

## GI SPECIAL 3B85:



# Soldier Called A “Bitch” After Applying For CO: Archangel Reports 07-06-05

TO: GI Special

From: ArchAngel: [ArchAngel1BL@aol.com](mailto:ArchAngel1BL@aol.com)

Just last week, his 1St Sgt. called him a 'piece of shit' and a 'little bitch', screaming at the top of his lungs in front of a dozen or so other Soldiers and NCO's during PT.

The Soldier had gotten offended and yelled back at him "Who are you calling a Bitch?!" and "You can't call me a bitch 1St. Sgt." Those were his exact words.

After the confrontation, he was taken into the 1St. Sgt.'s office where he and his platoon sergeant threatened to have a court martial brought against him for disrespecting a senior NCO.

***ArchAngel reporting another request for help, but in this case it is a matter of a Conscientious Objector.***

**The request for help came from a Soldier, whose name we cannot mention at this moment, currently this Soldier is stationed in Germany with the C Troop 1st Squadron, 1st Cav. Reg.**

**He sent us a copy of his CO application.**

**What you are about to read may or may not make you angry, but after reading it, you will know why he is making such a request. Some parts had to be removed/edited for special reasons.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**C TROOP 1ST SQUADRON, 1ST UNITED STATES CAVALRY REGIMENT**

REPLY TO xxxxx  
ATTENTION OF xxxxx

AETV-THR-C 21 MAR 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDER, C-TROOP 1-1 CAVALRY

**SUBJECT: Request for status as Conscientious Objector (1-0).**

1. I have become a conscientious objector. It is against my moral and religious beliefs to take human life under any circumstances; I am opposed to war in any form. As long as I live, I will never attempt to kill another living person. I am seeking classification as a conscientious objector (1-0) and separation from the Army.

2. I understand that (as stated in 2-10 of AR 600-43) until a final decision is made, I am to be employed in duties providing minimal conflict with my beliefs. Furthermore, I understand that I will continue to train except in the study, use, or handling of ammunition, weapons, and munitions.

Soldier's Name Removed

1. DA form 4187
2. AR 600-43, Appendix B.

**AR 600-43**

**Application 2-1  
Appendix B**

- a. General information.

1. Full Name: XXXXXXXX.
2. SSN: xxxxxxxxxx.
3. Selective Service Number: **Not applicable.**
4. Service Address and component: **[Removed by ArchAngel]**
5. Permanent home address: **Tampa FL**
6. Name and address of each school attended: **[Removed by ArchAngel]**
7. Chronological list of occupations: **No previous occupations.**
8. All former addresses and dates of residence at those addresses: **Not applicable.**
9. Parents' names and addresses: **Father: living. Mother: living. [addresses removed by ArchAngel]**
10. Religious denomination of both parents: **Father: Agnostic. Mother: Buddhist.**
11. Was application made to the Selective Service System (local board) for classification as a conscientious objector before entry into the armed forces? **No application was made to Selective Service System for classification as a conscientious objector prior to entry into Armed Forces.**
12. Was any previous application made in service for classification as a conscientious objector? **No previous application was made in service for classification as a conscientious objector.**
13. Has the person served less than 180 days in the Armed Forces?  
**More than 180 days have been served in the Armed Forces.**

**AR 600-43 Application 2-1 Appendix B**

b. Training and Belief.

1. An express, specific statement as to whether the person requests classification as a conscientious objector 1-0, or as a conscientious objector 1-A-0.  
**I, XXXXXXXX, request status as a conscientious objector (1-0).**
2. A description of the nature of the belief that requires the person to seek separation from the military service for reasons of conscience.  
**It is against my moral and religious beliefs to destroy human life or take part in any form of war.**
3. An explanation as to how beliefs changed or developed, to include an explanation as to what factors caused the change in or development of conscientious objection beliefs.

**The first time in my life that I witnessed death was on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004.**

**I was gunning on an up armored HMMWV. As we prepared to RP the main gate to Camp Slayer, our base of operations, I spied something in the road and yelled down to the driver of the vehicle to be aware of it as it might very well have been an IED. As we passed by we saw it to be a dead body laying in the road. There had been a lot of shooting that night so we all supposed he was a victim of some local feud.**

**Upon closer examination he was found to be quite dead but with no sign of any bullet wounds. The only things on him were a few bruises and tread marks that matched the tires on our HMMWV's. This man was unarmed, he had been run over by American soldiers and left to die.**

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004 I again found myself gunning on an up armored HMMWV when we came across an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne infantry platoon that had just fought through an ambush. According to them, they had been attacked with small arms fire from both sides of the road, and they in turn had returned fire in both directions.

We talked with them a while and helped secure the area while they called it up.

**Before long it was discovered that one source of the firing had indeed been enemy insurgents, while the other source was a wedding party.**

**It is a common tradition for people in Baghdad to celebrate weddings by firing rifles and other firearms into the air, these people just happened to be celebrating a wedding at the same time as the 82<sup>nd</sup> patrol was ambushed.**

**There was no sign of enemy casualties, however we discovered three civilians who had been wounded in the ensuing firefight. A young girl had been shot in the leg, a middle aged man was wounded in the arm, and another younger girl had been killed, all as a result of firing from American soldiers. After the 82<sup>nd</sup> reported the incident to their chain of command we simply continued our patrol and nothing much was ever said of this incident again.**

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 I was on a patrol in Baghdad that came under small arms fire from one or two insurgents as we entered the local ICDC compound. I was gunning in the trail HMMWV, I identified where the firing was coming from and returned fire, the enemy firing stopped immediately and nothing more became of it, the incident was never reported. This was a major turning point in my life, I was thoroughly repulsed by what I had done and prayed that I would never have to try to kill a fellow human being again.

I witnessed many sad and terrible things during my time in Iraq, but these three are the most relevant to my claim as a conscientious objector.

**In Iraq I hated everything, I hated the air that I breathed, the food that I ate, the rifle that I carried; I was disgusted by my own reflection.**

**I saw and did things there that should never be viewed as acceptable by civilized people. I have been shot at, I have been mortared, I have destroyed the livelihood of innocent people, I have seen men rejoice in the torment of other men. As I recall**

**these unfortunate events I find myself disgusted and ashamed. I pray that I may never live to endure such things again.**

**AR 600-43 Application 2-1 Appendix B**

b. Training and Belief (continued).

4. An explanation as to when these beliefs became incompatible with military service:

**I decided to seek Conscientious Objector status during this past gunnery of Jan-Feb '05. I no longer wished to take any part in combat operations. I found everything we trained for to be personally, morally, and religiously offensive and became extremely disturbed at times as I watched targets being engaged through my periscopes in the driver's station of my vehicle.**

**In all actuality, these inanimate targets represented human life, which is not meant to be destroyed so carelessly, and with so much naive enthusiasm. I realized that I could never return to a combat zone and perform the duties which that circumstance would require. I would only be a hindrance to the Army's mission and unreliable in combat, quite possibly causing the unnecessary deaths of other soldiers.**

5. An explanation as to the circumstances, if any, under which the person believes in the use of force, and to what extent, under any foreseeable circumstances.

**There are no circumstances under which I would employ the use of deadly force.**

6. An explanation as to what in the person's life most conspicuously demonstrates the consistency and depths of his beliefs.

**Though I am opposed to war in all it's forms I have continued to honor my contract with the military by not refusing to wear the uniform, performing all of my required duties (to include driving a distinguished tank at gunnery), and refusing to desert the Army or be absent without leave.**

**I have also chosen not to use drugs and alcohol to escape the realities of my situation as an alarming number of my peers in this Squadron have done.**

**I have a history of positive counseling statements and have always done my best to help train new soldiers and teach them what I have learned while deployed to improve their chances of survival. My actions speak for themselves; I am a man of high moral character, my beliefs are bona fide.**

7. An explanation as to how the applicant's daily life has changed as a result of their beliefs and what future action he plans to continue to support his beliefs.

**Every day I spend in the military is pure misery. I am disgusted each time I enter my vehicle or handle or view weapons as they are cruel instruments of death. In the future I will continue my chosen life of non-violence for as long as I may live.**

**AR 600-43 Application 2-1 Appendix B**

c. Participation in organizations.

1. Information as to whether the person has ever been a member of a military organization or establishment before entering his present term of service:

**I was never a member of any military organization or establishment before joining the Army.**

2. A statement as to whether the person is a member of a religious sect or organization:

**I am not a member of a religious sect or organization. Organized religion is the greatest killer in the world and the source of history's cruelest atrocities.**

3. A description of the applicant's relationships with and activities in all organizations with which he is or has been affiliated, other than military, political, or labor organizations.

**I am affiliated with no such organizations, nor have I ever been.**

d. References.

Any more information that the person desires to be considered by the authority reviewing his application. Letters of reference or official statements of organizations to which the applicant belongs or refers in his application are included. The burden is on the applicant to obtain and forward such information.

1. Memorandum from CPT XXXX (Squadron Chaplain).

2. Personal Statement.

## **Statement of Conscientious Objection: March 21, 2005**

My moral and religious beliefs have become incompatible with military service. I can no longer continue to train as a combat soldier, nor can I remain in the service of an organization that exists for the sole purpose of destroying human life. I know myself to be a conscientious objector and therefore must request separation from the United States Army.

**I joined the military in May of 2003, eager to fight in the Iraq War which had so recently begun.**

**In October of that year I was deployed to Iraq where I participated in countless mounted and dismounted combat operations until our return to Germany in July of 2004.**

**While in Iraq I was involved in a number of minor combat incidents and on one occasion did fire my weapon with the intent to kill.**

**At that moment my conscious was profoundly altered by the devastating realities of human mortality. I've seen people and animals lying dead in the streets and experienced first hand the horrifying toll that war inflicts on living things; I was in a constant state of mental and emotional decay while deployed to Iraq. At the time I felt I could pull through and ride out the time left on my military contract, even though I was beginning to doubt my abilities as a combat soldier.**

During this past gunnery of January and February 2005 I drove for two tank crews, one of which fired distinguished, I engaged in MOUT training, marksmanship training with both M16 and M9, and other types of weapons familiarization. Through all of this I found myself feeling disgusted and extremely uncomfortable with what we were training to do, how could God ever be expected to condone such cruelty, such vile inhumanity? I knew then that I would never kill another human being and could never be expected to return to combat and perform in any manner which would be beneficial to the military.

I can no longer allow myself to hide these feelings from my chain of command; I have a responsibility to both the military and my country to let the truth be known. I have always lived my life by the laws and principles that were so boldly forged by our forefathers centuries ago, and it is my deep admiration for the democratic traditions of the United States of America, and my dedication to the ideal of human decency that demand that I speak out. I have become a conscientious objector, I am opposed to war of any kind, and I will never again attempt to take human life or aid others in doing the same.

**I am not simply seeking a 'quick way out' of military service, I am well aware that this is a long process, one in which deceivers will find little opportunity for success. I assure you that I am sincere. The Army teaches its soldiers to always "take the hard right over the easy wrong", which is exactly what I am doing.**

**There are those who remain skeptical of my claims; I am thought of by some of my superiors as a liar, an idiot, and a coward.**

They and those who think alike are entitled to their beliefs, just as I am entitled to mine. If only they knew how much honesty, intelligence and courage it takes to pursue such beliefs, thus enduring the persecution and hatred of such a multitude of nay sayers.

**My actions in the past and at present have well proven that I am not a coward, for a coward will never do what he believes to be right when those around him say that he is wrong, he will simply be bullied into submission. I expect that none of us would have found ourselves in disagreement with Abraham Lincoln when he said, "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men."**

I will not be a slave to the laws of man, while the laws of God are held to no account. I intend to live my own life in a way which will affirm the lives of others, not destroy them. I will rejoice in life; never again will I revel in the so called "glory and honor" of war.

**Comment By ArchAngel:**

After making the request for Co, this Soldier has been harassed by members of his command.

Just last week, his 1st Sgt. called him a 'piece of shit' and a 'little bitch', screaming at the top of his lungs in front of a dozen or so other Soldiers and NCO's during PT.

The Soldier had gotten offended and yelled back at him "Who are you calling a Bitch?!" and "You can't call me a bitch 1st. Sgt."

Those were his exact words. After the confrontation, he was taken into the 1st. Sgt.'s office where he and his platoon sergeant threatened to have a court martial brought against him for disrespecting a senior NCO.

Then his PSG, who was standing behind him, closed the door, and they both mocked him and talked to each other about how they would misconstrue what had happened and twist various facts so that they could stop his packet and throw him in jail.

Afterwards, the 1st Sgt. grinned and laughed at him telling him he was going to bring a court martial against him so that he could see that his packet was stopped.

Such words were said in that effect. Then the 1st Sgt went on to say that he would call his investigation officer and see to it that his interview, set for the following morning, was canceled.

The Soldier, asked if his 1st Sgt. has the power to do that at such short notice?

ArchAngel doesn't see how, and also believe that this so called 1st Sgt. had no right to disrespect him in such a way that he did in front of others. I understand that you must respect your NCO's and ranks above, but how do you respect a NCO, or in this case a 1st Sgt. who doesn't respect you by calling you names in front of a platoon? In order to get respect you first must give it.

There is more to this story, but what we are talking about here is a Soldier applying for CO. A Soldier like so many other who has seen things that we Americans back home hope to never see.

There are hundreds of CO applications that have been applied for, and accepted, but there are also many that haven't, because of selfishness and down right stupidity of their leaders.

A lot of these Soldiers have seen and even were forced to do wrong, and are regretting it now and will most likely regret it for the rest of their lives.

Just because a Soldier suddenly finds God, and finds that what he and his fellow troops have done to be wrong and can no longer pull the trigger on a weapon again to cause death, he should not be called a coward, chicken, or in this case a BITCH.



In cases such, they should be called heroes because they are fighting for what they believe, and not some lie that they were told.

We are aware that there are those who use the CO just to get out, but then again, who are we or the government to say that is the real reason. Soldiers are not robots, they have a heart, and they know what the difference is between right and wrong.

Isn't denying a Soldier's request for CO wrong because he believes in the rules of God or any other religious beliefs? I should think it is because if you think about it, we can go back to the Constitution, which this war is supposedly being fought for.

The first amendment guarantees freedom of worship....If this is true, then why are Soldiers getting their CO request denied?

Just what kind of Constitution are we supporting if our own government does not follow it?

I say, let this Soldier and other CO applicants be granted so that they may live their lives in peace.

*The information that I have found on Conscientious Objection came from the GI Hotline web site [www.girights.org](http://www.girights.org) or you can call them at 1-800-394-9544.*

ArchAngel will keep you informed of this Soldier when more information comes about. If you support his CO, you can let him know by sending ArchAngel an email and we will forward it to him. Send to: [ArchAngel1BL@aol.com](mailto:ArchAngel1BL@aol.com)

God Bless this Soldier  
God Bless our Soldiers and their families, and God Bless America

ArchAngel

## **Follow Up On Soldier's CO**

The Soldier just informed ArchAngel that he has been, for lack of a better word, screwed out of his promotion because he has applied for CO.

This was done before he was threatened with an article 15 for disrespect. Still waiting on what will happen and he said he will keep us informed.

ArchAngel's thoughts are with you XXXXXX, keep your chin up, and don't let them get to you. You are in the right for what you believe in, and you should be proud of that.

**WE ARE!!**

ArchAngel

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **IED Hits Humvee In Samarra**

7.9.05 AP

**A roadside bomb hit an American convoy in the central city of Samarra, damaging one Humvee, police Capt. Laith Mohammed said. No casualties were reported.**

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## TROOP NEWS

### **Iraq War Results In At Least 254 Amputees**

July 9 (UPI)

**Army hospitals treated 254 amputees from the Iraq war between March 2003 and May 2005, according to new statistics just released by the Army.**

**Nearly 19,000 soldiers have been medically evacuated from the war over the same period. There were 2,527 evacuated with battle injuries, 5,444 with non-battle injuries and 10,758 with disease.**

More than 65 percent of the battle wounds - 1,644 -- were caused by explosions, including improvised explosive devices, landmines, grenades, and shrapnel. There were 395 gunshot wounds in that time period that required medical evacuation, and 217 injuries from rocket-propelled grenades.

Of the more than 10,000 "disease" evacuations, over 10 percent were suffering from psychiatric problems.

**Disease affected a far higher proportion of Army soldiers assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan over the same period. There were 1,046 soldiers medically evacuation from OEF, again with 10 percent reporting some kind of mental disorder.**

There have been 122 soldiers wounded in action over that two-year period, and 408 non-battle injuries. About 60 percent were injured in explosions, 27 percent by gunshots, and 3 percent from vehicle bombs. Twenty-eight soldiers required amputations in Afghanistan war over that period.

**However, the Afghan war began in 2001. The Army did not include statistics for Afghanistan prior to March 2003 in the report.**

The total number of wounded reported by the Defense Department for Operation Enduring Freedom since the war began in October 2001 was 182. The total number of deaths was 213, with 99 killed-in-action so far.

Total deaths in the Iraq war now total 1,752 with 1,348 killed in action.

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## **Maine Soldier Wounded In Iraq Set To Come Home**

July 08, 2005 Bangor Daily News

**After spending more than six months in military hospitals out of state, a Maine soldier who was critically injured while serving in Iraq is scheduled today to return home.**

**Sgt. Harold Gray, 35, of Penobscot is one of three members of the Maine Army National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion who were injured last year when insurgents attacked their convoy in Mosul.**

**Gray was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., from December until the end of May when he was moved to a rehabilitation facility in Florida.**

**Gray suffered serious injuries to both eyes and to his left arm and has shrapnel in his brain and chest.**

Although he was showing signs of improvement earlier this year, Gray was diagnosed in February with spinal meningitis and took a step backward in his recovery efforts.

He was transferred in May to the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, Fla., where he was expected to begin a strict physical therapy routine.

"I haven't received much of an update," Maj. Michael Backus, Maine National Guard spokesman, said Thursday.

As far as he knew, there hadn't been much change in Gray's condition since he had arrived in Florida.

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## **The Long Road To Recovery:**

# Space For Wounded Troops Taken Over For “Offices”

July 9, 2005 Chris Roberts, El Paso Times

They had been drinking in the same bars in a small town outside Philadelphia, but the two Pennsylvania natives didn't meet until they joined the same National Guard unit. They got to know each other when their unit began patrolling an area near Tikrit, Iraq, earlier this year. Now they are sharing a hospital room at Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Cpl. Michael Sarro, 25, from Phoenixville, Pa., and Spc. John Ashenfelder, 21, from Spring City, Pa., both with the Pennsylvania National Guard's 1-111 Infantry, are part of a small but growing group of Operation Iraqi Freedom soldiers wounded during their tour of duty who are being treated at the El Paso medical center.

Sarro and Ashenfelder suffered leg and foot injuries that will have consequences for the rest of their lives.

They share a room cluttered with books and other material to make their stays more pleasant. When a male nurse enters the room, Sarro blurts out, "He wants a kiss on the cheek," referring to Ashenfelder. It's macho humor that masks the mind-bending chaos the two experienced.

Sarro is serious, however, when he describes the incident and his roommate's role in it.

May 15, Sarro and Ashenfelder were in the third vehicle in a four-Humvee combat patrol from a forward operating base near Tikrit. They had traveled about 550 yards down a main road, Sarro said, when a remotely detonated anti-tank mine exploded under their Humvee.

The gunner was knocked out and suffered a broken collarbone. Much of the vehicle's floor was blown out. Ashenfelder, the driver, managed to keep control of the Humvee despite injuries to his lower legs, including a shattered heel and multiple fractures.

"He was able to steer off the road without having a major accident," Sarro said. "Shrapnel -- I guess everybody got a little of that."

**The insurgents sent up red flares calling for an attack. "About a minute after that, they started shooting," he said.**

Twenty minutes into a 30-minute firefight, Sarro was shot.

"I got bone blown out of my leg," he said, and added later that another soldier applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. "It probably saved my leg."

Despite the injuries, the soldiers managed to fight back their attackers and were rescued a short time later.

"The way I saw them react from the beginning of the attack all the way through the end was better than anything I expected," Sarro said, noting that their training made the difference. "It was chaos, but it was controlled chaos."

Now Sarro and Ashenfelder face more surgeries, months and probably years of rehabilitation, and permanent limits on their mobility.

Because bones in Sarro's leg were shattered, one leg would end up shorter than the other if the bones were simply allowed to heal. Doctors put his leg in a metal cage, which will stretch the bone out as it heals. But he will never have full use of the leg, doctors have told him.

Ashenfelder has had about seven surgeries -- he is losing count -- including one to fuse his heel and ankle, which means he will lose the range of motion allowed by that joint.

It will be months before the two can go home. After that, Sarro faces more than a year of rehabilitation.

In the meantime, they have been visited by their parents, and their wives have been rotating back and forth, Sarro said.

**Although both say they are being treated well at Beaumont, they think the medical center wasn't quite prepared for them.**

"It's put some strain, but we have the capacity," said Lt. Angelo Fiore who has been a nurse at the medical center for about a year. "A lot of these guys are going to be here for a long time."

**The main challenge has been to provide space for inpatient care, Leech said. Modern surgical techniques have allowed many procedures to be done on an outpatient basis, he said, reducing the need for long-term hospital beds.**

**"And what has happened, frankly over the course of the last few years, is people tend to migrate into that space for offices," Leech said. "There's nothing wrong with that, but what we have to do now is recapture some of that space.**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

July 09, 2005 Frank Griffiths, Canadian Press & Khaleej Times Online & AP

**Guerrillas using three cars killed police Capt. Saad Mihsin Abdul Sadah in Amiriyah, some 40 kilometres west of Baghdad.** He was on his way to work at the Interior Ministry, police said.

Two soldiers and a police officer -- were shot dead throughout the northern flashpoint city of Mosul in separate attacks on Friday, hospital officials said.

Masked guerrillas opened fire on a collaborator official Saturday in Mosul, wounding him and three of his bodyguards, hospital officials said.

Yahya al-Haidari, a provincial official of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, was shot as he drove in the Hadba neighborhood of the northern city, said Dr. Baha al-Din al-Bakri of the Jumhuri Hospital.

Al-Haidari was hit by three bullets and was in stable condition, al-Bakri said. His bodyguards were being treated at the same hospital and were in stable condition.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **“Our Job Is To Reclaim The American Armed Forces As An Instrument Of The People, No Matter The Obstacles, No Matter The Difficulty”**

From: **FULL SPECTRUM DISORDER: The Military In The New American Century; Stan Goff, STAFF SGT, U.S. Army (RETIRED); Soft Skull Press; Brooklyn, NY 2004**

You can put all the muscles you want on a U.S. soldier, and a local *e. coli* will bring him crashing down like a tall tree. Bottled water only for these guys. **This is a contradiction of imperialism, a kind of reverse social Darwinism that is seldom discussed or fully understood in its ramifications.**

**Four to five days is the longest troops can stay in the field without bringing in helicopters or ground cargo transportation and exposing the choppers, the trucks, and their own positions to resupply the line troops.** This means they must have bases for logistics and stand-downs between missions. So the most agile forces available to the U.S. will in short order always bring with them a fixed installation.

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**When a conventional state military like the Americans' enters a de facto stateless milieu, it finds itself surrounded by multiple armed actors—all potential or actual enemies.**

**The conventional doctrine upon which the invading state-based military is organized is then stranded, because the raison d'être of a conventional state military is subjection of another centralized state.**

**In the absence of long-term, sustained ground actions—with significant U.S. casualties—the non-indigenous (U.S./U.N.) forces, battered down in their fixed installations, remained a static target, ceding the initiative to the more flexible, mobile, and variable forces that surrounded them, with no such misplaced sentimentality about the necessity to risk casualties.**

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**In most cases, ten actions against one adversary in ten weeks—each designed to disorient one's adversary, even if they are not perfect actions—will be more effective than one action in ten weeks that is part of a highly formal strategic scheme.**

This puts us inside the “decision cycle” of the human beings against whom we are taking action and strips them of the most important intangible in any conflict—initiative.

**In the initial phase of development of the Iraqi guerrilla resistance, for example, many of the actions seemed uncoordinated—which they may or may not have been.**

**But the tempo of the hit-and-run attacks on U.S. occupation troops—averaging one attack almost every day—served to disorient the occupation commanders, compelling them in many cases— like Operation Desert Scorpion, et al.—to launch blind operations that served to drive more people into resistance.**

**It was not the scope of the guerrilla attacks or even the strategic importance of the targets that was most significant in creating a qualitative shift in the situation, creating confusion among occupying commanders. It was the tempo.**

Sometimes the best thing to do is just stir things up and see what happens. Then take advantage. As long as you are doing the stirring, you have the initiative.

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The most important quality in a leader is the aggressive tenacity that never loses sight of the mission, combined with the creativity to achieve it in chaos—indeed, to make an ally of chaos.

**One of the qualities that seems to define so many so-called progressives is their utter lack of aggression and their constant moral hand-wringing.**

<p><b>This is in large part responsible for their failure to mobilize masses. They only know how to mobilize fear that demoralizes people, instead of mobilizing rage that drives through fear and seizes the initiative. When the masses mobilize, they seek leaders who fight.</b></p>
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The left has to quit demobilizing them with dithering disguised as sensitivity

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**As regards the question of military overreach, I needn't say a lot.**

**The United States is losing the war in Iraq. It has already lost in Afghanistan.**

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And the only way to fight guns—all ahistorical nonsense to the contrary aside—is with guns.

That is the essence of the conjuncture that it is U.S. military power that must be defeated, and that—for us in the metropolises—the armed forces are contested terrain.

This is our fight back: to midwife another post-Vietnam military malaise born of Iraq and Afghanistan, and many small rebellions in the periphery.

**And our job is to reclaim the American armed forces as an instrument of the people, no matter the obstacles, no matter the difficulty.**

## ***Crusader Castles:* Tried It 700 Years Ago: Didn't Work Then, Doesn't Work Now**



Army Spc. Grant Richardson stands guard in a tower at Forward Operating Base Hieder in the Ninewa Province town of Rabi'ah July 8, 2005. The U.S. Army's 3rd Armored



Cavalry Regiment maintains the base. REUTERS/DoD/Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert M. Schalk, U.S. Navy/Handout

**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.**

## How It Is

During the Algerian war a leader of the national liberation front, the FLN, was asked about using terror against French civilians in café bombings in Algiers.

He replied, “If we had an air force I promise you we would only target French barracks, but till then....” Tariq Ali, Socialist Worker (Canada) 20 April 2005

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER!**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

## “Suicide Was Preferable To Life In The Empire”

2005-07-07 William Marina, History News Network

There are already indications that some of our best young officers, often West Point graduates, in which the country has a considerable investment, are opting out of the Army for commensurate managerial jobs. Perhaps the task of integrating with the Iraqi army will fall to the mercenaries hired by companies such as Halliburton

**In Vietnam, quite apart from the fragging, the increasing disillusionment of the middle echelon officers was an early sign the war was not going well.**

**Anyone who has read many of the letters of these middle echelon British officers in the American Revolution, often young Scots, who wrote back to their families about going out into the wilderness, perhaps never to return, will recognize this pattern. The British referred to the area around Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "hornet's nest," and it was the defeats around that area which led to the retreat toward Yorktown.**

Americans seem amazed by the degree of solidarity among the insurgents, that some are willing to not only die for the cause, but to do so as a suicide bomber. Part of the Media approach has been to glorify the whole idea of "Empire." A new television show of that title aired June 29th, in which we are suppose to identify with Julius Caesar's heir, Octavian, soon to be Caesar Augustus.

The Founding Fathers of the American Republic, despising Empire as they did, would not have admired that whole theme. Their heroes were Brutus, Cassius, Cicero and Cato.

**It is well to remember that a wounded Cato ripped off his bandages so that he might die, so much did he hate the notions of Despotism and Empire. Suicide was preferable to life in the Empire.**

**As in the Philippines, we have found no shortage of bureaucrat Compradors, willing to be our "willing executioners" of their own people, in running "our" Iraqi government.**

**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.**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# ***Welcome TO "Liberated" Iraq: "Mayor" Of Baghdad An Occupation Stooge Appointed By U.S.***

July 8, 2005 By JAMES GLANZ, New York Times

[Since] 51 percent of Baghdad's voters turned out for the January elections, Mayor Alaa al-Tamimi has been saddled with a city council dominated by a Shiite clerical party that is threatening to strip him of his authority and fire several of his top managers.

It is a sore point with the council that Dr. Tamimi himself was put in office last year not by a direct election but by a vote of local leaders who were carefully chosen by the American occupation.

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## **U.S. Campaign To Recruit More Fighters For Iraqi Resistance Movement Tries Midnight Raids On Civilians**



Lance Cpl. Manuel Valle Jr. with the 5th Marine Regiment scales a wall during a mission in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi July 8, 2005. **The Marines conducted a raid in the Al Anbar provincial capital between midnight and 5 a.m. and apprehended *three suspected* insurgents.** REUTERS/USMC/Cpl. Tom Sloan/Handout

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

## **In Shia Southern Iraq, The People Turn Against The Occupation:**

# “You Can't Have An Insurgency Without An Occupier To Fight”

Based on local sentiment in Al Amarah, Maysan's insurgency seems less like the apocalyptic death throes of a tyrannical former regime than a violent grassroots protest against foreign occupation. And if you justify your occupation as an effort to combat insurgency, then you're chasing your own tail.

July 5th, 2005 by David Axe, Village Voice

MAYSAN PROVINCE, IRAQ—On May 31, a patrol of armored Land Rovers from the British Army's King's Royal Hussars regiment moves through hot dusty Maysan province in southern Iraq. In one of the trucks is a 21-year-old soldier from the northeast England town of Goole named Alan Brackenbury, who just two months earlier won a hard-earned promotion to corporal.

On the yellow outskirts of the town of Al Amarah, a bomb explodes beside Brackenbury's Land Rover, grievously injuring him and four others. A helicopter from Brackenbury's base at Camp Abu Naji darts to the scene in hopes of carrying the young man to a hospital and saving his life, but it's too late. Brackenbury dies in the desert, making him the 88th Briton killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasion.

At Abu Naji, a grim mood gets only grimmer. On May 2, another soldier from the base, 24-year-old Guardsman Anthony Wakefield, died the same way: blown to bits by a roadside bomb only miles from camp.

**"Two of my soldiers have been killed in six weeks," says Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Williams, 43, the senior British commander at Abu Naji, which is home to around 1,000 soldiers. "To you Americans, that's nothing. But in the previous six months, not one British soldier was killed here. The security situation is worse than it was two, three months ago."**

**Williams's assessment comes at a time when the Iraqi insurgency seems to be gaining in strength and reach.**

On May 30, Vice President Dick Cheney said that the war in Iraq would be won by 2009, confirming what many skeptics have long believed. No matter that Cheney later described the insurgency as being in its "last throes." The conflict is far from over, and despite some qualified successes such as the January elections, the fight against the insurgency is not going as well as the Bush administration says.

**That the violence has shattered even the relative peace and quiet of Al Amarah is perhaps proof that the insurgency has only spread.**

And it has Williams reconsidering the coalition presence here.

**On June 2, still reeling from Brackenbury's death, Williams tells two visiting reporters that much of the violence in the province targets foreign soldiers. He**

**openly speculates that in Maysan, the coalition ("multinational forces," or MNF, in military speak) perhaps causes more violence than it prevents.**

Ironically and despite the recent attacks, "southern Iraq is more stable and secure than the north," Williams says. Thirty years of neglect and repression of southern Shia provinces by the Sunni Baath government in Baghdad have made people here tough, self-reliant, and wary of outsiders. As a result, Williams says, "Maysan does not have a Sunni problem."

**Based on local sentiment in Al Amarah, Maysan's insurgency seems less like the apocalyptic death throes of a tyrannical former regime than a violent grassroots protest against foreign occupation.**

On June 2, 36-year-old Falah Hassan Qathen rushes outside with an escort of grubby children to confront U.K. Sergeant Gary Howe and his men from the Coldstream Guards Regiment as they patrol Al Amarah's dirty streets. Qathen says he is unemployed, then sounds the Maysan refrain: "The water is very dirty. The electricity is very bad. There are no jobs."

**He tells Howe, 32, that contractors are stealing money and complains that Iraqi leaders don't do anything without U.S. approval.**

**As Howe and his soldiers pull away, the kids pelt the Land Rovers with rocks.**

Williams says that Iraqis in Maysan tolerate the coalition only as long as the coalition contributes something.

**He says the foreign presence balances on a "razor's edge of consent."**

**In May, Williams's forces briefly tipped over that edge.**

It started with a May 5 raid by troops from Abu Naji "aimed at striking at the heart of terrorists in Maysan," in Williams's words. "We got one seriously bad guy."

**During the raid, Williams stationed Warrior armored vehicles on the outskirts of town to protect his lightly armed troops. Locals bristled at the sight of the massive, intimidating vehicles.**

**Williams knew the Warriors would cause a stir. "Immediately," he says, "I phoned the governor to say sorry and to explain." But it was too late. Riding a wave of public furor, the governor issued an order to the province to "stop all coordination and cooperation with multinational forces in both security and reconstruction."**

**Although Williams has managed to persuade the governor to rescind his order by promising to keep Warriors out of town, local authorities remain hesitant to assist the coalition.**

**Back in Al Amarah on June 2, Howe drops into a police station to ask Captain Mohammed Radke to help him identify suspected insurgents in the area. Radke says he knows of some, but declines to give details.**

Howe presses. Belatedly, Radke volunteers a vague description of the insurgents' car. Howe, growing annoyed, presses further. Radke says the car is a white Toyota. Howe, well aware of the large number of white Toyotas in Al Amarah, rolls his eyes and moves on to the next issue: Someone's been shooting mortars at Abu Naji, and he wants to know who—and from where.

Radke nods. He says he knows a mechanic who witnessed the mortars firing.

"Where?" Howe says.

Radke chatters away in the loping circuitous manner to which Arabic is well-suited. Howe's translator looks confused.

Howe says again, "Where?" The chief equivocates. It's the same old shtick—and it's starting to get old.

Leaving the station, Howe is confronted by a young man claiming to be the brother of another man injured in a car accident caused by British troops. "They just drove off," the man says in perfect English. Howe takes his name and number and promises to investigate.

Howe and his troops head back to Abu Naji. Watching out the window of his Land Rover at the dirty yellow countryside trundling by, Howe is visibly frustrated.

He's not alone. "Frustrated" is exactly how Williams describes the people of Maysan province.

**After two years of occupation with little apparent progress in fixing the water and power, locals' patience is exhausted; they're tipping away from consent—perhaps this time for good.**

**Williams says the attacks on his soldiers may be the work of a small group of residents who've decided that the occupiers have had their chance to prove their worth and have failed; now it's time for them to go.**

**"If you were to take away the MNF from Maysan, would there be less violence?" Williams asks. "Less violence against the MNF, yes." It's the violence against foreign forces that is out of the ordinary for Maysan and that causes hand-wringing in London, Washington, and the U.N.—and in the offices of non-profits worldwide that are notable in Maysan only for their absence.**

Otherwise, "violence in Maysan province is a way of life," Williams says, citing the recent (and perhaps tribal-motivated) murders of two Iraqi policemen in the province.

No foreign army is going to make people here stop killing each other. They may only get themselves killed too.

**You can't have an insurgency without an occupier to fight.**

**And if you justify your occupation as an effort to combat insurgency, then you're chasing your own tail.** Williams calls it a "chicken and egg thing."

Many Americans apparently believe that the occupation of Iraq is part of some greater conflict, be it a clash of civilizations or a global war on terrorism. "The American military is at war," Williams says. "We're not. We're on operations. The British people do not believe we are at war. Americans do."

**Williams says the nearly 1 million residents of Maysan are eager to rule their own province—as well they should be.**

"This is an Iraqi problem," he says. "And Iraq has to take responsibility for it." The critical question, he adds, is whether they can provide their own security.

Sitting in his office at Abu Naji with the two reporters, he thinks about it for a moment, then says, "In three or four months, we could withdraw from Maysan province. (Of course), we're not going anywhere unless it's agreed upon by the Iraqi government."

**It's like he's dropped a stun grenade in the room. Noting the reporters' gaping jaws and wide eyes, Williams says he's surprised that they're surprised.**

**"The Iraqis clearly don't want foreign forces here forever," says Williams. "And you've got to start the snowball somewhere."**

And he says Maysan—cranky, suspicious, impoverished, Shia Maysan—is that place.

Over the next week, across the four southern provinces occupied by U.K. forces, the reaction to Williams's admission is quick and definitive.

In Basra Province, Brigadier Chris Hughes criticizes reporters for placing what he thinks is undue emphasis on the idle speculation of a verbose colonel. In Al Muthanna Province, Colonel Niall Campbell stresses that his training program for local native forces will last well into next year.

**And at the headquarters for all deployed U.K. forces at Northwood, near London, Major David Steel assures the press that the U.K. will be in Iraq for the long term.**

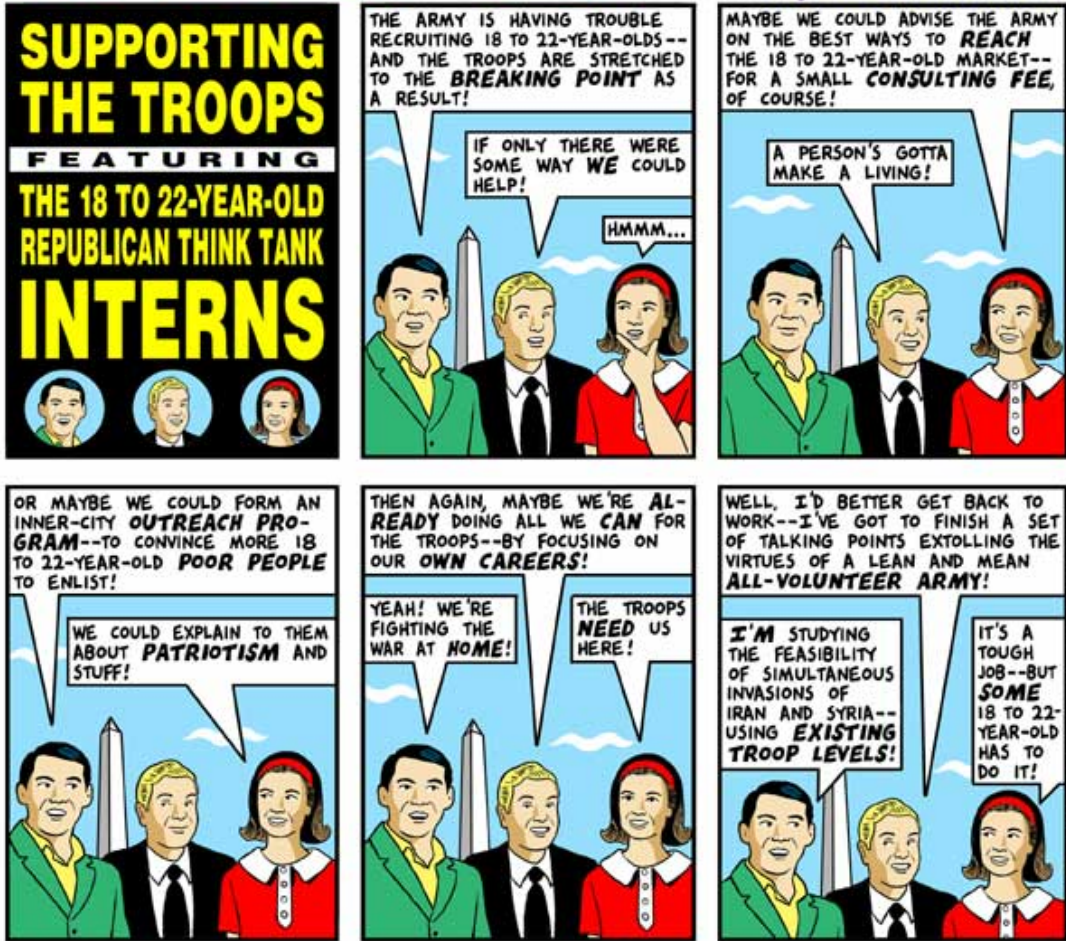
**But in the streets and markets of southern Iraq's dusty impoverished towns, angry men like Qathen, recalcitrant cops like Radke, and grassroots insurgents like those who slew Corporal Brackenbury seem to be thinking, "Not if we have anything to say about it."**

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

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

## **THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

### **IOF Kills Boy In Ramallah**

08/07/2005 (WAFA)

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) killed Friday a boy in the West Bank city of Ramallah, witnesses said.



Witnesses said that Israeli soldiers shot and killed Muhib Assy 17, as he was playing with his friends alongside the Apartheid Wall built by Israel in Beit Leqya village.

**They added that Israeli soldiers opened fire unjustifiably, shooting Assy in the back, leaving him bleeding for two hours, preventing citizens from evacuating him.**

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## **4 Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Gaza**

YNetNews 7/8/2005

**GAZA – Four Israeli Occupation soldiers sustained light injuries Friday afternoon after an explosive charge was detonated near the Jeep they were traveling in, in proximity to a security fence in the southern Gaza Strip.**

The soldiers were taken to hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack.

**The Palestinian attackers placed the explosive device near the fence and remotely detonated it as the army vehicle approached the area. Notably, four similar bombs, weighing 20-40 kilograms (44-88 pounds,) were uncovered in Gaza during the past week.**

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

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### **Received:**

## **CNN Reporter Looking For Iraq Vets On VA Wait Lists**

From: Debbie Clark: dclark@antiwar.com  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 09, 2005  
Subject: CNN reporter looking for Iraq vets on VA wait lists

**I received a phone call yesterday from a reporter from the Washington bureau of CNN.**

**He is doing some preliminary work on the story behind the story of lagging VA benefits and called me in regard to the case of Iraq veteran, James Webb, who was featured in a recent front-page story of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

I will be visiting James again today at the VA hospital so I will get the message to him to call this CNN reporter, if he would.

**The CNN reporter also asked me if I knew of any other vets back from the war who are likewise experiencing a long delay in receiving VA benefits. I am not personally aware of or in touch with any other returning vets in this situation, but wanted to let others know of this opportunity to get the story out to the public.**

**If you are or know of any wounded vets who have returned from Iraq (or Afghanistan, for that matter) who have experienced delay in receiving VA benefits and could share your story with a CNN reporter who is currently looking into this matter, please email or call me (see below) and I will be happy to pass the information along to him to contact you, or provide you with his name and phone number.**

**I'd like to do all we can to get these stories out in the news media to inform the public and compel politicians to take the actions necessary to correct this situation.**

Already there have been some very positive results stemming from the front-page Atlanta Journal-Constitution article on James Webb, so I think the mass news media should be welcomed and used as much as possible in highlighting such cases so we can get these vets taken care of.

**Please call or email me if you know of, or are, a returning vet who needs VA benefits and have been put on a wait list by the VA and I will be happy to get you in touch with the CNN reporter who is doing the legwork to prepare for a story on this.**

**Debbie Clark  
Veterans For Peace - Atlanta  
[dclark@antiwar.com](mailto:dclark@antiwar.com)  
770-855-6163**

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## **Report From Edinburgh, Scotland**

From: POH  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 09, 2005  
Subject: RE: GI Special 3B84: Fighting For The Wrong Reason

Hello from Edinburgh.

I loved the spoof `Time` magazine cover. Please tell me it wasn't a spoof and it was real? Wishful thinking I guess.

**We had some good demos here and here is a report of one:<https://www4.indymedia.org.uk/en/2005/07/316493.html>**

The cops up here were very aggressive.

I'm really saddened and angered by what happened in London. Russell Square is where I often go when going to the University of London Union (ULU).

**I could have been hurt or killed in that blast which was a blowback from Bush and Blair's crazy policies on Iraq and Afghanistan.**

Do you know Danny Schehcter? He was in Edinburgh last weekend to promote his new film `WMD weapons of mass deception` and he wrote a report about the Make Poverty History march which I included (with his full permission) in my Indymedia piece.

The website for his film is: [www.wmdthefilm.com](http://www.wmdthefilm.com) and his e-mail is: [danny@mediachannel.org](mailto:danny@mediachannel.org)

Here is that report with 12

photos:<http://indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/world/2005/07/315955.html>

All the best to you from Edinburgh and keep up your great work,  
P

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## **Received:**

# **Press Conference To Submit College Not Combat Petitions For November**

July 7, 2005

When: Monday, July 11th; noon

Where: East steps of City Hall, San Francisco

**On July 11<sup>th</sup> 2005, College Not Combat activists will deliver a remarkable 15,000 signatures to the Department of Elections at San Francisco's City Hall. These signatures, gathered by volunteers in just six weeks, represent public disapproval of military recruitment in the facilities of San Francisco's public high schools, colleges, and universities.**

**15,000 signatures will make this proposition eligible to be placed on San Francisco's November ballot.**

With the death toll of American soldiers in Iraq almost 1800, the US military is struggling to meet its recruitment goals. Consistently falling well below its monthly quotas, military recruiters are using a number of tactics to persuade young people to join their ranks. Among these tactics is the presentation of economic incentives, used to make military service an appealing prospect to low-income youth.

Acknowledging the passing of last November's Proposition N, in which the people of San Francisco voted by 63% to "bring the troops safely home now," the College Not Combat petition also represents opposition to the policy that is driving the war in Iraq.

**Speakers include:**

**Aimee Allison—a Green party member who is running for Oakland City Council.**

**Cindy Sheehan, lost her son Casey—a soldier—in Iraq in April of 2004 and is the founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.**

**Supervisor Chris Daly**

CONTACT: Ragina Johnson, campaign director of the College Not Combat campaign, at 415-412-4540 or college\_not\_combat@yahoo.com

For more info, call 415-248-1701, or go to [www.CollegeNotCombat.org](http://www.CollegeNotCombat.org)

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

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

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

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