go to war."**

The parents have chosen to take a stand, but we still have to comply with No Child Left Behind," said Peter Daniels, communications director for the district.

**In Whittier, a city of 85,000 10 miles southeast of East Los Angeles, about a dozen families last September accused the district of failing to properly advise parents that they had the right to deny recruiters access to their children's personal information.**

**Mr. Terrazas, 51, the father of a Whittier High School junior, said the notification was buried among other documents in a preregistration packet sent out last summer.**

**"It didn't say that the military has access to students' information," he said. "It just said to write a letter if you didn't want your kid listed in a public directory."**

**A few years ago, after Sept. 11, the issue might not have gotten Mr. Terrazas's attention. His father served in World War II, his brother in Vietnam, and he said that he had always supported having a strong military able to defend the country.**

**But after the war in Iraq yielded no weapons of mass destruction, and as the death toll has mounted, he cannot reconcile the pride he feels at seeing marines deliver aid after the tsunami in Asia with his concern over the effort in Baghdad, he said.**

**"Because of the situation we're in now, I would not want my son to serve," he said. "It's the policy that I'm against, not the military."**

The form, said Ron Carruth, Whittier's assistant superintendent, includes an explanation of the law, and boxes that parents can check to indicate they do not want information on their child released to either the military, colleges, vocational schools or other sources of recruitment.

**Mr. Carruth said that next year the district would also prohibit all recruiters from appearing in classrooms, and keep the military ones from bringing equipment like Humvees onto school grounds, a commonly used recruitment tool.**

**And at least a dozen other districts in the area, Mr. Carruth added, up from three in November, are considering similar plans.**

Unlike Mr. Terrazas, Ms. Rogers, 37, of High Falls in the upper Hudson Valley, had not thought much about the war before she began speaking out in her school district. She had been "politically apathetic," she said. She did not know about No Child Left Behind's reporting requirements, nor did she opt out.

**When her son, Jonah, said he was thinking of sitting out a gym class that was to be led by National Guard recruiters, Ms. Rogers, who works part time as a clerk at the local motor vehicles office and receives public assistance, said she told him not to be "a rebel without a cause."**

"In this world," she recalled telling him, "we need a strong military."

**But then she heard from her son that the class was mandatory, and that recruiters were handing out free T-shirts and key chains - "Like, 'Hey, let's join the military. It's fun,' " she said.**

First she called the Rondout Valley High School to complain about the "false advertising," she said, then her congressman.

On May 24, at the first school board meeting since the gym class, she read aloud from a recruiting handbook that advised recruiters on ways to gain maximum access to schools, including offering doughnuts. A high school senior, Katie Coalla, 18, stood up at one point and tearfully defended the recruiters, receiving applause from the crowd of about 70, but Ms. Rogers persisted.

**"Pulling in this need for heartstrings patriotic support is clouding the issue," she said. "The point is not whether I support the troops. It's about whether a well-organized propaganda machine should be targeted at children and enforced by the schools."**

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## **To Fill Ranks, Army Acts To Retain Messed Up & Fuck Ups**

Wall Street Journal, June 3, 2005

The Army has struggled to keep enlistment numbers from dropping off the chart. Now it is fighting to keep the new GIs it brought into the force.

**More of the new enlistees are washing out of the Army before completing their first enlistment. The Army is responding by issuing new rules meant to make it more difficult to summarily discharge a soldier for poor fitness, pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse or generally unsatisfactory performance.**

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### "Go Home American Forces"



People demonstrate in Baghdad's Sadr City June 3, 2005. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

6/3/2005 Anatolia.com Inc.

Sunni Muslims protested after Friday prayers against the US forces' detention this week of a moderate political leader, while some imams in their sermons slammed a Baghdad security operation.

**The protestors chanted anti-US slogans and waved Iraqi flags, Islamic Party banners and signs denouncing the seizure of party leader Mohsen Abdel Hamid and his three sons on Monday, calling it "American terrorism".**

All four were later released.

**"Go Home American Forces", another banner proclaimed, saying the troops had covered themselves in shame.**

**The US military admitted to having detained Hamid in what they said was a mistake. But the forces have yet to publish an apology or give the reason for their operation, during which the Sunni leader was taken hooded and handcuffed from his home.**

A member of the Islamic Party's politburo, Sheikh Iyal al-Ezzi, lead the Friday prayer and slammed Operation Lightning, a continuing, US-backed, Iraqi government offensive against insurgents in the capital.

"During this operation they arrest our sons for the simple fact of being Sunnis," he charged, adding that the assault had "culminated with the aggression against one of our symbols, Mohsen Abdel Hamid".

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

## **Assorted Resistance Action**

06/03/05 AFP & By PATRICK QUINN (AP) & By Sam Knight, Times Online & Los Angeles Times & (Xinhuanet)

**Balad: Iraqi translator, working in an US military base was killed Friday in Balad**, at about 70 kilometers North of Baghdad, announced AFP, citing police sources. According to the information, armed men have opened fire on the 33-year-old Hazem Karim Hanam.

**In northern Mosul, a car bomber blew himself up near a police station in the southern part of the city, killing three police officers and wounding five**, police Capt. Ahmed Khalil said. Two officers were seriously injured, hospital officials said.

**On Friday, gunmen killed Brigadier Sabah Qara Alton, a Turkman member of the Kirkuk City Council, after he left a mosque in the northern city.**

**Saboteurs blew up a key stretch of the pipeline in the north, hampering Iraq's efforts to resume full-scale oil production.**

**A car bomber wounded nine Iraqi soldiers and two women after attacking an Iraqi army checkpoint near the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division base in Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, police Capt. Hakim al-Azawi said.**

**"The attack took place at 4:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) when a suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden vehicle into a checkpoint manned by Iraqi soldiers on the northern entrance of Saddam's presidential palace in Tikrit," US-Iraqi liaison office in Tikrit said in a statement.**

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

## **Iraq's Other Resistance:**

# Oil Workers In Basra Are Ready To Fight Privatisation

June 3, 2005 Greg Muttitt, The Guardian

Oil workers in Basra are ready to fight privatization.

Last week Basra saw its first conference on the threat of privatisation, bringing together oil workers, academics and international civil-society groups. The event debated an issue about which Iraqis are passionate: the ownership and control of Iraq's oil reserves.

The conference was organised by the General Union of Oil Employees (GUOE), which was established in June 2004 and now has 23,000 members. Focused as much on the broader Iraqi public interest as on members' concerns, its first aim was to organise workers to repair oil facilities and bring them back into production during the chaos of the early months of occupation.

This effort by the workers required both courage - often in conflict either with coalition troops or remnants of the Ba'athist regime - and considerable ingenuity, putting back together a working oil industry with minimal resources.

In maintenance too, the Iraqi workers have outmatched their private-company counterparts. Walking round the Basra refinery, I pointed to the creaking and rusty equipment and asked the manager whether there were a lot of accidents, arising from failures of equipment under high pressure.

The refinery manager said that accidents were rare, because however old the equipment it is constantly checked. "For an Iraqi refinery operator, the refinery is part of him," he said.

Contrast this with the disastrous safety record of British and American refineries. There, the frequent accidents are caused largely by lack of maintenance and inspection - which are in turn caused by the drastic downsizing of the workforce.

**The occupation forces and their allies in the Iraqi government see things differently. Plans are now afoot for sweeping changes to Iraq's oil sector, to give western oil majors access to its reserves for the first time since 1972.**

**But they will face a challenge. While the workforce has shown itself to be quite capable of running the industry, it has been equally effective at shutting down that industry when threatened by the authorities.**

In August 2003 oil workers' unions organised a strike that stopped all production in southern Iraq for two days. The resulting bargaining power has been impressive, with the unions - which later merged to become the GUOE - successfully pushing for foreign workers to be replaced by Iraqis; the role of US companies in the reconstruction to be reduced; and wages to be raised to liveable levels.

And the GUOE is uncompromising in its views on oil privatisation. As one oil worker told me, he and his colleagues have rebuilt their industry after its destruction in three wars, and in the face of extreme adversity. As a result they have a deep sense of ownership, which they will not willingly relinquish.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Rumsfeld:**

From: Mike Hastie, Vietnam Veteran  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2005 7:10 AM  
Subject: Rumsfeld

**"Do not interfere with the enemy, when he is in the process of destroying himself." Napoleon**

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### **Basic On Acid**

From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 02, 2005

**Yeah, well the dilated pupils were an advantage at least in the woods at night during escape and evasion training, and also during Night Fire on the range. Oooh, tracers! Far out!**

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

***Terrorist Grandma Caught:*  
"I Said What About My  
Constitutional Rights? And They  
Said 'You Don't Have Any'"**





**"This is not the way my country should be treating me," she said. My concern is that if that's the way they're treating American citizens I would hate to think how they're treating other people. It's crazy."**

June 1, 2005 KOMO TV, DES MOINES

**Cecilia Beaman is a 57-year-old grandmother, a principal at Pacific Middle School in Des Moines, and as of Sunday is also a suspected terrorist.**

"This is not right," she told us. It's not right!"

This past weekend she and several other chaperones took 37 middle school students to a Heritage Festival band competition in California. The trip included two days at Disneyland.

During the stay she made sandwiches for the kids and was careful to pack the knives she used to prepare those sandwiches in her checked luggage. She says she even alerted security screeners that the knives were in her checked bags and they told her that was OK.

**But Beaman says she couldn't find a third knife. It was a 5 1/2 inch bread knife with a rounded tip and a serrated edge. She thought she might have lost or misplaced it during the trip.**

**On the trip home, screeners with the Transportation Security Administration at Los Angeles International Airport found it deep in the outside pocket of a carry-on cooler. Beaman apologized and told them it was a mistake.**

**"You've committed a felony," Beaman says a security screener announced. "And you're considered a terrorist."**

**Beaman says she was told her name would go on a terrorist watch-list and that she would have to pay a \$500 fine.**

"I'm a 57-year-old woman who is taking care of 37 kids," she told them. "I'm not gonna commit a terrorist act." Beaman says they took information from her Washington drivers license and confiscated and photographed the knife according to standard operating procedure.

**She says screeners refused to give her paperwork or documentation of her violation, documentation of the pending fine, or a copy of the photograph of the knife.**

**"They said 'no' and they said it's a national security issue. And I said what about my constitutional rights? And they said 'not at this point ... you don't have any'."**

KOMO News did reach a spokesperson with the Transportation Security Administration for comment. They said they did not have record of Beaman's confrontation but did admit that TSA screeners are, by design, becoming more strict.

Fines issued for knives and other sharp objects range from \$250 to \$1,500.

**The TSA web site also indicates firearms violations will be referred for potential criminal prosecution. The same site does not propose the same criminal referral for knives like the one Cecilia Beaman was carrying.**

**"This is not the way my country should be treating me," she said. My concern is that if that's the way they're treating American citizens I would hate to think how they're treating other people. It's crazy."**

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Bolivia: “Now, There Will Be Civil War...”**

June 3, 2005 Luis A. Gómez, The Narco News Bulletin

A few hours ago, representatives of the right wing in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's center of economic development and refuge of the multinational oil companies, decided not to accept President Carlos Mesa's decree of yesterday. The people of Santa Cruz, in a meeting of the Pro-Santa Cruz Civic Committee, have decided to hold their own referendum on August 12, accusing the president of wanting to divide the country.

**In the west, the people of El Alto have also given their answer. In the streets around El Alto's Senkata gasoline plant, they have dug ditches to impede the transport of fuel into La Paz.** The marches continued in the capital, diminished in terms of numbers, but giving a clear answer: nationalization, and a constitutional assembly.

This morning the meatpackers came down from El Alto (“Sánchez de Lozada is the butcher, comrade,” one of their leaders told me a long time ago). The residents of the Viacha region (both urban and rural Aymara) were also present, together with a thousand peasant farmers arriving from the Altiplano, Bolivia's northern highlands.

**To the rhythm of saya (Afro-Bolivian) music, the workers summed up their answer to the government's actions: "Now, there will be civil war..."** A group of youths carrying a pair of dolls representing Carlos Mesa and Congress President Hormando Vaca Díez; after marching for an hour through downtown La Paz, the dolls were burned.

At this point in the afternoon, after various groups (such as the El Alto neighborhood committees, and the Aymara peasant farmers) have rejected Mesa's decree convoking a constitutional assembly for October, the farmers allied to Evo Morales' Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) are marching around the Plaza de los Héroes... and demanding that, seeing as how he will not listen to the people, President Carlos Mesa cut short his term and call general elections.

**This afternoon, a group of people demonstrated before the doors of the Army General Staff headquarters in La Paz. They wanted the head of that institution, General Marcelo Antezana, to be in charge of a new government (the famous "civic-military" pact we mentioned a few days ago)... and rumors of a coup d'état have circulated once again, though all reports we have received have been very vague. The high command of the Air Force has already dismissed this notion... but the mobilization continues in these moments, and leaders from the Bolivian Workers' Federation (COB), such as Pedro Cruz, are among the crowd.**

Evo Morales, in a quick reaction to what is now occurring, has said that the social movements will reject any coup, no matter where it comes from. But the situation is again tense...

And this just in...

**A few minutes ago, the leaders of the El Alto Federation of Neighborhood Committees (FEJUVE) finished a tour through the districts of El Alto. Every one of the eight districts has held assemblies this afternoon. But the most important one finished a few minutes ago in District 8, where the Senkata gasoline plant, which provides fuel for La Paz and El Alto, is located.**

**The residents of that area, in the south of El Alto and a few kilometers from the entrance to La Paz, have decided to completely close all access to the Senkata plant and install a permanent guard to ensure that "as long as the hydrocarbons are not nationalized," not one drop of gasoline makes it out. If necessary, District 4 (neighboring District 8 to the south) has resolved to mobilize and support such measures.**

**Abel Mamani, president of FEJUVE, came out to congratulate El Alto residents for their continued resistance. Aside from the gasoline plant, District 8 has shut down an international highway. Before retiring for the evening, Mamani confirmed that El Alto will once again take downtown La Paz next Monday...**

**As you seem, kind readers, this is a response as well to Carlos Mesa, to the Congress, and to the decree on the constitutional assembly... because until now, the principal popular demand, nationalization, is yet to be resolved...**

Stay with us, our dear and weary readers, history keeps leaping forward in Bolivia...

**Web Copies:**

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

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.iraq-news.de/>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

[www.williambowles.info/qispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial),

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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