

GI SPECIAL 3B78:



[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace]

**“A Great Percentage Of
The Troops There Say
They Want To Come
Home”**

**“It's Time For Them To
Come Home”**

[The writer is an out of service U.S. Marine. Her husband served in Iraq, coming home last year. Her words carry more weight, and contain more truth, than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians. And that's real Semper Fi. T]

A great percentage of the troops there say they want to come home, but the only ones who hear them are the, as they call us, non-supporters. So who is the supporter and who is the non-supporter here really????

Take my word for it, I am tired of reading, or hearing another American dies in Iraq, or Afghanistan. I, like so many others, want them to come home. It's time for them to come home.

From: ArchAngel1BL@aol.com

To: GI Special

Sent: June 30, 2005

Subject: ArchAngel's Opinion

Just the other day, I watched a movie called "The Patriot Games." You know, the one with Harrison Ford...

Anyway, there was a part in the movie that kind of got me thinking. The part was when Harrison was led into a private room ran by the CIA, and there were monitor screens and computers all over the place, and other members of the CIA. It was when they were sending in a Special Forces team into a designated location to kill everyone in the camp, because they were considered terrorist.

Everything was being viewed by satellite imaging. What got me to thinking the most was when one of the guys in a suit said after a kill was made, he said, "that's a confirmed kill."

After he said that, the first thing I thought of was how could he say that when he wasn't the one there doing his dirty work, instead he was safe and sound not having to worry about being shot at.

Then I thought, you know that guy in the movie could be played by one of our very own little rich guys who are making all the money with the war, and the oil etc., and thinking that the only thing he gets out of saying "that's a confirmed kill," is the money that he collects while that kill is being made, but yet if it was an American Soldier getting killed, he would probably say "crap, another \$400,000.00 I have to pay to some poor stupid soul who thought he was going to war -- because of the lie."

Here is another little opinion.

Why am I constantly hearing "If you don't support the war, then you don't support the troops."

I ask those who say this, "Why does it take a war for you to start supporting the troops."

I am an out of service Marine, and I have always supported my fellow brothers and sisters in arms. I have supported them everyday of my life. Just because I am no longer for this war doesn't mean I am not for my fellow troops.

Like them, I ask the same questions, "Why are they there, what is their real mission, and when will they be brought home?"

Take my word for it, I am tired of reading, or hearing another American dies in Iraq, or Afghanistan. I, like so many others, want them to come home. It's time for them to come home.

One other little thing, if there are people out there calling me a non-supporter, then what the heck are they doing to support the troops?

Lately I haven't seen a damn thing to honor our troops from these people.

The thing is, most of these people are the rich who are able to keep their children out of the service, don't have any military experience, and probably don't even know the name of a troop unless they looked one up and that name would probably be one that was killed in action.

I say this, "If you want to support our troops, then support them by demanding for their return home, where they are needed."

A great percentage of the troops there say they want to come home, but the only ones who hear them are the, as they call us, non-supporters. So who is the supporter and who is the non-supporter here really????

Then there is the recruiting issue.

They want to know why their numbers are so low, well, let's think about this.

The offer of money and bonuses, college assistance, and don't forget that insurance of \$400,000 in case you die isn't worth it.

No amount of money will help ease the pain and suffering that a troop's family will encounter when their loved one gets killed.

Can't take the money with you when you die you know.

Here is a little something for the recruiting situation. If you want more of the lower class to join, then let's give them something to look forward to if they do sign.

How about free college from every state? There are only a few states that offer this for those who have served in the armed forces and there are some who offer to pick up the bill after the college money is gone.

All of America should offer free college, not just a few states.

Free medical for the rest of their lives and their immediate family i.e. spouse and kids is another benefit that should have been there ever since time began for troops.

Everyone knows how hard it is out there especially with how the economy is now. Heck with the way gas is going, no one will be able to afford to drive to work to pay for the gas.

Makes me stop and think that the Amish and other groups with such beliefs are laughing their heads off at us for how things have gotten when they rely only on the things that they grow and build for themselves, not to mention the good-ole horse and buggy beats the car now more then anything.

Man, I wish I had a horse....

Another benefit, how about a house with land of their choosing fully paid for. If I am not mistaken, that was offered before during the wars fought on American soil in the past. It's sad hearing about troops coming home but yet they have no home to live in.

This crap with the banks foreclosing on troops homes is down right outrageous. The banks should be ashamed of themselves treating troops this way.

Last but not least, that so called \$400,000 life insurance, let that stay with them for the remainder of their lives until that time comes so that they will have something to leave their family when they do die. Things like that.

I don't mean to make it sound like that should be the only reason for joining, heck I will shake hands of those who join for family traditions, to honor America by wanting to fight against all enemies foreign and domestic so that to keep it's freedom, anytime.

Heck, that right there is something to think about.

This is the oath taken when you join the military:

"I, {insert name here}, do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

You know, I found a web site that explains the Constitution, and after reading it, the only thing that I found in there that our troops are supporting is the international trade. Which means only one thing, and I will give you three guess and the first two don't count.

I read nothing that said invade another country to defend our Constitution. Is there someone out there who can point that out to me?

Not disrespecting the fallen from past wars, but our freedom was won on our own soil, fought against foreign invaders who wanted to take away our country. Kind of sounds familiar doesn't it?

It just makes you sit and think a bit doesn't it?

And in case those who read this ask the question why did I join; well here is my answer. I joined for the excitement; travel, to learn a trade, to prove to myself that I can accomplish anything no matter what, especially Marine boot camp.

That right there was a great feat to accomplish, because so many who tried did not, and others just chickened out of a great opportunity. As for me, I had a great time accomplishing that feat. Last but not least, the ability to go back to school.

All but one of these reasons I have been able to accomplish. The one that I haven't is the back to school one. I have yet to go back to school, but that doesn't mean that I am not planning on it, I just can't really afford to go after the money that the service provides is gone, and going to a bank for a loan is out of the question. You can't trust them.

All this crap just makes a person sit and think hard on what is going on in the world today, and you know what, the future is starting to look a bit grim to me, but that is just my opinion.

Enough on my opinions. **[Wrong. We need a whole lot more of your opinions. Not enough by any means.]**

T, I just really wanted the Special's readers to know that ArchAngel is still here, and that if anyone needs help, just email me, and my friends and we will try our best.

Nothing is guaranteed, but like I said we will try our best.

God help us in our greatest time of need and tell ours leaders that the troops need to be brought home.

**God Bless all of our Troops and their families,
God Bless you T and the GI Special,
and God Bless America.**

ArchAngel1BL

[Archangel is a committee of veterans and military family members who help fight to get justice for medically unfit troops fraudulently deployed to combat, and others who need help dealing with other madness. -Contact: ArchAngel1BL@aol.com T]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**Yeah, It's True,
They Really Are Everywhere:
It's Their Country, Where the Fuck Else
Would They Be?
Enough:
Time To Come Home**



US soldiers exiting a house and moving toward another room during a raid in central Iraq. (AFP/US Army)

**U.S. Command Structure
Infiltrated:
"This Has To Be An Inside Job"**

29 June 2005 Patrick J. McDonnell, The Los Angeles Times

Authorities also suspect that insiders are providing insurgents with the identities of police and military commanders, who are being gunned down on an almost daily basis, typically on their way to or from work.

Interior Minister Bayan Jabr has alleged that the names and addresses of police are even being sold on the streets.

"I think it is the greatest long-term threat to the security of the country," said a senior US military officer, who, like several others interviewed about the sensitive topic, declined to be named.

"How do you make sure that your security forces have not been infiltrated and compromised and they're not tipping off operations?"

The risks posed by moles in security posts extend well beyond bombings.

There is great concern here about insiders, acting for money or ideology, tipping insurgents to operations. US commanders often wonder whether someone was alerted in advance in the frequent cases in which they and Iraqi allies arrive for raids to find that the targeted suspects have vanished.

"There has to be a security violation with all the officers and policemen who are being assassinated," said Nori Jabir Nori, who was recently appointed inspector general of the Interior Ministry, which oversees internal security. "They know when they leave, and they know when they come. This has to be an inside job."

Part of the problem, officials say, is a rushed, inconsistent hiring process that has allowed questionable applicants to join the police and military, sometimes outside normal recruiting and vetting procedures.

The previous interior minister added tens of thousands of employees, officials say, and hundreds have disappeared from their posts - taking their security clearances with them.

Infiltrators threaten Iraq's reconstruction as well as security. Officials link some of the success of the sabotage campaign against electrical, oil and water infrastructure to insurgent penetration.

Last week, US forces detained two guards in the bombings of pipes that recently left hundreds of thousands of Baghdad residents without running water in the summer heat.

Relatively few records are computerized, and infiltrators may have no criminal record anyway, just a willingness to fight.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Series Of New Attacks

01 July 2005 By Reuters

A series of Taliban attacks killed nine village elders, four policemen and two other civilians officials said

In the bloodiest attack nine elders were killed in Lander village in the central province of Uruzgan on Thursday night, a day after security forces killed seven guerrillas in an attack on a security post there, Uruzgan governor Jan Mohammad Khan said.

He said the guerrillas released a 9-year-old boy to bring news of the killings and to offer to exchange the bodies of the elders and the guerrillas.

**SUPERLATIVELY BAD PLACE TO BE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division patrol the area around Spin Karawai near Qalat town in Zabul province. Photo by Zainal Abd Halim/Reuters

**“The Situation Is Getting Worse, Not
Better:
“This Is Not A Fight The US Can Win”**

[Thanks to DB at the Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in: He writes: Subject: Bush Column by Lew Rockwell: Excerpt]

Remember that dumb little war he (Bush) started back in November 2001? Bush decided that the way to flog some dead hijackers was to invade Afghanistan on grounds that its leaders - direct successors to the "freedom fighters" that the US funded in the 1980s to overthrow the Soviet-installed government - had sympathy for Bin Laden, who did his best to claim credit for punching the Pentagon and knocking down the twin towers.

To war with this impoverished dustbin!

Everyone signed on - did anyone among the pundit class dare not to cheer? - and his ratings zoomed sky high.

But what the US wrought there was not justice, peace, or freedom, but a fracturing of the country into entrenched tribalism, a vast increase in opium production (some estimates say it is responsible for half the country's income and most of the world's supply), and an explosion in recruits to the Taliban religion dedicated to casting off the yoke of the US.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm all for political decentralization, and tribes are better than central governments hands down. As for drug production, how a man makes a buck is no one's business but his customers; if the opium dens of the world need the stuff, bully for Afghan farmers for beating others to market.

Same goes for religion: if these folks feel a greater attachment to their god than their occupation government, that strikes me as perfectly reasonable.

But the Bush administration didn't intend the current outcome. It hoped to displace Talibania with something like an enlightened US rule - a very creepy ambition that perfectly mirrors the Soviet goal only two decades earlier.

Now the refusal of the country to submit has produced a pretext for ever more violence. The client government, meanwhile, is torching drugs, jailing dealers, and cracking down on every political dissident - sort of like the Taliban used to do. Whence this amazing ability of the US government to so imitate the behaviors of its former enemies?

Most US citizens have known and cared nothing about the ongoing chaos in Afghanistan, until the news blared that insurgents had shot down a Chinook helicopter carrying 17 US soldiers, among whom were eight Navy Seals and other highly trained soldiers.

They were arriving on the scene to help other ground troops who were in trouble. But they found themselves in a trap from which they could not return.

The situation is getting worse, not better.

And the more the government cracks down, the more the insurgents fight and the less of the country that can be controlled.

And as many military experts have said, this is not a fight the US can win, short of exterminating the Afghans with nuclear weapons.

**“The Americans Are The Cause Of
The Insecurity”
“If They Were Not Here, There
Would Not Be Any Insecurity”**

Opponents of the government are calling for foreign troops and international aid organizations to leave Afghanistan, a call that has resonated with Afghans' spirit of independence. "The Americans are very powerful and they can control the government," he said. "But if the people don't like them, they will have to leave."

June 30, 2005 By CARLOTTA GALL, The New York Times Company

For the first time since the United States overthrew the Taliban government three and a half years ago, Afghans say they are feeling uneasy about the future.

Violence has increased sharply in recent months, with a resurgent Taliban movement mounting daily attacks in southern Afghanistan,

Afghans interviewed about the continuing violence also expressed increased dissatisfaction with their own government and the way the United States military was conducting its operations, **and said they were suspicious of the Americans' long-term intentions. [Hey, nothing to be suspicious about. The intention is clear: to occupy Afghanistan forever, just like the Russian tried to do. Lots of luck.]**

"Three years on, the people are still hoping that things are going to work out, but they have become suspicious about why the Americans came, and why the Americans are treating the local people badly," said Jandad Spinghar, leader of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in Nangarhar Province in the east, just across the Khyber Pass from Pakistan.

Poverty, joblessness, frustrated expectations and the culture of 25 years of war make for a volatile mix in which American military raids, shootings and imprisonments can inflame public opinion, many here say.

The Taliban's spring offensive has sounded an alarm for the United States military and the Karzai government, both of which had said that the Taliban were largely defeated and that the nation was consolidating behind its first [fraudently] elected national leader [occupation stooge].

"We were wrong," a senior Afghan government official acknowledged, saying of the Taliban, "It seems they were spending the time preparing." He insisted on anonymity because of the delicacy of the subject within the government.

"The Americans are the cause of the insecurity," said Abdullah Mahmud, 26, a law student in Kabul. "If they were not here, there would not be any insecurity. The money they are spending on military expenses - if they spent half of it on the Afghan Army and police and raised their skills, then there would not be any security questions."

Opponents of the government are calling for foreign troops and international aid organizations to leave Afghanistan, a call that has resonated with Afghans' spirit of independence.

The **[U.S. occupation]** government, though, is anxiously seeking assurances that the foreign troops and assistance will stay and help it through this latest wave of adversity.

Sayed Asadullah Hashimi, an assistant professor at Kabul University's School of Islamic Law, said, "Outside Kabul, two-thirds of the people think that the Americans came only to invade and occupy Afghanistan, and that is why day by day the tension is growing. The mood is worsening."

The current instability does not yet add up to a national uprising. Changes have often come suddenly in Afghanistan's turbulent history, frequently catching outsiders by surprise: the slaughter in the Khyber Pass of retreating British forces in the 19th century; the kidnapping and killing of the American ambassador in 1979; and the Russian debacle after 10 years of brutal occupation in the 1980's. [Looks like "yet" is the key word. And that's supposed to be the good news?]

The airlift of foreign aid workers from Jalalabad after a day of rioting last month raised the specter of the Afghans turning against foreigners once more.

Taher Shah, said the United States should not overestimate the extent of its own power.

"The Americans are very powerful and they can control the government," he said. "But if the people don't like them, they will have to leave."

Foreign officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the delicate nature of the issue, said much of the public disillusionment and frustration was traceable to a lack of governance - from the simple absence of government, to the failure to administer the law properly, to the corruption of the local police and the courts.

"Since 2002," one of the officials said, "we have been issuing warnings that the main threat was the failure to address profound governance problems, and if we did not take it seriously, grievances would start to stem from that." **[Considering that the only people willing to back the occupation are bought and paid for traitors and thugs, hardly a big surprise. An insoluble problem for would-be Imperial conquerors for a few thousand years now.]**

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

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

**U.S. Occupation Command Opens Recruiting
Drive For Afghan Armed Resistance:
*It Worked In Iraq; Why Not Try Here Too?***



U.S. Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment search a house in Bagh village of Khakeran Valley, Zabul province, Afghanistan, June 26, 2005. (AP Photo/Tomas Munita)

TROOP NEWS

After Combat, Sailor Redraws Battle Lines; *He Fights Against The War* “There Is Somebody Like Me In Every Unit. They’re Just Waiting For Somebody To Invite Them Out.”

June 27, 2005 By KATE WILTROUT, The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH — Against the marbled greens of Charlie Anderson’s camouflage shirt rest a handful of brightly colored ribbons .

They represent nine years as a Navy hospital corpsman: individual commendation, good conduct, combat action, service in national defense, the war on terror, deployment at sea. Another set of colorful rectangles – bumper stickers – plastered to the gate of Anderson’s pickup exhibit a far different sentiment.

“Iraq is Arabic for Vietnam.” “I love my country but fear my government.” “What liberal media?” “Lead, follow or get out of the way.”

Anderson, who left the Navy in March as a petty officer second class and lives in Virginia Beach, embodies both displays.

He is both a combat veteran and an outspoken opponent of the war in Iraq.

Being an anti-war activist in a pro-military region has its challenges, but Anderson, 28 , isn't deterred.



Charlie Anderson hands out information at a table in front of the Naro theater in Norfolk this month. Not all passers-by supported his cause, though 50 or so signed up for information. (Chris Tyree photos/the Virginian-pilot)

“This is where the veterans are,” said Anderson, southeastern coordinator for Iraq Veterans Against the War .

“There is somebody like me in every unit. They’re just waiting for somebody to invite them out.”

Anderson, who became a coordinator with IVAW in February, said the group counts 200 members nationwide, with 10 from Virginia. Active-duty military members are welcome to join – the organization promises confidentiality – but Anderson is still figuring out how to find them.

The former corpsman came by his opinions about the war the hard way. He tells of riding into Iraq during the invasion in a Humvee with his Marine unit from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Coming under attack in Sadr City, firing the sidearm he never expected to use. Watching hungry Iraqi children beg for food he couldn't give. And, when he was back home after two months in combat, waking up to a recurring nightmare: A wounded Iraqi child screams in pain in front of him, but the corpsman's hands and arms won't work.

His path to this place hasn't been easy – or straight.

An only child who grew up in Ohio, Anderson entered the Navy at 19 to earn money for college. It was 1996 . His mother, Lynn Searfoss , now an English professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. , wasn't thrilled. But she was in graduate school and couldn't afford to put him through college.

"When Clinton was president, things seemed to be fairly peaceful, more or less. I guess I thought, 'Well, it will be OK,'" said Searfoss, whose father was an air traffic controller in the Korean War.

Anderson found more than a job in the Navy: he also fell in love. He and his wife, a fellow sailor he met at Fort Meade, Md. , married in 1998 .

He was serving with the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

The battalion soon had a new mission called "ready response" – assisting in relief efforts in the event of a terrorist attack or mass casualties. Anderson couldn't think of a job that felt more useful.

Then, in June 2002, on his 25th birthday, he transferred to the 2nd Marine Division's 2nd Tank Battalion . Six months later, the battalion was ordered to Kuwait.

Anderson said he had reservations about the war from the start. He thought it was a bait-and-switch: Saddam Hussein as a stand-in for Osama bin Laden.

But he didn't – couldn't – let those seeds of doubt grow.

After all, enlisted troops aren't foreign policy experts. And, despite his suspicions, he wanted to think that politicians wouldn't risk American lives without good cause.

Ultimately, he thought about the Marines who depended on him.

"I knew that I didn't believe the things that they were telling us," Anderson said. "I had to make a decision at that point. Do I go, or do I resist?"

"The big part of that decision wasn't the God-and-country approach. It was, 'Who's going to take care of my buddies? If I'm not there, then who's it going to be?'"

"I don't regret that."

His unit entered Iraq in March 2003 . On April 4 , it was ambushed in At Tuwayhah . Four Marines died; five were seriously wounded.

Anderson arrived the next day with supporting forces. He saw the carnage as the convoy pushed on toward Baghdad. He is still bothered that his Humvee rolled past wounded Iraqi civilians in the streets without stopping. It wasn't his decision, but, he said, "I was still party to it. I was still there. That's pretty hard to live with.

“Some days I forgive myself. Some days I torture myself.”

For Anderson, though, the worst was yet to come. Within 72 hours of the fall of Baghdad, his convoy was targeted four times in one day: in a drive-by shooting, by anti-aircraft guns and from all directions in the neighborhood of Sadr City.

Anderson remembers moments of terror punctuating hours of anxious boredom.

During the second attack, in Sadr City, Anderson pulled out the 9 mm pistol he had fired only once, in training. From the back seat of the Humvee, he pulled the trigger nine times.

He says he doesn't remember what he aimed at, or whether he hit anything.

Back in North Carolina, his mother had gotten involved with Military Families Speak Out , a group that opposed the conflict. From Iraq, Anderson sent Searfoss a letter saying he was proud that she stood up for her beliefs.

Jim Landers , a reporter for the Dallas Morning News who was embedded with Anderson's unit during the war, remembered him as shy and withdrawn, one of many in the unit who struggled with whether the war made sense.

“There's no question that he was giving this a lot of thought, even then,” Landers said. “His mother's views on the war were important to him.”

On his last night with the unit, Landers said, he had a long talk with Anderson and thought the sailor had come to terms with the conflict. He remembered how the corpsman was moved by the sight of hungry Iraqis begging the troops for food, commenting that perhaps the toppling of Saddam's regime would bring them some relief.

Anderson and a few of his buddies did what they could to help, handing out extra food even though they'd been told to wait until a general gave the OK.

Looking back, it seems almost an empty gesture because it made so little difference, Anderson said.

“We did what we could for them partly because it was the right thing to do,” Anderson said, “and partly because it made us feel better.”

It has taken him a long time to feel better. But he knows he is forever changed.

Four months after returning to Camp Lejeune in May 2003 , he transferred to Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach . His wife, who had left the Navy, and their daughter moved with him to Virginia Beach.

Still decompressing from the war – and despite his doubts about U.S. involvement in Iraq – Anderson re-enlisted for three years.

His mother noticed he seemed distant. He didn't talk much about what he'd seen or done.

Anderson started reading everything he could about the war, the failure to find Saddam's reputed stockpile of nuclear or biological weapons, the equipment U.S. troops needed but didn't have. He watched documentaries about the conflict over and over, struggling to grasp what he'd been through.

"I really desperately wanted to believe that the sacrifices we made were for a good reason," Anderson said. "I was trying to find anything I could that would support what we were told originally, and that was not very easy to do."

More than resentment grew in him. Through the fall and winter, it became clear something else was wrong.

Panic attacks plagued him. On New Year's Eve 2003, the sound of fireworks in three- and four-round bursts – pop pop pop pop – sent him cowering behind the couch, where he spent the evening curled in a ball.

Then his name ended up on a list of those to be shipped back to Iraq. For a month he lived in limbo – yes, he would be sent; no, he wouldn't.

"That was where the bottom really fell out," Anderson said.

He "saw" snipers on his drive to work. Nightmares woke him.

At his lowest point, Anderson said, he was suicidal.

Eventually, despite worries he'd be thought a coward, the corpsman sought a Navy doctor. By spring 2004, he'd been diagnosed with and was being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth.

Anderson, his doctor and his commanders agreed he shouldn't return to a war zone.

"Being someone's last hope between a hospital ship and a body bag," he said, "you have to be really sure of how you're going to react."

He left active duty in March on a medical discharge.

More than Anderson's career crumbled from the war. Combat, emotional trauma and his growing involvement in the war-opposition group took a toll on his marriage. They plan to separate.

He isn't angry at the unexpected path his life has taken.

"If you ever hit a point where you realize your personal values and your actions don't match, one of them is going to have to change. My actions had to change, because I believe my values were correct."

Now a civilian, Anderson juggles classes at Tidewater Community College with part-time work setting up store displays, and balances fatherly duties with travel, speaking engagements and meetings.

Once he gets his associate degree, Anderson hopes to attend Old Dominion University or the University of Virginia to study political science. He envisions a career in law, teaching or with the federal government.

In the meantime, he spreads his message. He traveled to his mother's university campus and Marymount University in Arlington. He spoke at a Memorial Day war protest in Chicago organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War. This month, he traveled to New Orleans for marches and a festival. He has done counter-recruiting in Maryland and Illinois – telling high school students or potential recruits about opportunities outside the military.

Anderson advocates the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, rebuilding the country's infrastructure – without American corporations profiting from the job – and increased funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He pays most of his own expenses, from airfare to the printing costs of pamphlets he hands out.

On a recent Tuesday night, Anderson and another opponent of the war in Iraq, Army veteran Tom Palumbo, set up a table outside the Naro theater in Norfolk before the screening of "Voices in Wartime," a documentary about poetry and war.

Dressed in jeans and desert combat boots, with an Iraq Veterans Against the War T-shirt under his beribboned camouflage blouse, Anderson pulled some pamphlets from his backpack and got to work.

"I'm Charlie Anderson with Iraq Veterans Against the War," he said, shaking one man's hand.

"I'm with fat old men against the war," the man responded.

Cracking his knuckles against a table covered with handouts, Anderson gave those who approached him a thumbnail version of how he went from dutiful sailor to disillusioned veteran.

"I don't like being lied to, then put into a position where I have to sacrifice part of my humanity and be asked to kill people."

Anderson wishes there were more dialogue and fewer one-liners when Americans talk about the conflict. He doesn't believe war is always wrong, and sees the need for a military – but he thinks fighting should be a last resort.

Palumbo, a member of Veterans for Peace, said he served 13 years before getting out in the early 1990s. The two met in March at an anti-war rally in North Carolina.

Though their numbers are still small, both men think there's a vein of anti-war sentiment to be tapped into in Hampton Roads.

Palumbo's Web site – regimechanger.com – gets 1,000 visitors a day, he said. Both were encouraged by the turnout at the Naro, where 50 or 60 people signed up for a mailing list.

But they know many people dislike their message.

"I told Charlie he's going to take some hits for this, and to anticipate some backlash," Palumbo said. "He understands that, as do I."

Gunnar Gudjonsson, a retired Marine major who served two tours in Vietnam, said he respects Anderson's beliefs about the war, even if he doesn't share them.

He credited Anderson for doing his duty despite his doubts.

"I don't have a problem with his attitude. That's his opinion," said Gudjonsson, 62, of Virginia Beach. "I'll defend with my life his right to have it."

He sees his work now as an extension of his job in uniform.

"For the nine years I served in the military, I was responsible for health and welfare of people under my care. And that's exactly what I'm still doing," Anderson said.

"It's about getting these people home while we can still get them home alive."



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.

Inspired Leadership Still Sending Amphibious Assault Vehicles To Desert Warfare



U.S. Marines ride in Amphibious Assault Vehicles during the fourth day of Operation Sword in Hit, Iraq, July 2, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

[This is an old story. Marine Corps members of Iraq Veterans Against The War have been pointing out this piece of idiocy for two years.]

Disgusting Recruiting Predator Lied To Soldiers' Family About Loans: "It Was Bad Enough I Was Sent To Fight A War I Had No Idea Why I Was Fighting"

"I really feel that I, as well as my parents, got screwed pretty badly. The reason I joined the army was to get rid of my loans. It was bad enough I was sent to fight a war I had no idea why I was fighting. Then I came back to Germany to find out my loans wouldn't be paid, like my contract said."

June 27th, 2005 by Anya Kamenetz

Maybe figuring that it is mostly worried moms keeping their kids home, the army, after its fourth straight month of recruitment shortfalls, has begun broadcasting a new series of TV ads. They feature young people telling their folks about the education benefits<up to \$70,000 for college or \$65,000 to repay student loans<and the chance to serve a worthy cause.

Kathy Allwein of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, found herself having that exact conversation with her younger son in 2002. Tony Allwein, now 24, graduated from Catholic school in 1999 and attended the Pennsylvania College of Technology, a public technical affiliate of Penn State, for three years, where he studied computer programming. He was putting himself through with student loans, and Kathy Allwein says the debt was a big factor in his decision to drop out and, soon after, join the army.

"I knew that getting my loans paid off would be a huge benefit for myself and my parents," Tony Allwein, now stationed in Germany, said by e-mail. "Four years of service to erase a \$19,000 debt seemed pretty good. The fact that I could finish my education in the army sounded really good."

Now members of the anti-war group Military Families Speak Out, Kathy and her husband weren't exactly thrilled. "We fought him every step of the way," Kathy says.

"Tony just told me I worried too much, that he wouldn't have to go to Iraq." The Allweins knew better, but at least, they thought, his education debt would be taken care of.

"That recruiter sat in our living room and promised the whole family that these loans would be taken care of in full," Kathy says, her voice steely.

"In his contract it was stated that they would take care of them."

In Iraq, Tony served as a rear gunner on a convoy, for a month or two lacking much needed body armor.

His active duty ends in November 2006 and he is eligible to be called back for four years after that.

And just last month, his family found out that his loans would not be repaid by the U.S. government. Not one cent.

"We kept getting hounded by these people," Kathy says of the student loan collectors. "They kept calling and asking why these weren't being paid.

"His recruiter told us it always takes a while, so just be patient and they'll be taken care of. I went through my congressman and they sent me a packet of information that I did not understand. I have a friend who's an attorney and she explained the whole thing to me."

The fine print states that since Anthony's loans came from a private lender, not the government's guaranteed federal student loan program, they weren't covered.

Tony's recruiter said he wasn't allowed to talk to the press. A military source did confirm the details of Allwein's story, though, including that Anthony's contract stated the loans would be repaid.

For now, Kathy, an administrative assistant, and her husband, who works for the Hershey Company, will have to make those loan payments themselves. It will not be easy with their youngest soon heading to college.

In a word, Kathy says, she feels "betrayed."

Tony Allwein echoes his mother's sentiments.

"I really feel that I, as well as my parents, got screwed pretty badly. The reason I joined the army was to get rid of my loans. It was bad enough I was sent to fight a war I had no idea why I was fighting. Then I came back to Germany to find out my loans wouldn't be paid, like my contract said."

Looking For A Temp Job? This Agency Will Send You To Iraq!

[This is NOT satire. T]

26 June 2005 The Associated Press

With recruitment numbers faltering, the Army National Guard is enlisting temporary-worker service Labor Ready in its effort to find more recruits around the nation, an alliance that will increase Labor Ready access to potential day-labor workers in the Guard.

"We have an employee base that fits the demographics that they recruit from. What they need is flexible employment, and that's exactly what we offer," Labor Ready spokeswoman Stacey Burke said Friday at company headquarters here.

"Both Labor Ready and the ARNG are in the business of employing people and have the common focus of providing Americans with good jobs," said Guard Col. Richard Guzzetta, a Virginia-based recruiting officer, of the alliance launched Friday.

"We believe this will have a positive impact on our recruiting efforts and we are very anxious to see just how great the impact will be."

Labor Ready, dubbed "the McDonald's of temporary manual labor," links businesses with unskilled workers at more than 700 branches around the country, and dozens more in other countries.

Under the new partnership, information about Labor Ready will be posted at National Guard armories, and recruiters will also refer soldiers and their families to local Labor Ready offices.

In exchange, National Guard recruiters will regularly visit Labor Ready's 700 offices around the country to speak to temporary employees about joining the Guard.

Labor Ready worker Eddie Savannah, 47, said the alliance could help young people who come in looking for work.

"Young people can get a career, a trade. If they're down on their luck, they have an opportunity to get up, to see something new, to see the world," he told the newspaper.

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)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

45% Support Resistance Attacks

June 10, 2005 Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff

A recent internal poll conducted for the US-led coalition found that nearly 45 percent of the population supported the insurgent attacks, making accurate intelligence difficult to obtain. [That's a few million, but who's counting?]

Only 15 percent of those polled said they strongly supported the US-led coalition.

**WELCOME TO RAMADI:
HAVE A NICE DAY**



Iraqi resistance soldier, Ramadi June 16, 2005.. REUTERS/Ali Mashhadani

Assorted Resistance Action

July 02, 2005 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN Associated Press Writer & Agence France-
Presse & (KUNA) & By Peter Graff, Reuters & The Daily Star

A bomber strapped with explosives killed up to 20 people waiting outside a police recruiting center in Iraq's capital Saturday, authorities said.

The Interior Ministry source said the bomber wore an explosive vest beneath civilian clothes when he approached the ministry's special forces recruitment centre in the Mansour district of western Baghdad.

His vest was packed with ball bearings. The blast occurred at about 9:00 a.m. Saturday, police said.

The same recruitment centre, near the Green Zone government and diplomatic compound, has been targeted by bombers several times in the past.

An Interior Ministry source said recruits had been told to come today, normally a non-working day, in an effort to fox the insurgents and protect the volunteers.

"Apparently the precaution did not work," he said.

Local police and hospital officials reported 21 wounded. Most of the victims were recruits.

Two police colonels were killed in their cars in separate incidents.

On Saturday, guerrillas killed a police officer during an ambush in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. Lt. Col. Anwar Sheik Kabeer Sorchyee was shot as he was driving to work in the city's northeastern district, police said.

Another was killed in Musayyib just south of Baghdad.

Two Iraqi policemen were killed and three others were wounded on Saturday during an assault on their patrol vehicle in the area of Beiji, northern Iraq, police sources said.

The sources told reporters that the unknown militants responsible for the attack used light weaponry, adding that the patrol vehicle was responsible for protecting oil facilities in the area, which falls within the northern Iraqi province of Tikrit.

Two policemen and two civilians were killed when guerrillas opened fire on a patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk.

Eight people were wounded including three police by a remote control bomb near a patrol in the capital's New Baghdad district.

A policeman and a female relative traveling with him in a civilian car were killed in a drive-by shooting in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, authorities said.

A TV anchorman was abducted and found dead west of Mosul and a civil servant was killed in a shooting in eastern Baghdad.

Hillah: Bombers struck twice Saturday in this Shiite city south of Baghdad, killing six policemen and injuring 26 people, including police and bystanders who had rushed to the scene of the first attack, police said.

The first blast occurred about 10:30 p.m. when a bomber detonated a belt of explosives while being searched by members of the elite Scorpion police command at a checkpoint in the city center, according to Capt. Muthana Khalid Ali of the Babil provincial press office.

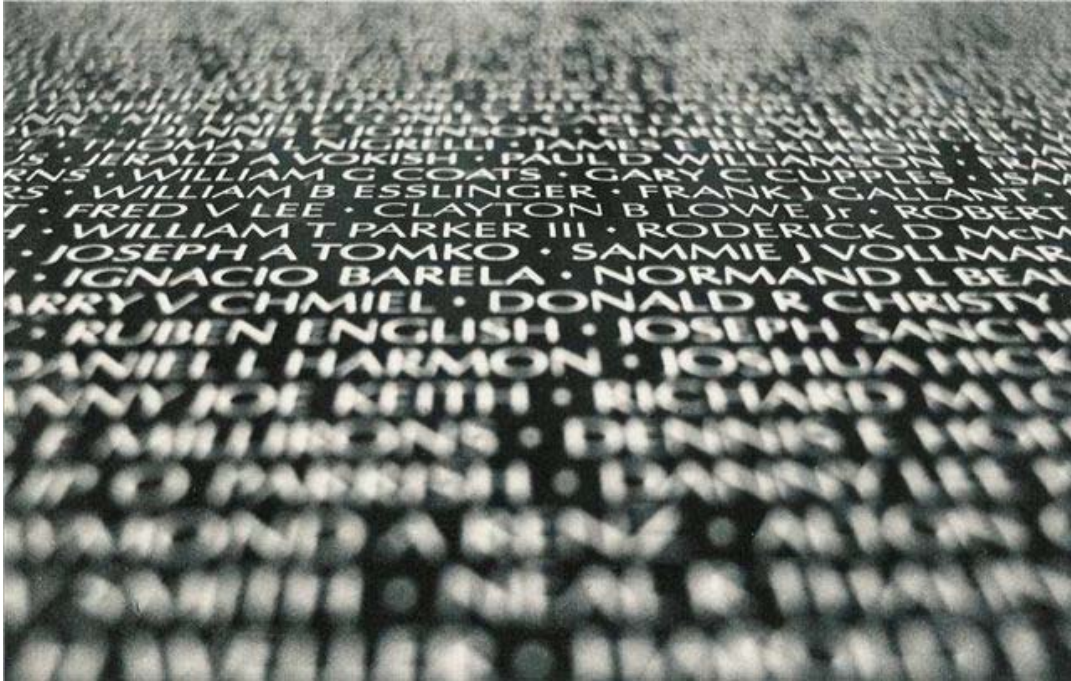
Six policemen and the attacker died in the blast, Ali said.

About 10 minutes later, the second attacker blew himself up in a crowd of police and civilians who had rushed to the scene, Ali said. Twenty-six people were injured in the second explosion, according to Dr. Hashim Suleiman of the Hillah General Hospital.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

When You Destroy Your History, Another Memorial Has To Be Built.



Names Only I Can See

**Ghost images of family seen on the Wall.
Only veterans know the cost of it all.
Missing in America,
Precious loved ones gone astray.
Too bad America's war pimps get away.**

**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) for more of his outstanding work. T)

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: June 27, 2005
Subject: Names Only I Can See

I wrote this short poem several years ago, that I put under a picture of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

This is exactly what is happening to Iraq veterans as I write these words, and will continue to happen for decades to come.

When you destroy your history, another memorial has to be built.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Speech Encourages Resistance To Kill More U.S. Troops

June 29 2005 Stan Moore, Media Monitors.net

President Bush has made another critical mistake in last night's speech. He made it clear to the Iraqi freedom fighters that he had no intention whatsoever of giving up the fight against them.

Bush made it clear that his goal is to kill the insurgents because their philosophy of freedom from American imperialism is completely irreconcilable with American goals for Iraq.

Thus, there is nothing the insurgents can do but to fight and fight until they win.

If there are any contacts and negotiations between Iraqi insurgents and American leadership, no doubt the negotiations are about American surrender, not Iraqi surrender. How can Iraqi insurgents surrender when America's goal is to take their land, their wealth, and even their lives?

One day America will leave Iraq, after more thousands of American lives have been lost.

One day America's public will realize that President George W. Bush is the number one recruiter for "terrorism" in the world, because he is the number one terrorist in the world.

Imperial Democrat Leaders Encourage Resistance To Kill More U.S. Troops

29 June 2005 By Robert Dreyfuss, Tom Paine

It has not dawned on Washington yet that talking directly to the resistance (and bypassing the current Iraqi interim government) is the only real exit strategy--but that is what it will take. The United States can do it now, i.e., sometime in 2005, or will do it--with a far weaker hand, and after thousands more die--in 2007 or so.

The war itself is lost--only the White House doesn't know it yet. The fact that Bush, Cheney, et al. aren't calling for talks with the insurgents is bad enough.

What's worse is that the left, liberals and mainstream Democrats aren't calling for such talks to begin.

Many Democrats, even those who opposed the war, are now among those calling for the United States to stay in Iraq until victory, whatever that is--and no matter how unlikely it may be.

Army Recruits Shortfall Blamed On Iraq War Critics

[Thanks to AD and PB who sent this in. PB writes: Seems to be more than a little infighting going on here. AD writes: G-d these people are so ridiculous. I mean, come on, people aren't as stupid as these people think they are.]

Jun 30 By Vicki Allen, Reuters

Several Senate Republicans denounced other lawmakers and the news media on Thursday for unfavorable depictions of the Iraq war and the Pentagon urged members of Congress to talk up military service to help ease a recruiting shortfall.

Families are discouraging young men and women from enlisting "because of all the negative media that's out there," Sen. James Inhofe, an Oklahoma Republican, said at a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. Inhofe also said that other senators' criticism of the war contributed to the propaganda of U.S. enemies. He did not name the senators.

**SAME STALE SHIT THE LIARS
SAID A YEAR AGO**



U.S. soldier-killer Bush holds up five fingers to show the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq this week because his regime refuses to send enough protective supplies, or speed up their production. (Larry Downing/Reuters)

Jun 30 By Vicki Allen, Reuters

Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker acknowledged up to 25 percent of the Humvees in Iraq still had the low grade of protective armor, but he said all should be equipped with higher grade armor in September. [Last Fall it was by Spring. Last Spring it was by Summer. Now it's by Fall. You want results, chain Schoomaker on the hood of an unarmored Humvee, Rumsfeld on the roof, handcuff Bush to the steering wheel, and drop the whole ugly package off in Anah with a road map. That would solve a whole lot of deficiencies.]

Received:

Guns, Shackles & Winter Coats

June 30, 2005 From: VetPax

An American soldier suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after returning home from war in Iraq in GUNS, SHACKLES & WINTER COATS.

Many issues affecting soldiers, such as VA healthcare and divorce, are covered in this powerful play by M. Stefan Strozier.

WHERE EAGLES DARE THEATRE

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

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

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