

## **GI SPECIAL 3B68:**



*Photo: Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial*

*I'm amazed at the number of people I have met whose father served in Vietnam, and they know almost nothing about his war experiences.*

*There is a huge piece of family history missing from their own life, a father's past that had a profound impact on them growing up as children.*

*So many of the wounds of our parents are passed on to the next generation. It is so silent and insidious, that children feel responsible for things they had absolutely nothing to do with.*

*And to feel guilty for wanting their own lives, feels like a betrayal toward their parents, who continue to suffer from their past.*

*In order for children to emancipate themselves from their parents, it is absolutely essential for them to stop carrying their pain.*

*As Mitchell Meade once wrote, "If you hide your limp, someone else has to do your limping." The best advice I can give, is to ask your father some questions with an attitude of compassion, because once he is gone, that family history is gone forever.*

*Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran*

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)

**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**

### **TWO SOLDIERS KILLED NEAR AR RAMADI**

June 22, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release  
Number: 05-06-30C CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq

**Two Soldiers assigned to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action June 21 by small-arms fire. The incident took place during combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.**

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# ANOTHER SOLDIER KILLED NEAR AR RAMADI

June 22, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release  
Number: 05-06-28C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – **A Soldier assigned to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action June 21 by small-arms fire.**

The incident took place during combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

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## 2 Special Operations Soldiers Killed

June 21, 2005 AP

**Two Special Forces soldiers assigned to Fort Bragg have died during combat operations in Iraq, the Department of Defense said Tuesday.**

Master Sgt. Robert M. Horrigan, 40, of Austin, Texas, and Master Sgt. Michael L. McNulty, 36, of Knoxville, Tenn., died Friday in Al Qaim, Iraq.

They were both assigned to U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Bragg.

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## PILOT DIES AFTER U-2 CRASH IN SOUTHWEST ASIA

June 22, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release  
Number: 05-06-29C & AP

SOUTHWEST ASIA – **A U.S. Air Force U-2 spy plane involved in a mission in Afghanistan crashed while attempting to land at its base in the United Arab Emirates at 11:30 p.m., killing the pilot, the military said Wednesday.**

The wing has been based at the al-Dhafra air base near Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, since early 2002. The wing flies various types of aircraft, including aerial refueling tankers.

"The Airmen of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing mourn the loss of a true American hero in the service of his country," said Col. Darryl Burke, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

The cause of the crash is not known. An investigation board will determine its cause.

**One official said the location of the crash was not released because "host nation sensitivities" were involved.**

**American U-2s operate out of a base in the United Arab Emirates, although U.S. military officials refuse to discuss this fact at the UAE's request.**

The U-2 operates at an altitude of more than 70,000 feet, beyond the range of most surface-to-air missiles. It has been used by American forces for decades.

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## **Attacks In Ramadi, Mosul Damage U.S. Military Vehicles; Casualties Not Announced**

Jun 22, 2005 (Reuters)

A bomb attack on a U.S. armoured patrol killed three Iraqi civilians and wounded seven on Wednesday in the northern city of Mosul, witnesses, police and hospital officials said.

**It was not clear if there were any casualties among the Americans, one of whose armoured vehicles was damaged by what witnesses said appeared to be a stationary car bomb.**

**A car bomb attack on a security checkpoint in the western city of Ramadi damaged a U.S. military vehicle and wounded several Iraqi civilians, police said.**

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## **Iraqi Rebels Refine Bomb Skills, Pushing Toll of G.I.s Higher: Shaped Charges And Infra-Red Detonations Replace Crude IEDs**

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

June 22, 2005 By DAVID S. CLOUD, New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 21 - **American casualties from bomb attacks in Iraq have reached new heights in the last two months as insurgents have begun to deploy devices that leave armored vehicles increasingly vulnerable, according to military records.**

**Last month there were about 700 attacks against American forces using so-called improvised explosive devices, or I.E.D.'s, the highest number since the invasion of Iraq in 2003,** according to the American military command in Iraq and a senior Pentagon military official.

**The surge in attacks, the officials say, has coincided with the appearance of significant advancements in bomb design, including the use of "shaped" charges that concentrate the blast and give it a better chance of penetrating armored vehicles, causing higher casualties.**

**Another change, a senior military officer said, has been the detonation of explosives by infrared lasers, an innovation aimed at bypassing electronic jammers used to block radio-wave detonators.**

**Infrared detonators are an advance over the more common method of rigging bombs to explode after an insurgent nearby presses a button on a cell phone, a garage-door opener or other device that gives off an electric signal. That approach is vulnerable to jammers, however, and a shift to infrared detonators, which rely on light waves, underscores the insurgents' resourcefulness.**

I.E.D.'s of all types caused 33 American deaths in May, and there have been at least 35 fatalities so far in June, the highest toll over a two-month period, according to statistics assembled by Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, a Web site that tracks official figures.

Col. Bob Davis, an Army explosives expert, called the new elements in some bombs "pretty disturbing." In a brief interview, he declined to discuss the changes, but said the "sophistication is increasing and it will increase further."

Improvised explosives now account for about 70 percent of American casualties in Iraq.

At a briefing on Tuesday for reporters at the Pentagon, General Vines, who spoke by telephone from Iraq, said that the insurgents' tactics "have become more sophisticated in some cases," and that they were probably drawing on bomb-making experts from outside Iraq and from the old Iraqi Army.

**He added that the insurgency was "quite small" and "relatively static," a view not shared by all his colleagues. [Evidently not "all his colleagues" have their heads firmly emplaced up their ass.]**

"And they've learned that in order to attack us, they need to get more sophisticated."

The insurgents "certainly appear to be surging right now," Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Votel, who leads the anti-I.E.D. task force, said in an interview at Fort Irwin. "Time will tell about their ability to sustain this."

**"We're in a very, very dangerous period," said a senior military official at the Pentagon. "To be a successful insurgent you need to be able to create spectacular attacks, and they've certainly done that in the past several weeks."**

**In addition to technical improvements in their bombs, insurgents, especially in rural areas, are resorting to packing more explosives into the devices to disable armored vehicles, Army experts at the Fort Irwin conference said.**

A senior Marine officer with access to classified reports from the field said that the vehicles involved in the two fatal attacks were armored Humvees but that the bombs "were so big that there was little left of the Humvees that were hit."

**Insurgents have long been able to build bombs powerful enough to penetrate some armored vehicles. But the use of "shaped" charges could raise the threat considerably, military officials said.**

**The shaped charge explosion fires a projectile "at a very rapid rate, sufficient to penetrate certain levels of armor," General Conway said, adding that weapons employing shaped charges had caused American casualties in the last two months. He did not give details.**

**A Pentagon official involved in combating the devices said shaped charges seen so far appeared crude but required considerable expertise, suggesting insurgents were able to draw on well-trained bomb-makers, possibly even rocket scientists from the former government. Shaped charges and rocket engines are similar, the official said.**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Five U.S. Soldiers Injured In Battle Described As Deadliest Since 2001; Two Copters Hit**

June 22, 2005 By Daniel Cooney, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — American aircraft bombarded a rebel hide-out with missiles and bombs, killing up to 76 insurgents in one of the deadliest battles since the Taliban's ouster more than three years ago, officials said Wednesday.

**A dozen Afghan policemen and soldiers also died in fighting Tuesday in the 11-hour gunbattle Tuesday near the Daychopan district in Zabul province that left bodies scattered across a southern mountainside and was sure to add to growing**

**anxiety that an Iraq-style conflict is developing here. Five U.S. soldiers were wounded.**

**O'Hara said two CH-47 transport helicopters were hit by bullets during Tuesday's fighting. One chopper made an emergency landing and was repaired, and the other flew to a nearby base, a spokesman, he said.**

About 360 suspected insurgents have been reported killed since rebel attacks began increasing in March, after snows melted on mountain tracks used by the rebels.

**In the same time, 29 U.S. troops, 38 Afghan police and soldiers and 125 civilians have been killed.**

**The bloodshed has raised concerns that the war is widening, rather than winding down. [Duh.]**

Fears have been further compounded by a surge of insurgent ambushes, execution-style killings and kidnappings reminiscent of the tactics of Iraqi militants.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **“They Died For A Lie” “How Can You ‘Finish’ Imperialism? It Doesn't End--It Just Spreads”**

## **An Interview With Cindy Sheehan Of Gold Star Families for Peace**

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

June 24, 2005 Socialist Worker

*CINDY SHEEHAN'S son Casey was killed in action in Iraq on April 4, 2004. Since then, she has tirelessly traveled the country speaking out against Bush's war. Cindy is a founding member of Gold Star Families for Peace, an organization of family members opposed to the occupation of Iraq who have lost a loved one in the conflict. She spoke to Socialist Worker's ERIC RUDER about the challenges of working to end the occupation.*

*CAN YOU talk about the human toll of this war --how it has changed you and how you came to be involved in activism?*

I WASN'T involved in political activism or peace activism before Casey was killed, and now I don't really think of myself in that way, even though I'm down in Washington, D.C., and talking to congressmen and senators, and testifying. I just want the war to end. I'm just trying to use every avenue that I can to make that happen.

I find the strength to go on from the millions of people who are still in harm's way in Iraq. People are dying and being slaughtered every day, and every day we don't do something, more people die.

And I want to make some meaning out of my own son's death. I believe he died so needlessly and senselessly, and I want to give it some kind of a meaning. I want him to have died for peace--not for hate, not for war.

*SO TO you, this struggle is about the lives of both U.S. soldiers and Iraqis.*

DEFINITELY. THAT'S why I say there are millions of people in harm's way. Everyone who is in Iraq right now is in harm's way--it doesn't matter if they're American or Iraqi. And our government's reckless foreign policy has put them there.

*DICK CHENEY recently claimed that the Iraqi resistance is in its "last throes," but at the same time, many in the U.S. establishment warn that a large U.S. presence will be required for years to keep Iraq from slipping into civil war. What would you say to someone trying to make sense of all this?*

I THINK Iraq is already in a civil war for one thing. Iraqis are killing Iraqis--what do you call that?

**I think it's chaos, and I think our very presence there is fueling the killing. We need to let the Iraqi people govern themselves and run their own country. And we need to start getting our military presence out of there and help them as much as we can with money and supplies and whatever else they need--but they don't need our Army to be in their country.**

*SOME PRO-WAR people say that if you oppose the war, you are against the troops. What do you respond to that?*

**I HEAR that all the time, and my answer is that our own government doesn't support the troops. They don't have the proper armor, even after two years. Not all of the Humvees are armored. They don't have the right supplies. Their government put them in harm's way for no reason, and now, more than 1,700 Americans, and tens of thousands of Iraqis are dead.**

Once the troops come home from being in Iraq, it's really hard for them to find help in the VA system. It might take them months. I know some soldiers who've waited more than a year to get help from the VA.



This war has definitively been proven to be based on a lie and a betrayal, and so the only way to support our young people is to get them out of there and bring them home alive and as mentally healthy as we can.

*SOME IN the antiwar movement say that it is irresponsible to call for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops because "we have to finish what we started" and not "abandon the Iraqi people."*

**THE IRRESPONSIBLE thing was going in there in the first place. Iraq is where civilization began, and to say that they can't handle their own affairs is basically racist.**

**We have to give them the credit to be able to rebuild their own country--to get back on their feet again. They need the jobs. We have foreign contractors over there taking their jobs. And what does it mean "to finish the job?" What is the job? How can you "finish" imperialism? It doesn't end--it just spreads.**

Some people may think that we're fighting terrorism over there. But when is that job ever going to be complete? Terrorism is just a new "ism." It was "communism" when I was growing up.

**The American people have always been far ahead of our politicians--and I think that's because they don't hear from us a lot. They need to hear from us more.**

**I talked to senators this past week, and they say, "You know, we had to vote for the money to support the troops." But very little of that money gets to the troops--most of it goes to lining the pockets of the war profiteers and the mercenaries who are sometimes making \$1,000 a day. They're pulling in \$200k a year, and our guys are maybe making \$24,000 if they're lucky.**

**I ALSO think the Democrats are just as committed to the war and the overall goal as the Republicans are.**

**THEY'RE ALL getting money from the sources. They're all profiting from keeping the war going. They're only going to do what's good for them until the American people make them do otherwise.**

*DOZENS OF soldiers have gone public with their opposition to the war, and thousands more have simply not reported for duty. How should the antiwar movement support these resisters?*

I DEFINITELY think that we should support war resisters in the military. This war is not only illegal, but it's immoral--in fact, some people might say all war is immoral. It's our job as moral human beings to oppose it--and oppose it in any way that we can.

**I know several people who are being court-martialed, and they need support--they need monetary support, they need our moral support, and they need to know that we're with them.**

We need to encourage more people to do this. The people who go public--like Kevin Benderman, Pablo Paredes and Camilo Mejía--are doing a public service to this country, by showing soldiers and our young people in the military that there is an alternative to going over, and killing and dying in an immoral war.

**Even though the alternative might be prison, I wish my son was in prison instead of in his grave. I wish he didn't have to die for a lie and for this immorality.**

**Casey never thought this war was right.** He never agreed with the commander-in-chief. He thought the war was wrong. He was a follower of Jesus Christ, and it surprised the hell out of us when he joined the Army. But he did it to serve, not to go kill innocent people in a war that didn't make any sense. I begged him not to go, but he said, "Mom, it's my duty, my buddies are going, so I have to go."

I'm hoping that if he had been over there for a while, he would have come to the same conclusion as Camilo and Pablo and Kevin--that, no, I'm not going to obey these orders.

**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.**

## **Officers Lying, Troops Dying: Congressman Catches Murderous Assholes At Work**

6/21/2005 By John Diamond and Steven Komarow, USA TODAY

The House Armed Services Committee questioned Gen. William Nyland, assistant commandant of the Marines, about how long it has taken to get armored Humvees into the field. Nyland said hundreds of new armored Humvees and armor kits to upgrade standard Humvees have been put to use or are en route to Iraq.

Nyland said the final batch of vehicle armor upgrades will be in Iraq by December.

Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who has a son who served in Iraq, said a one-year plan is too slow and means that soldiers and Marines "are going to take more hits than they would otherwise."

**Lawmakers didn't have to rely on military testimony to learn about Humvees' vulnerability. Some have seen it for themselves in trips to Iraq. Armed Services Committee member Todd Akin, R-Mo., said U.S. commanders assured lawmakers visiting Baghdad last month that no vehicle leaves a U.S. base unless it's armored.**

"I go out the same day and see a Humvee where the driver just got killed. It was sort of what I call 'good-ol'-boy armor,' " Akin said, referring to armor cobbled together by the troops themselves from scrap steel.

Hunter displayed a timeline in which his committee alerted the Pentagon in February to a Marine gunnery sergeant's proposal for fitting steel plate to Humvees.

Two months later, the committee learned that the necessary steel was in a depot in neighboring Kuwait. Not until August will the Marines complete work on kits to upgrade armor of Humvees in Iraq.

### **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))

## **Vets Defy Cops; Stand Up For Their Rights**

June 21, 2005 Relayed from the Traprock Peace Center through Sally Davidson of MFSO

**SACRAMENTO -- A military veterans organization claimed a major victory early Tuesday after members -- despite repeated police warnings of immediate arrest -- were able to virtually swarm a bus carrying potential military recruits and distribute literature encouraging them to not enlist to fight in the war in Iraq.**

**The confrontation Tuesday occurred about a week after a young recruit passed through a similar band of veterans, changed her mind and walked away from the Military Entrance Processing Station. Since then the military has tried to stop the daily, very early morning protests.**

**Tuesday, at about 5 a.m., police and military recruiters repeated threats that they were going to arrest the veterans and other gathered at the only military processing facility north of Fresno.**

**However, about two dozen VFP volunteers refused to leave and distributed information and displayed signs about unfair tactics used by desperate military recruiters.**

"Many of us who have served our time in the military were willing to go to jail today if necessary to help these young people understand their rights. We've seen war, and we will not be intimidated," said George Main, VFP Sacramento president. VFP is present daily as the busses enter the facility at 5 a.m.

VFP is demanding recruiters -- already caught using high-pressure tactics to entice youth to volunteer to fight in Iraq -- offer new recruits a "72-hour cooling off" period because recruiters are known for preying on young people by using intimidation, coercion and fraud to get them to enlist.

**At the MEPS facility, for example, recruits are bussed in at 5 a.m. and, in effect, detained for 10-12 hours and then coerced into signing enlistment papers after enduring high pressure sales tactics throughout the day.**

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## **Three Down: Three Young Men From Derby, Kan., Died in Iraq. And a Small Town Is a Whole Lot Smaller**

May 29, 2005 By Wil Haygood, Washington Post Staff Writer

**[For once, a reporter gives a shit. Good for him.]**

**DERBY, Kan.**

**Sometimes -- especially in dreams, or leaning back in a chair, staring into the blue yonder -- it can seem as if they never left at all. As if they merely hustled out the front door to take care of some bit of business and that must be Joe or Dusty or Ryan coming back home just now. As dependable as the train whistle that blows several times a day out by Highway 15.**

**The business, however, was war, and they're gone without a breath left in them. Those left behind are fighting their own battles now, trying to unwind the memories, turn ghosts into flesh and bone. Stanch the blood of Ryan Cox, of Dusty McGaugh, of Joe Herndon, and stand them upright in the Kansas sun, the world whole once again, for just one more moment.**

Two soldiers and a Marine. Three bullets in Iraq. One finding each of them.

He was tall and handsome, half black, half white, and a sucker for a homeless pet. Ryan Cox found the stray cat some 12 years ago. The cat, named Jordan (after the basketball player), has just slithered into Ryan's room here, over near Ryan's still-dusty boots, just under Ryan's Marine fatigues, draped on a coat hanger.

A room that's still Ryan's. A bed that's still made up. The cover pulled so tight you can flip a penny on it and it'd bounce right back up.

The darkness out here can be still and almost lavender-colored across a land that once played host to Indian wars, droughts that ruined crops, and all the dreams upon dreams upon dreams of those who trekked west. Derby, a town of 19,500, lies less than 15 miles from Wichita, snug against the Arkansas River.

Ryan wasn't one for sitting around. He liked to go. A few years back he came home from school, looked around, and talked Matt and Lindsey, his stepbrother and stepsister, into driving straight to Pikes Peak in Colorado. They listened to Ryan's Pink Floyd tape most of the way. They had a ball, "even though we about froze to death," says Lindsey.

He always ran. Sometimes he just ran and ran, a blur down Lincoln Street, over to Derby High, where he lettered in track.

"Every day he'd get out and run," says Alan Cox, his stepfather. "He tried to get me to go. I said, 'Son, I'm fat and I smoke. I ain't going.' "

"I couldn't keep up with him," says Matt, 25, "so I never went running with him."

Clyde Davison, Matt and Lindsey's grandfather, used to come over, grab himself a chair, and sit out on the front porch. Girls would drive by every 15 minutes or so, and they'd slow down and wave to Davison.

"Say hi to Ryan!"

"Tell Ryan I said hi!"

It got to the point where he considered it his familial duty to sit on that front porch and holler out an "Okey-dokey!" on Ryan's behalf. Even if the Cox family was giggling that Grandpa seemed awfully committed to getting out on that front porch.

The girls don't come by waving and saying "Tell Ryan hi!" anymore. "He misses that," Debbie Cox says of her father.

Just like Debbie hates to be home alone these days because she was always walking around the house and bumping into tall Ryan if he was home. And if she was sick and sitting there watching her soap operas, Ryan would come out of his room and sit with her.

Everyone got a kick when he'd call from Iraq. He'd ask about Matt and Lindsey and Chelsea, his biological sister. He'd ask about the dogs and cat. And he'd ask Debbie Cox what was happening on "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital."

**Every now and then, the Coxes will be out someplace dressy, having dinner, celebrating something, and someone will mention taking a family photograph, and they'll start thinking about Ryan being gone and quickly drop the idea. "That won't be happening," Lindsey says.**

Ryan was born in Wellington, 30 miles from Derby, on Sept. 6, 1983. His mother, Robin Hamilton, met Alan Cox in the mid-1980s and married him after her relationship with Ryan's biological father -- whom Ryan never knew -- ended. She's white and Ryan's father is black. She'd tell Ryan he was Mexican one month, part Indian the next. Some of the black kids had their doubts, and there would be punches. Some of the white kids had their doubts, and there'd be more punches.

When Ryan was still in elementary school, his mom and Alan Cox divorced. When the family appeared before a judge, Ryan was asked where he wanted to go. He pointed to his stepfather. Alan Cox didn't need to hear another word. "We had the lawyers draw the papers up," he says.

It was Valentine's Day 2002 when Ryan joined the Marines. He didn't seek anyone's counsel, just figured the Marines would push him. He left for Camp Pendleton, Calif., on July 2.

That was the day Debbie Cox began to hate the large window in the living room that looks out onto the front yard: "I never wanted to see Marine officers through that window," she says.

Actually, Matt saw them first. He was asleep on the sofa and the knocking woke him up.

Debbie, who is hard of hearing, was in the kitchen and heard none of it.

Matt saw the Marines standing outside, beyond the large window, the window with a view that Debbie Cox feared. Matt knew what he knew: three Marines in the front yard. "And Ryan wasn't with them," he says.

Ryan and Pfc. Jeffrey Kenyon had been in the barracks in Najaf, Iraq, playing around with a fly swatter. It got out of hand. Words were exchanged. Kenyon raised his rifle and asked Ryan if he thought the chamber being aimed at him was loaded.

It better not be, Ryan Cox said.

"The kid was ordered twice to drop the weapon and didn't do it," says Debbie Cox, who was briefed on the Marine investigation.

Kenyon pulled the trigger. Then ran to summon help. Ryan, shot in the stomach, died during surgery.

It was Father's Day 2003. He was 19, the first serviceman from Derby to die in Iraq. (Army Sgt. Jamie O. Maugans, 27, died in April 2002 in Afghanistan.)

Kenyon was sentenced to three years in a military prison. Two months ago, one of the prosecutors told Alan Cox that Kenyon's attorneys were trying to get him an early release. The prosecutor wanted to know how he felt about that. "I told him I think he should serve his full term," Cox says.

Soon afterward, Lindsey sat at her kitchen table and wrote a 2 1/2 -page letter. She mailed it to the Marine who killed her stepbrother.

"Dear PFC Kenyon,

". . . I am not trying to make you feel any worse than I hope you already do. From my understanding you shooting Ryan was an accident. I would like to know if it really was an accident. I don't understand why if you were so certain the gun was empty why you had to pull the trigger. . . .

"Were the two of you close? Or did you even get along?"

**In the twilight outside the house in Derby, you can see a stanza from Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here." After Ryan's death, Debbie Cox, Ryan's stepmother, had them carved into a stone that stands beside the steps leading to the front porch.**

### **The Best Best Friend**

All those years -- 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 -- Christmas at the Herndon home had its very own St. Nick. Only it was St. Joe, Joe Herndon, sitting right in the middle, passing around the gifts. He looked goofy and handsome and wide-eyed and tender and sweet all at once. He had become the man of the house at 8 when his daddy fell dead from a heart attack.

**So there was Joe, passing out the gifts through the years, wearing his daddy's grin, which had become his own.**

**Last Christmas, "no one wanted to do it," Virginia Evans, Joe's mom, says.**

**"I had already bought Christmas presents for him," says his widow, Melaine.**

**Gifts he never opened.**

People here say you'd meet Joe at some lunch or dinner and he'd corner you and start chatting you up and you'd feel like he'd been a friend for years.

"I wasn't Joe's best friend, but I would have been honored to have been so," says Loren Flaharty, a big man who played football with Joe at Derby High and crumpled like a flu-riddled child when he had to tell his own tough dad that Joe was gone.

It's a Friday night and Flaharty and some of his friends from high school are sitting around a wooden table at Buster's Sports Bar, slaking their thirst, munching on chicken wings, remembering old football victories and losses.

Back when Joe was a local football hero, there was no picture of him in Buster's. Now his jersey is framed in glass on the wall, No. 56, with some snapshots of Joe, the soldier, tucked along the bottom.

Funny thing: Buster's used to be the Derby Pharmacy, which is where Joe's dad, Ken, worked, which is why when Joe's mom is at Buster's, she can see both her son and first husband inside the place. It's what a small town sometimes is: the living and the dead close together.

The train roared by just moments ago out there by Highway 15.

**Joe's stepdad, Gerald Evans, and Everett Barber, his grandfather, still go fishing at a little lake near Ellinwood. They'll take the road out of town, drive a little more than an hour, and there they are. They'll sit by the bank and cast their lines out over the water. Two men fishing, the sun shining. And what used to give them such joy now can give them moments of flat-out grief. "When that boy died it just about killed his granddaddy," says Evans, speaking of Barber. "All we do is think of Joe."**

A family friend once told his mom that Joe could talk with his eyes, he could bewitch you with them. Still, he complained that he could find girls, but not the girl. His mom said to find a girl athlete. So he began dating Melaine Long, who was a sports star in her own right at Derby High, playing basketball, volleyball and running track. He plucked some red roses from his mom's garden and put them on her windowsill. He took her for walks down by the river.

On their six-month anniversary of dating, Joe got some Hershey's Kisses and put them on Melaine's car seat, spelling out I LOVE YOU with the candy.

Melaine's dad happened to be Ray Long, the little league football coach in Joe's youth. Tough man, still robust, a football player for Kansas State University some years back. Football is important here. So what if the town doesn't have some lovely town square? It has a football stadium where the Derby High Panthers play and that is town square enough. The spirit of Derby is there Friday nights down on the field, where players crash through the night air. Joe internalized that bit of mythology when he was a little boy -- that someday he'd be much bigger, he'd be a Derby High Panther, he'd play linebacker.

After high school Joe enrolled at Highland Community College in Highland, Kan. He aimed to play football, but his body had been banged up from knee injuries and concussions in high school. He began to wonder if he had any athlete left in him.

Midway through that first year at Highland, he came home to Derby, feeling sick and lonely. His mom was waiting. Melaine was waiting.

When 9/11 struck, Joe started talking about joining the Army. He talked about it through the holidays and Christmas afternoon gift-opening and through the Kansas winter.

He enlisted on April 24, 2002. His mom drove him to Topeka, just the two of them in the car. He brought up the subject of dying and said if something happened he'd like to be buried near his dad. And if something happened to his granddad first, lay him next to Granddad.

That Thanksgiving he was home on leave. He and Melaine were driving down Rock Road. Joe had the ring box in his pocket. It was his mom's ring. They got married in Las Vegas on March 5, 2003. Melaine was happy to get married but disappointed that they didn't have a big wedding.

Why don't you have a big ceremony for the family in June? Joe's commander suggested after the Vegas I-do's. And Joe ran and called Melaine and told her that his commander



had suggested a June wedding, which, to Joe, was code that they'd be flying off to Iraq soon thereafter.

And so they married again, on June 6, 2003, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Derby. Joe's family and Melaine's family and some of Joe's football friends attended. The Kansas sunshine was clear as white wine.

His first Purple Heart was for a bullet wound to the shoulder.

His mom had a mantra, which she imparted to Joe: "Once you start something, don't quit."

That's what Joe reminded her of the first time he was injured, came home, and got ready to go back to Iraq: The job wasn't finished, he couldn't quit.

His second Purple Heart was for a bullet wound to the leg.

"Mom," Joe had said to his mom, on leave with his two Purple Hearts, "you're not going to like this. But I don't have to go back." She blinked. "But you know what I'm going to do," he said.

"Mom, I'm going to go back and finish the job."

Back in Iraq, it was July 29, 2004. There had been a firefight in Hawijah that day. They'd gone house to house. Six hours of battling, of fighting, of dodging bullets. Finally it was over, guns gone silent, dust settled. Joe's unit took a break. He climbed up on the back of a flatbed truck, just relaxing, a tired kid from Derby, Kan.

Pow.

It came from over there, no, over there, no, over there. A sniper. A single shot and Joe was down. The bullet slammed into his right ear and exited his mouth. He was 22.

Melaine had moved to Hawaii to be near Joe's base. She was at home, sleeping in Joe's clothes, she missed him so. She heard the knock. Maybe it was the mailman, maybe another soldier's wife. She opened the door. She closed the door: She had seen them, two people, a chaplain and an officer. She stood behind the closed door.

When Joe died, Ray Long and his wife, Elaine, hopped a plane to Hawaii to be near their daughter. Long stood as tall as he's ever stood. That doesn't mean he didn't twist inside, didn't come home and stare out into the great yonder in silence.

"I went deer hunting last fall," Long is saying. "The last night out we stayed at a cabin overlooking a lake. The sun was setting. I was sitting on the front porch. I had got a deer. Had my feet up. Smoking a cigar. Had me a Diet Coke. I saw a big flock of geese coming in, landing. I began thinking about Joe. It would have been something if I could have shared that with him."

"My husband loves his three daughters up and beyond," says Elaine. "He finally had a son in Joe. And lost him."

Long knew someone in the athletic department at Derby High, and he thought maybe a funeral could be held there. Before he could finish asking, he was interrupted. Of course, was the answer.

The night before the funeral -- which was held Aug. 6, 2004 -- Loren Flaharty, Joe's old teammate, who went on to play for Southern Illinois and now works at the Derby rec center, sat down to write a tribute to Joe. He expected the words to gush out. But Flaharty's hands wouldn't move. Everything he wanted to say about Joe was in his eyes, in his chest, in his silence, in his memory. Then Flaharty thought of Adam White, a friend of his and Joe's -- "Adam White got a 31 on the ACT!" -- and he asked White to write the tribute.

"Joe was your best friend," Flaharty began, reading Adam's words and giving his own heart to the memories inside that stadium, "if you knew him for 20 minutes -- or 20 years."

It was Joe Herndon's last run inside Panther Stadium. More than 1,500 showed.

**Melaine Herndon moved into a new house in Derby last month. It sits back on a piece of just-cleared land with wheat fields in the distance. It's roomy and nice. The first week or so were hard, introducing herself to the neighbors, explaining Joe. Joe would have moved boxes, furniture, checked the pipes, fluffed the pillows. Run back to the store when they forgot something. She'll lay her head down and dream of Joe. "I had a dream that Joe called and I said, 'Why haven't you called me?' And he said, 'I've been busy.' And I said, 'Oh, okay.' And we each said, 'I love you.' "**

**"I was never supposed to buy a house without him," she says, sitting near some unpacked boxes. "We were supposed to buy the house together."**

### **Finding a Family**

It felt like magic. There was wanna-be gangster Dusty McGaugh out there on the water, riding and whooping it up on a pair of water skis. He was going to church. He was working out. He stopped smoking dope. He was walking around Derby, imagining a whole new world. Maybe he wouldn't wind up in prison, as he had predicted, like a lot of his other friends.

Dusty McGaugh had a war on the home front, and with the help of his twin sister, he seemed to be winning.

Windy McGaugh fled from Tulsa and her mother in the middle of the night. It was May 28, 1999. She was 16 at the time. "I'll never forget the date," she says. "We were always in fear of being hit and manipulated," she says of herself and Dusty. "Abuses came from so many different levels."

It wasn't the first time she had run away, just the last. "We protected each other," Windy says of Dusty. "When I left home I had tremendous guilt. I had left my brother and didn't tell him." (Windy doesn't know how to find her mother and attempts to reach her independently were not successful.)

She stayed at a shelter for runaways in Oklahoma for a couple of days, then left for Derby, where she had an older cousin, Kim Owens.

"I was ready to help her soon as she got here," Owens says. "I knew things weren't going well for her and that's why I opened my home to her."

At Derby High, Windy ate alone on what nickels and dimes she could scrape together. Lisa Fischer noticed her, and they became friends. Soon, Lisa had to explain to her mother, Angie, midway through the month, that she needed more lunch money. "I said, 'Why?' " recalls Angie Fischer.

Lisa told her about her new friend, Windy, who had come from Tulsa, who seemed desperate, who was getting straight A's, whom Lisa wanted to help.

One day Lisa asked her mother if Windy could live with the family. Lisa's parents had plenty of questions: What did Lisa know about Windy? Why was she seemingly alone in the world? Eventually they asked to meet Windy. They liked her immediately. Soon she was living with the Fischers.

"Soon as she got here," recalls Angie of Windy, "she's thinking about Dusty. She said, 'I've got to get him out of that environment. If I don't, he's gonna die.' I said, 'Windy, he's in a gang, he uses drugs. It's too much for us to take on.' "

Windy listened, said she understood, and went back to her schoolwork and worries of her brother.

She listened to the train whistle out by Highway 15. She got a job scooping ice cream over at Braum's. One evening in May 2001, she picked up the phone at Braum's and it was Dusty, calling from Tulsa. He told her dangerous people were after him. He was "crying, sounding hysterical," remembers Windy.

"I'll come get you," she told him.

She borrowed a friend's pickup and struck out on the four-hour drive to Tulsa, not telling the Fischers a thing. She found him in an old dilapidated house. Soon as he saw her he asked for some smokes. She looked around and thought: "Here I'm now living a middle-class life and he's living in a wooden shack with a bunch of young punks. I said, 'Man, you gotta quit this life.' "

Everything he possessed he put in a duffel bag and fled with her. Back in Derby she spirited him down into the Fischers' basement, into her bedroom. He was fidgety, a broken-down gangster. "Relax," she told him. "Enjoy your freedom."

She taped a note to the fridge, telling Angie and her husband, Eric, that her brother was sleeping in her bedroom and she'd find him a place to stay within the next several days.

"He didn't come out of Windy's room," recalls Angie.

"We were certainly surprised he was here," says Eric Fischer.

Eric and Angie calmly explained to Dusty he could stay a couple days, but he'd have to go. Only he didn't go. Angie quickly concluded that Dusty merely needed love in his life, to feel wanted. So they told him he could stay a week, then a month. He quit smoking, drinking; he threw away his gang clothes. He turned into a regular Mr. Fix-it around the house. He helped Eric in the garage, working on the car. "We'd give him 20 things to do," says Eric, "and he'd finish them and say, 'What else you got?' "

Eric and Angie told him one day he might as well stay until he figured out what he wanted to do with his life.

They introduced Dusty to the parishioners at their church, St. Mary's. They took him to Kaw Lake, near Ponca City, over in Oklahoma. Just a family outing, and he relished it so.

"He ate up family things," says Angie.

It tickled both Eric and Angie the way Dusty said, "I love you guys," one afternoon out of the clear blue, looking away from them as if he didn't know how seriously they'd take the comment.

Dusty started talking about joining the military. Lisa Fischer went with him to sign up in August 2001.

Every night at boot camp in Kentucky -- if he missed a night, Lisa can't recall -- Dusty would call her. It was as if he feared the family he had suddenly found would vanish.

As boot camp neared an end, Dusty asked Eric and Angie Fischer if they would come see him graduate from basic training. They hopped a plane to Memphis, then into Kentucky, and were astonished at what Dusty -- the former gang member -- didn't tell them: He would be getting a Marksmanship Award and a Commanders Award. "He introduced us around as his parents," says Angie Fischer.

In the summer of 2002 Dusty came back to Derby on leave. Gone was the misdirection of his youth, the slouch in the walk: He was a soldier now.

Dusty got ready to leave for Iraq in April 2003. Eric and Angie bought him a new CD player. "No, no, I don't need it," he said, trying to give it back, thinking they had spent too much money on the thing.

In his letters and phone calls he'd talk about the Iraqi children, about how desperate they seemed, how hurt they appeared. "He never talked much about the conflict itself," recalls Angie.

He told Windy to stop worrying. Told her he had become an expert marksman with an M-16. Told her to start thinking how they would spend their 21st birthday.

The Army officers who stood at the Fischers' door in the fall of 2003 wouldn't tell the family why, but they needed to reach Windy. Only Windy, who by then had enrolled at the University of Denver on scholarship, was in New Mexico on an archaeological dig with other students. They sent the New Mexico highway patrol racing to find her, but they were unsuccessful. Then someone in New Mexico suggested calling rural grocery

stores in the areas where past archaeological teams had camped out. "One clerk," recalls Angie Fischer, "said, 'I know where they are. They were just in here this morning' "

According to an Army investigation into the death of her brother, which took place Sept. 30, 2003, in Balad, Iraq, Dusty McGaugh walked out of his tent and sat on his lockbox. Several soldiers saw him and thought nothing of it, believing he was going to take a smoke. Hours later soldiers discovered him lying on the ground, his rifle lying between his legs. The investigators concluded that Dusty had placed his rifle beneath his chin and pulled the trigger. It is also stated in the investigation that Dusty had taken "seven pills" leading up to the shooting, and that days earlier he had confided to several soldiers that he was depressed about being in Iraq. He was 20 years old.

When they sent his wallet home, it had a \$20 bill in it -- and a picture of Lisa.

None of the soldiers who gave sworn statements -- their names are blacked out in the report -- mentioned that Dusty ever talked of suicide. But several talked about him appearing "depressed."

**Eric and Angie Fischer say that the wives of several soldiers whispered to them, on behalf of their husbands, that there had been foul play, something to do with Dusty uncovering abuses by soldiers. "Obviously they couldn't come forward," says Angie of the soldiers.**

**"You prove to me he had committed suicide," says Angie. "He had been to Hell and back already," she says, referring to Dusty's childhood.**

"If he had killed himself while we lived with our mother," says Windy, "it would have made perfect sense. But over there, it didn't make sense."

Maybe it is nothing, maybe it was a little more, but in a letter on the eve of going to Iraq, Dusty said this to his twin sister:

"Sis,

. . . We keep getting briefs about going to war. So most likely I might have to go. But that does not mean I'm gonna die! You have to remember . . . I'm the only one in my platoon that got expert marksmanship. Plus, I learned how to service in the woods & stuff. I think I'll be cool. But not all people die in war. But if you look on the up side, You get 200,000 dollars, plus my funeral is free. And I died doing something I always wanted to do. And with honors. But don't tell Angie or Eric."

### **The Ghosts of Derby**

Those who knew the two soldiers and the Marine have seized their sorrow and turned it into sweet memory. The grief is always there in the Kansas wind.

Every now and then the Coxes will get a letter, from out there, the blue yonder -- a pretty girl remembering Ryan, some words from a school buddy.

Windy -- the Fischers adopted her after Dusty's death -- will be getting married in September. "One of the last things Dusty asked his sister is if we would have adopted him," says Angie Fischer. "Of course we would have."

Sometimes, at night, you can hear Joe Herndon's dog howling from his mom's front yard. To Joe's friends, it sounds beautiful.

Two soldiers and the Marine. The ghosts of Derby, perhaps standing, just now, outside Braum's Ice Cream parlor, where they all had a thing for the thick milkshakes

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Inexhaustible Supply Of Weapons, Munitions Available For Resistance: “These Insurgents Aren't Stupid. They Find Better And Better Ways Of Hiding It”**

June 22 By Luke Baker (Reuters)

**For U.S. forces, the battle is to find the weapons caches and destroy them before insurgents can use them against them. Yet at times so much weaponry is being discovered, there are hardly enough specialised people available to destroy it.**

"Iraq sometimes seems like just one big weapons dump," said Lt. Ronald Flesvig, a U.S. naval officer in Baghdad who deals with weapons cache issues.

**"I don't know when we'll get closer to the end of it all, there's just so much. It's almost impossible to say."**

In just the six months after the regime fell, U.S. forces found 15,000 tonnes of ammunition in one 20 by 40 km (12 by 24 miles) area near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, **a stash that would take a year of daily explosions to destroy, experts said.**

<b>Overall, U.S. forces estimate Iraq under Saddam had between 600,000 and one million tonnes of munitions, a sum that bore comparison with the U.S. army's 1.8 million tonnes.</b>
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The number of bomb attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces has hardly declined despite the rise in cache discoveries. And there are signs rebel bombs are becoming more lethal.

"It's everywhere," Ronald Flesvig, a U.S. naval officer in Baghdad who deals with weapons cache issues said of the weaponry. "The tips programme is working well, but these insurgents aren't stupid. They find better and better ways of hiding it."

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## Assorted Resistance Action

Jun. 22, 2005 Reuters & AFP & The Associated Press

**An explosion struck the Palestine Street neighborhood of central Baghdad, apparently targeting a convoy of vehicles from the Interior Ministry, police said. It was not clear whether there were casualties.**

**Two Iraqi policemen were killed in a bomb blast south of Baghdad, officials said. The attack against an Iraqi police patrol that included a special operations unit, which also left two wounded, occurred in Madain, the scene of a hostage saga in April that saw US and Iraqi forces retake the town.**

**A Turkmen party official escaped assassination in the northern city of Kirkuk Wednesday. Saadelddin Arjaj escaped with his life when a car bomb exploded in the path of his convoy, wounding four of his guards, police Colonel Adel Zeinelabeddin said.**

Arjaj was chosen last week to head the Iraqi Turkmen Front party, succeeding Faruq Abdullah, who was elected to the national assembly in Baghdad.

**An armed group in Iraq has kidnapped a Turkish contractor whom it claimed worked for US troops, demanding that Ankara halt its support for US forces in the country within three days, Al Jazeera satellite channel said on Wednesday.**

"The group gave the Turkish government three days to stop supporting the occupation forces in Iraq and to clarify its position on the occupation," Al Jazeera said.

**Guerrillas killed a judge Wednesday in Baghdad whose name previously was on a list of Sunni Arabs joining a parliamentary committee drafting Iraq's new constitution, officials said.**

Jassim al-Issawi, whose candidacy to join the 55-member committee was later dropped, was also a law professor at Baghdad University and the former editor-in-chief of Al-Siyadah newspaper, said Salih al-Mutlak, secretary general of the Sunni National Dialogue Council

Al-Issawi, 51, and his son were killed in Baghdad's northwestern Shula neighborhood, said Abdul Sattar Jawad, current editor of Al-Siyadah. "Many threats were directed toward Sunni figures in order for them not to take part in the constitutional committee."

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **Their Terror And Ours**

From: Phil Gasper  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 22, 2005  
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B67: Marines Betrayed

*From letter in GI Special 3B67:*

*I've actually heard that the freeing of prisoners from there was incidental, and that actually people stormed the Bastille because it was an armory and they needed weapons.*

### **Comment By Phil G:**

It was incidental in the sense that there were hardly any prisoners housed there in 1789 (only 7 according to contemporary accounts). Nevertheless, the Bastille was also a symbol of the old regime's repression, and its fall was seen by the Parisian masses as a blow for freedom.

My favorite quote about the French Revolution, BTW, is from Mark Twain:

**There were two "Reigns of Terror," if we would but remember it and consider it; the one wrought murder in hot passion, the other in heartless cold blood; the one lasted mere months, the other had lasted a thousand years; the one inflicted death upon ten thousand persons, the other upon a hundred millions; but our shudders are all for the "horrors" of the minor Terror, the momentary Terror, so to speak; whereas, what is the horror of swift death by the axe, compared with lifelong death from hunger, cold, insult, cruelty, and heart-break?**

**What is swift death by lightning compared with death by slow fire at the stake?**

**A city cemetery could contain the coffins filled by that brief Terror which we have all been so diligently taught to shiver at and mourn over; but all France could hardly contain the coffins filled by that older and real Terror -- that unspeakably bitter and awful Terror which none of us has been taught to see in its vastness or pity as it deserves.**

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# While Troops Died, Bush Buddies Looted Cash By The Plane Load

22 June 2005 By Sue Fleming, Reuters

***Cash was loaded onto giant pallets for shipment by plane to Iraq, and paid out to contractors who carried it away in duffel bags.***

**The United States handed out nearly \$20 billion of Iraq's funds, with a rush to spend billions in the final days before transferring power to the Iraqis nearly a year ago, a report said on Tuesday.**

A report by Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman of California, said in the week before the hand-over on June 28, 2004, the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority ordered the urgent delivery of more than \$4 billion in Iraqi funds from the U.S. Federal Reserve in New York.

**One single shipment amounted to \$2.4 billion -- the largest movement of cash in the bank's history, said Waxman.**

Most of these funds came from frozen and seized assets and from the Development Fund for Iraq, which succeeded the U.N.'s oil-for-food program. After the U.S. invasion, the U.N. directed this money should be used by the CPA for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

**Cash was loaded onto giant pallets for shipment by plane to Iraq, and paid out to contractors who carried it away in duffel bags.**

"The disbursement of these funds was characterized by significant waste, fraud and abuse," said Waxman.

An audit by the U.S. Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said U.S. auditors could not account for nearly \$8.8 billion in Iraqi funds and the United States had not provided adequate controls for this money.

Part of the challenge in tracking how money was spent was the cash environment and lack of electronic transfers.

**Contractors were told to turn up with big duffel bags to pick up their payments and some were paid from the back of pick-up trucks.**

One picture shows grinning CPA officials standing in front of a pile of cash said to be worth \$2 million to be paid to a security contractor.

Citing documents from the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank in New York, Waxman said the United States flew in nearly \$12 billion overall in U.S. currency to Iraq from the United States between May 2003 and June 2004.

In total, more than 281 million individual bills, including more than 107 million \$100 bills, were shipped to Iraq on giant pallets loaded onto C-130 planes, the report said.

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**As Political Cowards Push  
A Non-Withdrawal Withdrawal  
Proposal,  
Anti-War Resistance Grows In The  
Armed Forces**

In the Iraq War, though in a far more modest way so far, the antiwar movement has been emerging in large part from the world of the military itself -- from worried parents of soldiers and would-be soldiers, angry spouses of soldiers in danger or killed in Iraq, and (slowly and quietly) from within the military itself.

June 21, 2005 by Tom Engelhardt, Tomdispatch.com

The withdrawal resolution Jones and his co-sponsors put forward was, on the face of it, Vietnam-ish in the sense that it had relatively little to do with actual withdrawal.

(In the Vietnam years, almost every "withdrawal" plan or strategy that came out of Washington had a great deal to do with keeping us in Vietnam, not getting us out.)

This particular resolution evidently proposes that, by the fall of 2005, the administration create a "timetable" for a withdrawal to be begun the following fall of 2006 (with no designated end in sight, nor total withdrawal, it seems, even mentioned). This is, on the face of it, a non-withdrawal withdrawal proposal.

But the details may make little difference. The Bush administration, which could essentially have accepted the proposal and had endless "withdrawal" time to spare, attacked it strongly because what they can see -- as well they should -- is the first cracks appearing in Republican Party support.

**In 1972, when the non-military part of that movement more or less collapsed, the antiwar soldiers remained.**

**Vietnam Veterans Against the War was the official name of the main organization they formed, but the military in Vietnam itself was in near-revolt -- rising desertions and AWOLs, fraggings, "search and avoid" missions (where patrols just left perimeters and then sat out their assigned duties), escalating drug use, demonstrations by veterans in the U.S., and so on.**

**In the Iraq War, though in a far more modest way so far, the antiwar movement has been emerging in large part from the world of the military itself -- from worried parents of soldiers and would-be soldiers, angry spouses of soldiers in danger or killed in Iraq, and (slowly and quietly) from within the military itself.**

This is what has moved Rep. Walter B. Jones.

**Along with growing cracks in the Republican Party, the alienation of the military (including many officers who clearly believe that Iraq=madness) is a real threat -- perhaps the only real withdrawal threat at present.**



**Received:**

**“Hey Someone Do Something About  
This Madness...”**

From: D  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 22, 2005  
Subject: Marines Betrayed

Hey, See these soldiers called home to say hey family I was hurt in a roadside bomb, or I had mortar rounds coming my way I was hit but they are told to suck it up and carry on.

Or just lifting a tow bar weighing 100 lbs falls on a soldiers foot no problem you still can fight.

**Then they come home and guess what benefits cut or waiting list long or some other problems occur whether it be money problems, family relations, or just getting feed alot of Bull from past post where medical records were lost or not even filled.**

**This is story after story - hey someone do something about this madness...**

**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://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,  
[www.williambowles.info/qispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial),  
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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