

## **GI SPECIAL 3C27:**



Iraq Veterans Against The War command post, Crawford, Texas: [www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net)  
(Photo: Jeff Paterson, Not in Our Name, Aug. 19, 2005 [jeff@paterson.net](mailto:jeff@paterson.net))

# **“Your Son Volunteered” “He Knew What He Was Getting Into”**

The killing continues daily .... and we are witness to a repeat of a leader who is like a deer caught in the headlights ... sitting there ... doing nothing ... pondering what ... while pretending to enjoy "My Pet Goat."

*Time for me to share my pride in my husband, Arthur Ruger, who kept our group updated the week I was at Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas.*

*His diary on Daily Kos captures another element of the discussion to the tired 'your son volunteered, he knew what he was getting into' ....*

***Arthur, himself a veteran of Vietnam era wrote a passionate diary this morning that quickly was recommended to front page.***

*Proud of my husband, doing his part here to speak out in the name of a veteran and support for Cindy continues....feel free to carry it forward, post it amongst your own networking; it is part of the discussion and dialogue.*

*Lietta Ruger*

## **“Your Son Volunteered. He Knew What He Was Getting Into ...”**

Aug 19th, 2005 By Arthur Ruger, Dailykos.com

**So did I ... in 1968 five months after the Tet offensive. I dropped out of college and enlisted.**

**And like the current volunteers who are described by worn-out conservative flag-wearers, I had a rough idea of what I was getting into. That "rough idea" was based on trust ... trust in a system and, ultimately, trust in a specific leader and a specific governing political party.**

**The specific leader of course was LBJ, the specific party was the Democratic Party and the specific system was and is the system that allows us to hang our political opinions on buttons and sanctimonious drapery of stars and stripes from which we belch our prejudices.**

When you sign up you endorse a contract on the bottom line. It's a contract with specified written obligations on the part of both parties, but also with unspecified but powerful assumptions on the part of both parties.

**In the case of joining the military knowing what you are getting into is based on very powerful unwritten but nationally accepted assumptions:**

**(1) The integrity and honor of the commander in chief of the military and that CIC's skill, wisdom and understanding of all reasons when and why military citizens are to be placed in harm's way.**

**As a volunteer you are at the mercy of that individual, his party and their combined priorities - with a strong expectation that those priorities extend beyond a desire to remain in the driver's seat.**

**(2) As a volunteer you are at the mercy of your own fellow citizens (including your own family) whom you trust to be willing and supportive in making sure the leadership does not waste your vital blood, devotion and patriotism in pipe dreams, self-interested agenda's and ideologies; That leaders are driven by a**

genuine desire to involve the country in on-going mutual participation and compromise regarding foreign policy before resorting to force as a last resort.

**(3) Volunteering to become a soldier is volunteering to preserve and protect - with your own power and will - the country, its borders, its citizens and its institutions. It isn't volunteering to keep a political party in power.** The only way to avoid that circumstance is for the citizens to assume their rightful role in the triangular relationship with the troops and the CIC.

The troops are expected to trust the CIC's wisdom as well as the patriotic participation of the Citizens who will keep the CIC honest.

The CIC is expected to trust the troops to follow orders and expects to sustain by honesty and integrity the support of the Citizens.

The Citizens expect the troops to do their duties and expect the CIC to sustain by honesty and integrity his political authority.

**The Citizens must be willing to hold the CIC accountable and willfully resist when the honesty and integrity of leadership is absent.**

**That is what is going on right now.**

**The President has demonstrated a lack of leadership at a time when leadership is needed.**

**The killing continues daily .... and we are witness to a repeat of a leader who is like a deer caught in the headlights ... sitting there ... doing nothing ... pondering what ... while pretending to enjoy "My Pet Goat."**

**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.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Fallujah IED Attack Hits Humvee; Casualties Not Announced**

8.19.05 Xinhua

Two coordinated roadside bombs hit a joint US-Iraqi patrol in the center of the flashpoint city of Fallujah on Thursday, killing three Iraqi soldiers, medical source said.

"The first bomb detonated in the center of Fallujah before noon, as a joint US-Iraqi army patrol was passing by, destroying a military vehicle and killing three Iraqi soldiers," a medical source of Fallujah Hospital told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

**Another bomb struck a US Humvee in the patrol, killing and wounding soldiers inside, local residents said.**

Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, has long been a stronghold of insurgents who have fought US troops and Iraqi security forces.

The city was ruined last November when US Marines launched a month-long offensive to curb insurgency.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Marine Dies In Combat**

August 19, 2005 Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan — One Marine and one Afghan government soldier were killed in fighting with militants in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Friday.**

**Four other Afghan soldiers were wounded in the clash Thursday when they were “conducting operations to disrupt enemy forces” in Kunar province ahead of next month’s legislative elections, the military said in a statement. [So much for “disrupting enemy forces.” Notice the clarity and detail offered in describing what happened.]**

The wounded Afghan National Army soldiers were taken to a nearby U.S. base in the city of Asadabad for treatment, the statement said. Two of them later returned to duty, one was shifted to Bagram Air Base, and the other would be transferred to an Afghan military clinic in the capital Kabul, it said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Crawford Texas:**



**Cindy Sheehan welcomes family of Marine Jonathan Flores from San Antonio, recently killed in Iraq.** (Jeff Paterson, Not in Our Name, Aug. 19, 2005  
jeff@paterson.net)



**Mother of Colby Farnan, Army Spc killed this year in Iraq**  
(Jeff Paterson, Not in Our Name, Aug. 19, 2005 jeff@paterson.net)

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**“Operation: Veteran Freedom”  
Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm  
172 Allen Street between Stanton and Rivington  
New York City  
212.777.6028  
\$5 Suggested**

From: Peter Bronson, Veterans For Peace  
August 19, 2005

**Here is the first documentary film by IVAW member Nicholas Przybyla, Operation: Veteran Freedom.**

Nicholas is an Operation Enduring Freedom veteran, and IVAW co-founder Alex Ryabov be speaking.

The screening will take place at Bluestockings Radical bookstore and cafe on Stanton and Rivington.

**The documentary film "Operation: Veteran Freedom" provides an intimate view of the events that led to the first national meeting of Iraq Veterans Against the War. Please join U.S. navy veteran and filmmaker Nicholas Przybyla in discussing the resistance to war by America's newest generation of combat veterans.**

The editing of this film was funded by selling the camera that it was filmed on in order to buy editing equipment. In order to document the September 24th march in Washington D.C., Nicholas Przybyla hopes to sell enough dvd's to replace his camera. Please visit his website. <http://www.operationveteranfreedom.com>

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**Bring Them Home Now!  
Statement About A Joint Rally And  
Joint March For September 24**

[Thanks to Angela D. who sent this in. She writes: It's about g-ddamn time.]

The two major antiwar coalitions that have initiated and organized for a massive antiwar March on Washington for September 24 have agreed to organize a joint rally followed by a joint march.



Both coalitions will organize under their own banners, slogans and with their own literature for the September 24 demonstration.

**The joint rally will begin at 11:30 am at the Ellipse in the front of the White House.**

**We urge everyone around the country to unite and come out for the largest possible antiwar demonstration on September 24.**

Signed by:

A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition on behalf of the September 24 National Coalition

United for Peace and Justice

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## **4,000 More Soldiers Heading For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse; But, Hey, It's Good For Business**

August 19, 2005 By Janet Braswell, Hattiesburg American

**Another 4,000 soldiers will begin arriving next month for training at Camp Shelby before they deploy to Iraq.**

**Almost 2,700 of them belong to the 34th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team of the Minnesota National Guard. They will be augmented by National Guard troops from New Jersey, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Utah.**

**Camp Shelby, predominantly a site for weekend and summer National Guard training, was designated a mobilization station in May 2004. At the time, officials estimated housing and other off-base expenses for troops brought in to conduct training and run the base would put \$25 million into the Hattiesburg-area economy every four months.**

**Spending by soldiers who are training for deployment adds even more to the financial windfall.**

**Mobilization of the 1st Brigade Combat Team is the largest deployment of the Minnesota National Guard since World War II.**

"The first deployment starts when they're called up for active duty Sept. 6 and leave shortly thereafter," said Pfc. Joe Roos of the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Minneapolis. "They're going to come in phases. All the 2,700 soldiers from Minnesota won't go at the same time."

All 4,000 soldiers are expected to be at Camp Shelby before mid-October.

The brigade is expected to deploy in late winter or spring after final training at the U.S. Army's Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

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## **Combat-Stress Treatment Unit Returning To Iraq For Second Deployment: Who Will Treat Them Not Announced**

August 19, 2005 By Denise Lavoie, Associated Press

BOSTON — Members of the 883rd Medical Company treat the kinds of wounds that can't be seen but are sometimes just as damaging as physical injuries.

The “**combat stress control**” unit, which heads to Iraq on Friday for a second deployment, offers counseling and advice to soldiers who may be suffering from anxiety, depression, insomnia and a host of other psychological problems associated with combat.

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## ***Pentagon Asshole In Action:* GI Rights Group Condemns New Marine Policy Of Hunting Down Deserters From The Vietnam War**

Citizen Soldier's Legal Director, Tod Ensign, offers two principal criticisms of this new legal dragnet. "First, the Vietnam war ended 35 years ago and most Americans today accept that GIs had a right to resist this illegal war. Second, why are the Marines spending scarce public funds prosecuting this peaceful senior citizen while some of our troops in Iraq go without Kevlar vests or safe drinking water?"

August 19, 2005, Citizen Soldier

**Jerry Texiero, 64, a Marine Corps corporal from Tarpon Springs, FL was arrested on August 16th by local police at the request of the Marine Corps and is being held on desertion charges.** In the near future, he will be transferred to Camp Lejeune, NC for possible court martial action in the near future. (If convicted of desertion, he could be imprisoned for five years and given a Dishonorable Discharge)

**Texiero served on active duty with the Marines from 1959 to 1965 but refused deployment orders to Vietnam because he was opposed to the US combat role there.**



*His arrest was orchestrated by a special unit, the Marine Absentee Collection Center in Washington DC. The unit's commander, Chief Warrant Officer James Averhart told a Florida reporter that he was pushing the group to aggressively pursue some 1,200 deserters, of which about seventy had been gone for decades. He claims to have apprehended twenty seven of this group since September 2004. [Averhart may be instrumental in reviving the lost art of fragging. They know where to find him.]*

Citizen Soldier's Legal Director, Tod Ensign, offers two principal criticisms of this new legal dragnet. "First, the Vietnam war ended 35 years ago and most Americans today accept that GIs had a right to resist this illegal war. Second, why are the Marines spending scarce public funds prosecuting this peaceful senior citizen while some of our troops in Iraq go without Kevlar vests or safe drinking water?"

Ensign pledged that Citizen Soldier, a non profit GI/veterans rights advocacy group founded in 1969, would support Jerry Texiero's efforts to win a discharge without prosecution from the Marines. (see also: [www.citizen-soldier.org](http://www.citizen-soldier.org))

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## THE NEW ARMY RECRUITING PAMPHLET

2005-08-22 by JOEL STEIN, The New Yorker

**"Sign up and you're signing away your free time!" That's just one of the many myths out there about Today's Military.**

**The reality? 30 days of paid vacation a year is the norm.**

**From salaries to Basic Training, there are lots of misconceptions about military life. Maybe it's time to familiarize yourself with the truth.**

***From Today's Military, a government Web site:***

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**Dude, we totally know what you're thinking. That you'll have to wake up early. That we'll make you run all day with heavy stuff on your back. That you have to be drug-free, know how to read, and rank the U.S. as one of your top five favorite countries. Wrong, wrong, and wrong! And whatever else you're thinking? Wrong!**

**The Army is actually a whole lot of fun.**

Picture this: You get up—ten, eleven, whatever's good for you. Then we have brunch. Pancakes, waffles, French toast, some grease if the night before was a rough one.

Sugar cereals. Then, at 1200 hours—just kidding! nobody here uses that number thing anymore—around noonish we hit the Xbox for a few hours of Halo and all-you-can-eat Cool Ranch Doritos.

It's combat training without breaking a sweat. After a quick nap, we pack in some more training by watching a Jean-Claude Van Damme movie marathon. Then a dinner of chipped beef on toast, dehydrated mashed pota- Again, totally joking! We're having Taco Bell every night, all night, washed down by some of the best that Milwaukee has to offer.

As for uniforms, could that G.I. Joe crap have been any dorkier? Our new fatigues are super-comfy zebra-print pajama pants and a T-shirt from Nazareth's Hair of the Dog tour. How freaking intimidating is that going to be to other countries?

**A lot of you may have seen movies or heard stories about mean drill sergeants. No more. Not only do the new Suggestion Sergeants use phrases like “Do you mind counting off?” and “Drop and give me twenty whenever you get a minute” but they actually encourage you to yell at them.**

**That's right, you—who we're guessing have never even been able to tell an A.T.M. machine what to do—will now be telling a decorated seventy-five-year-old Korean War vet that you'll unscrew his head and shit down his neck. How sweet is that?**

You may have also read—read! psych!—you may have heard some Morning Zoo d.j.s say something about base closings. That's because we're consolidating into one huge training base that we're calling Fort Vegas. And what happens in Fort Vegas goes straight up on <http://www.army.mil/fortvegas/poolsidecam> for all your civilian friends to drool over. Who's bragging about their precious high-school diplomas now?

We've also realized that the title “Private” is demeaning. It makes you sound shy and socially awkward and unable to function in society. That's not you, no matter what your guidance counselor told you.

Now, while we can't hand out “General” or “Supreme Allied Commander” right away, we can offer you a whole bunch of options. Through a special arrangement with LucasFilm, you can enter the armed forces as, for example, Sith Lord Wojoski or Jar Jar Sanderson.

We even have an exciting design-your-own-rank program. One of our best new recruits is Neutral Evil Half-Elf Druid McCallister. And you know what? If McCallister believes his “Little Mermaid” poncho is a cloak of invisibility, we believe it makes him invisible, too. That's where we're at right now.

When you look at female soldiers, we know what you're worried about: the “L” word. Lynndie, as in England.

We assure you, our female recruits don't look like that.

In fact, there's this one who looks like a cross between Pam Anderson and Gisele Bündchen, only with bigger breasts. Picture that with a cigarette in her mouth, holding a leash! I don't think the international community would be complaining. Plus, we hear

she just broke up with her boyfriend. Now she's just looking for someone who is down to earth and isn't a jerk and will watch sports with her. We can introduce you.

**Some of you might still be thinking that though the Army sounds neat, you're not so keen on getting killed overseas in some country you couldn't find on a map, if for some reason you accidentally clicked on a map.**

**No worries. We've been fighting for three years now, and—get this—we've racked up so many points that we've got tons of bonus lives. You could actually die in two or three suicide bombings and be totally fine.**

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## **War Profiteers Fight New Laws Against Crooked Procurement**

August 18, 2005 GovExec.com

**A coalition of 10 groups representing defense contractors has raised objections to several legislative provisions designed to stem procurement ethics breaches.**

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### **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

## **Resistance Reignites In Fallujah**

**Resistance attacks against the US occupation forces in the western Iraqi city have simmered over the past two months after a few-month lull.**

**On August 15, the headquarters of the US forces in the city was attacked with mortar shells, causing a partial destruction to the building, but no casualties.**

August 18, 2005 (IslamOnline.net)

**Continued provocations by the US occupation forces and the Iraqi National Guards as well as dilapidated infrastructure and services are reigniting resistance attacks in the western Baghdad city of Fallujah, residents have said.**

**"The incessant provocative practices of US-backed Iraqi guardsmen, including nighttime house raids, insults and theft are infuriating the population," Ahmed Shaker, a Fallujah resident, told IslamOnline.net Thursday, August 18.**

**"Such practices fuel hatred towards the occupation troops and the Iraqi forces and consequently increase resistance attacks."**

**Resistance attacks against the US occupation forces in the western Iraqi city have simmered over the past two months after a few-month lull.**

**On August 15, the headquarters of the US forces in the city was attacked with mortar shells, causing a partial destruction to the building, but no casualties.**

Ahmed Khalil, a 45-year-old Baghdad resident, lashed out at the watertight security slapped against Fallujah.

"I have to wait for more than five hours at a US checkpoint just to get a chance to visit my relatives inside Fallujah," he told IOL.

The occupation forces are imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the city leaving the residents almost imprisoned inside their own houses. The city is also suffering severe power and water shortage.

**"The curfew, lasting from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. and the dilapidated services are feeding attacks against the US troops and the Iraqi security forces," Khalil said.**

**Iraqis analysts gave a different reading of the situation.**

**"The increase in attacks is part of a strategy under which resistance groups operate, " Nabil Mohamed Salim, a Baghdad University political science professor, told IOL.**

**He said resistance groups take into consideration not just the practices of the occupation forces but also political considerations.**

**"Therefore, the rate of attacks goes up and down according to these developments."**

***Salim further maintained that resistance operations have never stopped, blaming a media blackout.***

**"There is a media blackout on covering the resistance attacks, which have been going unabated against the occupation forces."**

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## **Official Lashes Out At U.S. Occupation: "The First Government Minister Who Publicly Condemns U.S. Troops"**

August 18, 2005 By Faiz Jawad, Azzaman

**A government minister has openly lambasted U.S. occupation of the country, blaming it for the upsurge in violence and rampant corruption.**

**Salam al-Maliki, transport minister, said the presence of U.S.-led troops was as detrimental to the country's well-being as the devastation resulting from terror attacks.**

**"Corruption, terror ... and occupation are taking their daily toll on the life of Iraqi citizens," Maliki said in an interview.**

**He said the worsening conditions in Iraq along with the hike in terror, insurgent attacks and violence "are a product of the occupation."**

**Maliki is the first government minister who publicly condemns U.S. troops, saying that they shoulder the responsibility of the chaos in the country.**

Maliki, a Muslim Shiite, was the former deputy governor of the southern city of Basra for administrative affairs.

He won a seat in the National Assembly in January elections in which he stood as a candidate for Moqtada al-Sadr's political movement.

**"As for the issue of administrative corruption ... Iraq now tops the ranks of the most corrupt countries in the world," he said.**

Maliki said the U.S. and its administration of the country bear the responsibility "for the chaos that has engulfed the country."

The U.S., he said, divided power in Iraq along religious, ethnic and sectarian lines "and this division has been a factor leading to its destruction."

Sadr himself has been closely following current affairs in the country, often issuing statements to express his movement's views on the form of administration the country should have.

**He recently lambasted Iraqi lawmakers drafting the constitution, saying their desire to set up a federal system was a recipe for the division of the country.**

Maliki said he would prefer to see a secular constitution rather than one in which Islam is the main source of legislation. But he said he would reject a constitution that pursues western secularism.

"While I do not call for the establishment of an Islamic state, this does not mean that Islam should not be there in the constitution," he said.

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

# **“All Components Of Iraqi Society Are Present Both Within The Green Zone And In The Resistance”**

**Several thousand supporters of a Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Al Sadr marched through a district of the capital Baghdad denouncing federalism, saying it would rip Iraq apart. 8/20/2005 The Peninsula**

18 - 24 August 2005 Hana Al-Bayaty, AL-AHRAM (Egypt) [Excerpt] & 8/20/2005 The Peninsula

**The occupation is well aware of the lack of legitimacy the government suffers from.**

**It was thrown into power, after all, following controversial elections that were boycotted by half of the population. Those who did vote thought that a sovereign government would be able to negotiate the occupation's end.**

**Instead, the government has had to abide by US dictate; conducting large-scale military operations across the country, alienating further swathes of the population, discrediting those in the Green Zone. It seems unlikely that Iraqi legislators will reach an agreement if they don't have US support.**

Meanwhile, outside the heavily fortified Green Zone, the Iraqi resistance seems more and more confident in its capacity to confront the occupation.

**The unofficial "Iraqi Sunni Resistance" fights for a unified Iraq, rejects the TAL and the idea of partition.**

**It seems unlikely that the greater involvement of Sunnis in the political process would draw support away from the armed struggle as the resistance expresses opposition to all forms of sectarianism, especially to being labelled as Sunni.**

**It considers, at the present moment, anyone negotiating with the US coalition a traitor. "Sunni" self-appointed representatives in the National Assembly, therefore, are not recognised.**

Despite Condoleezza Rice's assessment that the insurgency in Iraq is losing steam as a political force, some major political developments took place at the end of last month.

**Representatives of all major anti-occupation forces, including nationalists, Islamists and leftists, met in Beirut on 27 July and issued a joint call for the creation of an Iraqi "National Front for Liberation and Democratic Reconstruction".**

US Ambassador Khalilzad might warn of the threat of a civil war in Iraq, but this conflict cannot be described as such.

**All components of Iraqi society are present both within the Green Zone and in the resistance.**

The conflict rather opposes the minority who agrees to participate to the so-called "political process" as set out by the occupation and those who want to reclaim Iraqi sovereignty and see the withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraqi soil.

**We are, for example, led to believe that all Shia support the present situation, but an aide of Shia cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, Sheikh Abdul Hadi Al-Daraji, declared that Al-Sadr's followers managed to gather one million signatures demanding a US withdrawal.**

"The Iraqi people," he said, "confirmed that the presence of the occupation is not wanted."

**The real issue in Iraq is not the constitution but the split between those doing business with the occupation and others fighting for fundamental sovereignty.**

**Several thousand supporters of a Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Al Sadr marched through a district of the capital Baghdad denouncing federalism, saying it would rip Iraq apart. 8/20/2005 The Peninsula**

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## GET THE MESSAGE?



**Iraqis shout at U.S. forces during the funeral for three brothers, Khalil, Khaled and Jamal Hossein Abbas in the Amariya area of west Baghdad August 18, 2005. The**



**three men were shot dead after a raid on their house by U.S. and Iraqi troops, witnesses said. REUTERS/Ali Jasim**

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

August 19, 2005 The Associated Press & AlJazeera & (Xinhuanet)

**Guerrillas seized three members of Iraq's largest Sunni Muslim party Friday and shot them to death hours later.**

The three were captured in the city's southern neighborhood of New Mosul, said Nouredine al-Hayali of the Iraqi Islamic Party. They were later shot dead in Mosul's northern neighborhood of Nour.

Witnesses said masked militants blocked a major road in front of Dhi al-Nourein Mosque, then brought the three out of cars. They forced them to stand against a wall, sprayed them with gunfire and fled. The bodies were left behind.

**The Iraqi Islamic Party has been urging Sunni Muslims in recent weeks to register to vote in an October referendum on the new constitution and to take part in general elections planned for Dec. 15.**

Many Sunni Muslims boycotted the Jan. 30 elections following threats by insurgents and calls by clerics not to participate in the U.S.-backed political process.

**Guerrillas killed five people and wounded four including the governor of Iraq's western Anbar province in the provincial capital Ramadi on Thursday, local residents told Xinhua.**

**"Unidentified armed men fired at Anbar Governor Mamoun al-Alwani as he was leaving Ramadi's main al-Dawla al-Kabeer mosque, wounding him and killing three of his bodyguards along with two policemen," the residents said.**

Thursday's meeting focused on the participation of the province's mainly Sunni Arabs in the political process and communicating with insurgents to ease the situation in the volatile province. [Looks like the communication went the other way.]

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

**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# Why Casey Sheehan Was Killed

08/19/05 by Aaron Glantz, Common Dreams

**Since President Bush won't meet with Cindy Sheehan to explain why her son Casey died in Iraq, I thought I would put forward the information I have. Like Army Specialist Casey Sheehan, I was in Baghdad's Sadr City on April 4, 2004.**

I was there as an unembedded journalist. Unlike Casey Sheehan, I wasn't killed.

**I had traveled to Sadr City to cover the Bush Administration's undemocratic attack on the movement of Shi'ite cleric Muqtada Sadr.**

It didn't matter that the cleric had millions of followers or that he was scion to an important political family with a history of standing up to tyranny. (His father was killed by Saddam's regime for fomenting revolution in 1999. His uncle, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Sadr, was killed for leading an insurrection against Ba'ath rule in 1980.)

It didn't matter that Sadr's forces were providing food aid to the poor, or organizing traffic patrol and garbage duty in an atmosphere with no basic services.

**The problem for Bush and his Iraq Administrator L. Paul Bremer was that Sadr was against American occupation. So he had to be dealt with. First his newspaper was closed. Then his top advisor was arrested. Then, Bremer announced an unnamed judge was demanding Sadr be arrested on charges of murder.**

"He's effectively attempting to establish his authority in place of the legitimate Iraqi government," US Administrator Paul Bremer told reporters. "We will not tolerate that."

**That was the last straw. Until April 4, 2004 Muqtada Sadr had urged his followers to protest peacefully against American occupation. But the American assault lead him to urge his followers to "terrorize the enemy."**

**In the first 48 hours of fighting Sadr's followers seized police stations and government buildings across the country including the Governor's Office in Basra.**

**At least 75 Iraqis and 10 American servicemen were killed, among them Army Specialist Casey Sheehan.**

As an unembedded journalist I saw only the Iraqi casualties (the U.S. casualties being taken away to military hospitals). My translator Waseem and I weaved through roads closed by American tanks until we arrived at Sadr City's al-Ubaidi hospital.

There, I interviewed 15 year old Ali Hussein. He lay in the hospital - an American bullet lodged in his gut. He was barely able to lift his head, but he wanted to say a few words

to the American reporter: "I was standing in my door-way and I was shot," he said. "I don't have anything to say to the Americans. It's just between them and God."

A few miles away at Baghdad's Mustansuriye University, hundreds of students marched through the center of campus. They chanted: the dead want a brave people so we won't follow the law of Bremer.

"We will act according to the situation that we face," said Wassam Mehdi Hussein, head of the Islamic Union of Iraqi Students standing by al-Sadr's declaration of jihad against the occupation. "We will use any means peaceful and violent."

**Another Mustansuriye student, Ali Mohammed, noted the violence started when the American military closed Sadr's newspaper and arrested his top advisor.**

"We don't want to fight the Americans," he told me. "We are very grateful to them. They are very dear to us because they released us from Saddam. But at the same time we want them to do something for humanity. A lot of people are suffering from hunger and sitting at home having no work."

"These things make the situation bad and then we turn to explosions. We want to respect them and we want them to respect us."

A year on, such respect still isn't forth-coming – even to Americans like Cindy Sheehan, who deserve to know the truth of why their sons have been killed in Iraq. **[Perhaps next time the writer might offer a thought about that, as in, he was killed because the super-rich American Imperial corporate class that runs everything decided they wanted to grab Iraq. Duh.]**

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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

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

## **Politicians**

From: Alan S  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 19, 2005

**It's not what politicians (elected or otherwise) do or say that's relevant; it's what they don't say and don't do that's usually more important.**

It's incumbent upon any and all of us who want necessary change to discover (for ourselves) and relate to others what truth we might encounter in the vacuums popular culture leaves, us knowing full well that same truth is as imperfect as we are, and by no means absolute.

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## When Sheehan Has Friends Like This, Her Enemies Can Relax And Keep The Empire Going

18 August 2005 By Norman Solomon, Truthout Perspective

The day after Wednesday night's nationwide vigils, the big headline at the top of the MoveOn.org home page said: "Support Cindy Sheehan."

But MoveOn does not support Cindy Sheehan's call for *swift* withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. [Maybe that's because Sheehan makes no such call. How can the writer possibly be unaware her position is for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Iraq, not some bullshit "swift" withdrawal? So, while rightly kneecapping MoveOn for waffling on Iraq, he waffles on Iraq, in a truly dishonorable way, by falsifying what Sheehan is for.]

Many groups were important to the success of the August 17 vigils, but the online powerhouse MoveOn was the largest and most prominent. [August 17 was an uprising from below, not something summoned up by MoveOn or any other group. Many organizations played key roles, like Veterans For Peace, unnamed in this account, but people acted for themselves.] After a long stretch of virtual absence from Iraq war issues, the organization deserves credit for getting re-involved in recent months. But the disconnects between MoveOn and much of the grassroots antiwar movement are disturbing.

Part of the problem is MoveOn's routine fuzziness about the war - and the way that the group is inclined to water down the messages of antiwar activism, much of which is not connected to the organization.

Consider how the MoveOn website summarized the vigils: "Last night, tens of thousands of supporters gathered at 1,625 vigils to acknowledge the sacrifices made by Cindy Sheehan, her son Casey and the more than 1,800 brave American men and women who have given their lives in Iraq - and their moms and families." **Such a gloss excludes a key reason why many people participated in the vigils: They wanted to express clear opposition to any further US involvement in the war.**

Despite its high-profile role in the vigils this week, MoveOn is still not giving a high priority to addressing the Iraq war in its ongoing work. When I went to the MoveOn website today and looked at its roster of "Current Campaigns," just a single item on the list was focused on Iraq - and that one, from June, involved "demanding that Bush address the evidence in the 'Downing Street Memo.'"

The political action wing of MoveOn has committed itself to supporting congressional legislation, co-sponsored by Reps. Walter Jones and Neil Abercrombie, that would require the president to start withdrawing troops from Iraq ... by October 2006.

In contrast, MoveOn never supported Rep. Lynn Woolsey's resolution, introduced early this year, stating that "the president should develop and implement a plan to begin the immediate withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Iraq." Nor has MoveOn gotten behind Rep. Barbara Lee's more recent bill to prevent the establishment of permanent US military bases in Iraq.

What if MoveOn were to directly ask its 3 million members (people who've signed up for its e-mailings) whether they favor the idea of waiting till autumn 2006 before the start of US troop withdrawal from Iraq - or whether, on the other hand, those members would prefer that **withdrawal get underway before the end of this year?** [There it is. **"The end of the year" means four months more of dead and maimed U.S. troops and dead and maimed Iraqis. That's what Solomon wants. And that sure as hell is what Sheehan is fighting against.**]

I believe that most MoveOn members would opt for the latter scenario.

**But MoveOn policy is set by a few individuals who have not been willing to put such options in front of members for a vote.**

On Tuesday, the day before the vigils, Cindy Sheehan said in a conference call that the Jones-Abercrombie timeline is "not soon enough."

She doesn't see any good reason to continue the US military occupation; she's opposed to any delay in pulling out. And while it's all well and good for MoveOn to tell people to "Support Cindy Sheehan," the MoveOn leadership should publicly explain why the organization refuses to join her in supporting a swift withdrawal of all US troops from Iraq. [Check out how he finally has to sort of pay lip service to what Sheehan says, "opposed to any delay in pulling out," and then he immediately morphs it into his "swift" withdrawal line, which, of course, is not her position. This Gold Star mother is opposed to one more death or one more day.]

During the next few weeks, MoveOn will have an opportunity to devote some of its appreciable resources to strengthening the antiwar movement.

With an umbrella theme of "End the War on Iraq - Bring the Troops Home Now," protests in Washington and elsewhere are on the calendar for September 24-26. [At least he didn't propose changing that to **"Bring The Troops Home Swiftly, Four Months From Now; Those That Are Still Alive Anyhow."**]

The national coalition United for Peace & Justice is playing a key role in creating momentum for those demonstrations, which will begin an autumn of historic antiwar activism. Hopefully, MoveOn will catch up with its grassroots base and get involved in a supportive way.

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# **“Victory In Iraq Is Neither Likely Nor Essential”**

## **“Exactly Why Are We There?”**

August 18, 2005 Chicago Tribune, Steve Chapman

**"It is dawning on the American public that victory in Iraq is neither likely nor essential, which raises the question: Exactly why are we there?"**

**The president says we have to see the war through to a successful outcome rather than pull out and leave the country to chaos.**

**But Iraq is already in chaos, which presents the real dilemma: Should we accept failure now, with 1,850 dead, or later, after even more lives have been squandered?**

**It's a bitter choice, but not a hard one."**

**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**

### ***Occupation Follies Roll On: This Is Not A Satire***

19 August 2005 By Noam N. Levey, The Los Angeles Times

In the Green Zone on Thursday, leading spokesmen for the US military and the Iraqi government presented what they said were positive developments in the country.

**"We believe we are on the right glide path," Army Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, deputy chief of staff in Iraq, said as he ticked off reconstruction projects, tallied insurgents and weapons captured, and discussed a new feature entitled "Successes This Week in Iraq," which appears on a military website.**

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

# The Settlers' Retreat Was The Theatre Of The Cynical

**Within sight of the Gush Katif settlements that have been handled with such kid gloves this week, families in Rafah were usually given a maximum of five minutes' warning before their houses, and life savings, were crushed. Many people did not even have time to go upstairs to collect belongings when the barking of loudspeakers ordered them out, sometimes before dawn. Fleeing with their children in the night, they risked being shot if they turned round or delayed.**

August 19, 2005 Jonathan Steele, Guardian [Excerpts]

**Contrast the world's overwhelming coverage, especially on television, of the departure of Israeli settlers from Gaza with the minimal reporting of larger and more brutal evictions in previous months.**

**There was no "sensitivity training" for Israeli troops, no buses to drive the expellees away, no generous deadlines to get ready, no compensation packages for their homes, and no promise of government-subsidised alternative housing when the bulldozers went into Rafah.**

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**As many as 13,350 Palestinians were made homeless in the Gaza Strip in the first 10 months of last year by Israel's giant armour-plated Caterpillar bulldozers - a total that easily exceeds the 8,500 leaving Israeli settlements this week.** In Rafah alone, according to figures from the UN relief agency Unrwa, the rate of house demolitions rose from 15 per month in 2002 to 77 per month between January and October 2004.

Parts of Rafah now resemble areas of Kabul or Grozny. Facing Israeli army watchtowers and the concrete wall that runs close to the Gaza Strip's boundary, rows of rubble and ruined homes stretch for hundreds of yards.

These cruel evictions have of course been reported, and some foreigners who tried to block or record them, such as Rachel Corrie, Tom Hurndall and James Miller, paid with their lives alongside scores of murdered local Palestinians. But coverage was never as comprehensive or intense as this week's removals of Israelis.



**Sharon wanted the world's media to see the protracted agony of the settlers, so as to make the (spurious) point that if it is hard to get 8,500 to leave Gaza, getting 400,000 to withdraw from the West Bank and east Jerusalem will be impossible. However sincere the settlers' grief is at leaving their homes, for the organisers of the retreat it was theatre of the cynical.**

As they were dragged off, some Israeli zealots had no shame in minimising the Holocaust, absurdly comparing unarmed Israeli police to the Gestapo.

**Others used racist insults. "Jews do not expel Jews," they shouted, presumably wanting to imply that only non-Jews do it. They apparently did not realise that most people will see the irony in terms of contemporary rather than historical events - "Jews do not expel Jews ... Jews expel Arabs."**

Sharon - one of whose nicknames, appropriately, is Bulldozer - wants to expand the West Bank settlements and demolish more Palestinian homes around Jerusalem.

The break-up of the settlements will give those in Gaza freedom to move within their narrow enclave, but this benefit may be outweighed by the West Bank's losses. One of the worst places in Gaza used to be the Abu Houli crossing, a tunnel for Palestinian vehicles that went under the road to the Israeli settlements of Gush Katif. At any moment Israeli Land Rovers or tanks would emerge to block the tunnel, leaving Palestinians stranded on what was the only road linking the north and south of Gaza. Pregnant mothers could not get to hospital. Relatives missed weddings. Students failed to reach their colleges to take exams.

**Israel intends to build at least 16 gated crossings in the West Bank.**

**It is one thing to have segregated roads - a step that America's Deep South and apartheid South Africa never reached. But to insist on the right to block even those roads that are allocated to Palestinians is grotesque.**

**The West Bank will be sliced into a series of ghettoes that Israeli forces can isolate at will.**

**Whatever the security justification, the effect is to impose collective punishment on every Palestinian.**

**No one should be surprised if, in the face of such injustice, Palestinian anger and resistance grow.**

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## **“Prisoners In A Giant Penal Colony”**

[Thanks to Liz Burbank for posting.]

August 17, 2005 By JENNIFER LOEWENSTEIN, Counterpunch [Excerpts]

The settlers will relocate to other parts of Israel and in some cases to other illegal settlements in the West Bank handsomely compensated for their inconvenience.

**Indeed, each Jewish family leaving the Gaza Strip will receive between \$140,000 and \$400,000 just for the cost of the home they leave behind. But these details are rarely mentioned in the tempest of reporting on the "great confrontation" and "historical moment" brought to us by Sharon and the thieving, murderous settler-culture he helped create.**

**In the 5 years of Israel's brutal suppression of the Palestinian uprising against the occupation, I never once saw or heard a segment as long and with as much sentimental, human detail as I did here; never once remember a reporter allowing a sympathetic young Palestinian woman, whose home was just bulldozed and who lost everything she owned, tell of her pain and sorrow, of her memories and her family's memories; never got to listen to her reflect on where she would go now and how she would live.**

Where were the cameramen in May 2004 in Rafah when refugees twice over lost their homes again in a single night's raid, able to retrieve nothing of what they owned?

**Where were they when bulldozers and tanks tore up paved streets with steel blades, wrecked the sewage and water pipes, cut electricity lines, and demolished a park and a zoo; when snipers shot two children, a brother and sister, feeding their pigeons on the roof of their home?**

**When the occupying army fired a tank shell into a group of peaceful demonstrators killing 14 of them including two children?**

Where have they been for the past five years when the summer heat of Rafah makes life so unbearable it is all one can do to sit quietly in the shade of one's corrugated tin roof -- because s/he is forbidden to go to the sea, ten minutes' walking distance from the city center? Or because if they ventured to the more open spaces they became walking human targets?

**And when their citizens resisted, where were the accolades and the admiring media to comment on the "pluck," the "will" and "audacity" of these "young people"?**

Where were these hundreds of journalists when each of the 680 Palestinian children shot to death by Israeli soldiers over the last 5 years was laid to rest by grief-stricken family members? The shame of it all defies words.

**Sharon's unilateral "Disengagement" plan is not ending the occupation of Gaza.** The Israelis are not relinquishing control over the Strip. They are retaining control of all land, air and sea borders including the Philadelphi corridor along the Gaza/Egypt border where the Egyptians may be allowed to patrol under Israel's watchful eye and according to Israel's strictest terms.

**The 1.4 million inhabitants of Gaza remain prisoners in a giant penal colony, despite what their partisan leaders are attempting to claim. The IDF is merely redeploying outside the Gaza Strip, which is surrounded by electrical and**

**concrete fences, barbed wire, watchtowers, armed guards and motion sensors, and it will retain the authority to invade Gaza on a whim.**

I am reminded of an interview I had this summer in Beirut with Hussein Nabulsi of Hizbullah an organization that has had nothing to do with the movement for Palestinian national liberation whatsoever, but one that has become allied with those it sees as the real victims of US and Israeli policies and lies.

I remember his tightly shut eyes and his clenched fists as he asked how long Arabs and Muslims were supposed to accept the accusations that they are the victimizers and the terrorists.

**"It hurts," he said in a whispered ardor. "It hurts so much to watch this injustice every day." And he went on to explain to me why the Americans and the Israelis with their monstrous military arsenals will never be victorious.**

[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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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **Silly Cheney Thinks War Will Go On Another 400 Years Minimum**

August 18, 2005 Washington Post

Vice President Cheney declared that the United States "will not relent" in the war in Iraq and will hunt down insurgents there "one at a time if necessary."

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### ***Good News Dept.* Officer Corps Alienated From White House; Republicans Pissing Pants Over Sheehan**

19 August 2005 By Jim Lobe, Inter Press Service & 18 August 2005 By Ron Fournier, The Associated Press

When senior military commanders began floating the idea that Washington could begin withdrawing substantial numbers of its 140,000 troops in Iraq by next spring, Bush himself dismissed it as mere speculation.

**That exchange, in addition to further alienating the officer corps from the White House,** spurred a spate of new attacks by prominent neo-conservatives against Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld, whom they have always blamed for being insufficiently committed to "transforming" Iraq.

While her anti-war backers maintain the vigil in Texas, **Republican Party leaders are worried that the so-called Peace Mom has brought long-simmering unease over Iraq to a boil by galvanizing anti-war activists.**

**They fear that protests will strike a chord with the large number of Americans who have long felt uneasy about the war yet have been giving Bush the benefit of the doubt.**

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## **Welcome To The U.S.A., Land Of The Free: One-Year-Old Stays On Terrorist List**

**"This is guilty until proven innocent," said Zapolsky, who is reluctant to give screeners even more personal information about her son. "If we're not free to travel without giving a blood sample, then we're not free."**

August 17, 2005 BY MICHAEL McAULIFF, DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WASHINGTON - Sarah Zapolsky's 1-year-old son had better get used to being looked at as a possible terrorist every time his family gets on a plane.**

**That's because experts and officials say there's no way the toddler's name will be taken off the federal no-fly list - even after he and another tot made headlines for being stopped as potential terror threats.**

"His name is the same or similar to someone on the no-fly list," said Ann Davis, a spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration, explaining that even though a baby is not a threat, someone out there with the same name is, and the name must be kept on the list.

**The best Zapolsky and her husband can hope for is a letter that tells airport screeners that the little boy is harmless, and that he's been added to a "cleared" list.**

**But, it turns out, that, too, will be impossible for the 1-year-old.**

**Before the federal agency will issue such a letter, the person on the list must fill out and have notarized an application that asks for things like height, weight and three forms of government ID.**

"Um, excuse me, but he's growing," said Zapolsky. She also noted her son lacks documents like a military ID, voter's registration or a driver's license.

One federal worker in Nevada said he's on the list even though he's got a federal security clearance.

**An accountant in Texas said he's encountered an airline that will cancel a flight if he's on it. He gets stopped 90% of the time, even though he's been told his name isn't exactly the same. "My middle initial is C, and I have a (suffix) of junior and it doesn't even make a difference," the 52-year-old said.**

"We get at least 50 major inquiries a month, and they are all people on the list for silly reasons," said Tim Sparapani, legal counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. "We have a lot of J. Millers that show up, a lot of B. Smiths."

**"This is guilty until proven innocent," said Zapolsky, who is reluctant to give screeners even more personal information about her son. "If we're not free to travel without giving a blood sample, then we're not free."**

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## **Received:**

# **Straws In The Wind**

From: John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 18, 2005  
Subject: Straws In The Wind

**Personally I did not like the letter by Josh Gibbs, Straws In The Wind [GI Special 3C19: A guest article that appeared originally in Army Times.]**

*"The Middle East is chock-full of people who still support Saddam. Some of those countries also tend to support terrorism, in one way or another."*

We all know it is not "Saddam" followers that are the bulk of the resistance.

*"... it drew out the wackos who want to be martyrs."*

This statement goes against what you have been saying all along. that these are men that are fighting for their families, homes, and to rid themselves of the forgiven invaders.

*"This war will not be won by killing a man with a famous name."*

*"It will be won by not taking any of our freedoms and liberties for granted and, most important, by showing unwavering support for our men and women serving overseas."*

Winning the war?

Come on!

All in all I thank you again and again for all your efforts.

Keep up the good fight!

### **REPLY:**

Yes, it has the comments quoted above. And your criticisms are on target.

His point was, however, that the war is fucked up, we're losing freedoms and liberties here at home, and that something has gone terribly wrong.

During Vietnam, there were plenty of troops who moved from wholehearted support of the war into opposition to it, but not like throwing a light switch, just waking up one morning in Cu Chi and announcing "I reject the American Empire and all its works."

It took time. Old ideas sat there in troops' heads right alongside pieces of new reality based on what they were seeing with their eyes.

Sometimes that would sound pretty messy when expressed. Somebody might say, for instance, "These slopes don't want us here, they don't give a shit for anything, they're stabbing us in the back, the ARVN all secretly love the Commie rats, let's get the fuck out of here right now and go home, and if that fucking Captain orders us up this fucking hill one more time, I will waste his miserable ass."

Of course that sentence you just read compressed a lot of Vietnam era comments into once imaginary sentence, but the point is that as the troops' minds began to change, a process unfolded that led to clearer statements about the war later on. And at first, objection to the war was often wrapped in the flag, containing all kinds of contradictions.

As long as a soldier is moving in the right direction, starting to question, starting to express the idea that he's been betrayed by political bullshit, let's help him along.

Imagine if somebody from Vets For Peace had been sitting there with him. He's open to discussion. Even if he is a Lt. So are a lot of others.

Also, it's important that civilians here in the USA be aware of what kind of changes the troops are going through.

This is the note introducing the article from GI Special 3C19, where it appeared:

**[This is run as a perfect reflection of the turmoil churning in the intermediate layers of the armed services. There is an instinctive understanding that something has gone wrong, that our liberties are threatened here at home, that what the politicians are spinning is nonsense, but the writer hasn't crossed the**

**last bridge: recognition that the politicians are nothing more than shills for the corporate empire builders who have betrayed the services into this stupid disaster in Iraq. T]**

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