

## GI SPECIAL 3C41:



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**“I Have Refused To Go  
To Iraq And Serve In  
This Illegal, Unjust, And  
Undemocratic War”**

From: SOLDIERMEDIC

To: GI Special

Sent: September 02, 2005 11:20 AM

Subject:

For too long I've remained silent on a number of issues, mostly for fear that I would jeopardize my chances for discharge as a conscientious objector from the US Army Reserve.

**I am a staff sergeant with over 12 years of service to this nation in both active and reserve components.**

**However, I have refused to go to Iraq and serve in this illegal, unjust, and undemocratic war. My case is still pending, but my conscience can no longer bear the weight of not speaking out.**

**I chose GI Special as the first place to announce my disgust with my commander-in-chief because it is here that I find what I consider the truth regarding the troops.**

**What follows are a few sketches that I hope to flesh out over the coming weeks and am confident your readers will find some insights that resonate with their experiences.**

**1) Hurricane Katrina--What finally drove me over the edge this morning was watching news coverage and hearing reports on DemocracyNow! about the debacle in New Orleans. In a sense the levees of my conscience finally gave way, allowing the rage that has been building up inside me to overflow.**

**I hope my words have as devastating an effect on this so-called administration, as the hurricane and subsequent flood had on the poor people of Louisiana.**

**My initial impression was surprise that so many of my black brothers and sisters were left for dead while others headed for the hills.**

**But then I realized that this is America, and we have a long history of discrimination against people of color (of which I am one) so it should come as no surprise that the refugees would be predominantly dark-skinned people.**

**My second impression was that these are nearly all poor people who did not have the means to escape the devastation and they unfortunately relied on the government to have a plan.**

**The government indeed had a plan, but it did not include the poor black people of the south.**

**So while this may be linked to a natural disaster, the real force lies behind the race and class discrimination inherent in the structure of American society.**

**Am I blaming the system for what the invisible hand has created? Perhaps.**

**Or maybe I'm simply drawing attention to the underlying current that connects people struggling in the Gulf Coasts (both Mexican and Persian gulfs).**

**Indeed, there exists a widening gulf between the rich, mostly white, elites and the poor, mostly brown and black, masses around the world. Through the events unfolding in the deep south I begin to understand what MLK meant when he said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

**2) Shoot to kill--The governor of Louisiana and the commanding officer of a Military Police battalion recently back from Iraq, were both quoted as saying that lethal force would be used against the refugees in New Orleans to restore order.**

**Reports mentioned that the troops had M-16's and they knew how to use them.**

**Presumably this meant these are battle-tested trained killers who have no qualms about shooting civilians.**

**What is truly remarkable about this story is that these troops, poor bastards that they are, have just returned from year long deployments in the most dangerous place in the world and are now faced with not only the destruction of their hometown but the prospect of having to shoot their refugee neighbors.**

No amount of VA funding will be able to deal with the post traumatic stress these men and women are up against.

**As a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, I fully support these soldiers in any dissent they wish to express toward this ridiculous mission.**

**My admonition to them is remember, you are CITIZEN and a SOLDIER. These are NOT mutually exclusive.**

**No one has more right to speak than the troops who have served this nation. You are asked to sacrifice much, but you are not asked to stop thinking for yourself. At least not by the American people.**

**Remember that one of the Army values is personal courage. Cultivate that courage and stand up to unlawful orders. The regulations and the law of the land are behind you in that regard.**

**Finally, remember that ANTI-WAR DOES NOT MEAN ANTI-SOLDIER.**

**On the contrary, we realize that no one appreciates the value of peace more than combat veterans. I for one support and respect you as human beings and public servants. You've done what my conscience prevented me from doing. And for that, you have earned my admiration and a personal promise to do everything I can to ensure that you are taken care of as a veteran.**

Tom, thank you for the opportunity to vent my frustration. There's more where that came from, as they say.

**I have been inspired by other troops that I read about in your paper. People like Camillo Mejia, Pablo Paredes, Kevin Benderman, Soldier X, etc. In your own way, you are providing a service to the grassroots of this wonderful nation we live in. You are standing on the shoulders of giants by continuing the tradition of a popular press. Jeff would be proud of you. For that I commend you and look forward to struggling with you to change things in some small way for the better.**

**This is my first dispatch to GI Special. It will not be my last...**

Respect,  
SOLDIERMEDIC

[REPLY: GI Special can report what goes on, but real change comes through action, like the action taken by SOLDIERMEDIC, and others, to resist what is wrong and dishonorable, and organize to fight for what is right and honorable, including protecting civilians against the enemy. Right now we have a shitload of enemies domestic on the loose to contend with, in high places, as the writer points out.

[The next news item is also about people taking action. Help, if you can. And mark well the line below: "THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT HERE!" Excuse the new-age bullshit, but sometimes it really is true: as one door closes, another opens, even if just for a little while. Signs of things to come. Their government of, by and for the predators, brings us misery, disaster and war. Someday, theirs will be gone, shattered to pieces when we've had enough of it, and we'll organize and have our own, one that people like SOLDIERMEDIC can be truly proud of.]

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***Help Katrina Refugees:  
"Financial Donations Are  
Useless"***  
**SEND WHAT THEY NEED:  
A New Camp Casey In  
Covington, Louisiana**

9.2.05 Crawford Peace

*This report came through the new Yahoo group for Camp Casey Alumni. It pretty much speaks for itself.*

**Hurricane Relief - Katrina-Refugees:  
Veterans For Peace Road Trip**

Where did the food go? What about the Medical supplies? How about all the water that was never sucked up in the 109 degree heat of Camp Casey?

It got loaded up by the team and members of the Veterans For Peace Chapter 116, Mendocino County, ([www.vfpoadtrips.org](http://www.vfpoadtrips.org)) and hauled out with Annie and Buddy

**Spell of the Louisiana Activist Network, Commanding the way to as close as Camp Casey could get to the catastrophe in Louisiana.**

**Alberto signed on the tour in Austin and we were joined by Alex and Ella of Minnesota who spent a lot of time at Camp Casey the past month.**

**We are here, CAMP CASEY is alive, the food is cooking, and we are handing out supplies to the citizens of the community. We need help. Louisiana Activist Network and the VFP Chapter 116 are the only ones here in Covington.**

**We are in the Same Camp, Different Ditch 96 degrees today**

The ditch is at:

Reverend Peter Atkins Park in Covington. Corner of 28th and Tyler in Covington. Louisiana

**Where we can take mail: 124 E 14th Street, Covington, LA 70433**

**The Mendocino, CA Chapter (#116) of Veterans for Peace has joined the Louisiana Activist Network on the corner of Tyler and 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Covington, LA where we have opened up a soup kitchen and medical station in a public park.**

**THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT HERE!**

**THE LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD IS NOT HERE. ONLY WE ARE HERE AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMUNITY ARE IN DISTRESS.**

**We need, immediately, the following:**

**WATER, WATER, WATER**  
ice chests with ice  
baby supplies (diapers, formula, ointments)  
low fat powdered milk  
canned foods  
fresh fruit  
gasoline  
additional generators  
shelter  
flash lights  
portable toilets

**Deliveries to: 124 E 14th Street, Covington, LA 70433**

**We, the veterans and activists of Camp Casey are here to stay.**

<b>Financial donations are useless under these circumstances. This is anarchy. We need basic supplies ASAP!</b>
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**GEORGE BUSH HAS LET THESE PEOPLE DOWN!**

**IT'S UP TO YOU AND US!**

REVEREND PETER ATKINS PARK  
CORNER OF 28TH AND TYLER  
COVINGTON, LA

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers Killed**

September 2, 2005 MNF Release A050902b

**BAGHDAD , Iraq – Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers died after their patrol struck an improvised explosive device at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 1.**

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### **U.S. Soldier Shot Dead In Iskandariyah**

09.02.05 AP

**A U.S. soldier was shot dead in the city of Iskandariyah in central Iraq, a statement said.**

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### **U.S. Convoy Hit In Baghdad, Casualties Not Announced**

9.2.05 (KUNA) & (Xinhuanet)

**On Friday morning, an explosive device went off near a US convoy in the Al-Nidal Street near the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad, causing material damage to a US military vehicle,**

Casualties were not known and the US troops cordoned off the area preventing police and people from approaching the scene.

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### **Mercenary Dead, Another Wounded**

9.2.05 (Xinhuanet)

**A roadside bomb blast targeting a four-wheel drive vehicle in central Baghdad killed a foreign security contractor and wounded another on Friday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.**

"A powerful roadside bomb blast struck a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), usually used by foreign security contractors, near the al-Andulus Square, killing a foreigner and seriously wounding another," the source said on condition of anonymity.

An SUV was badly charred at the scene, outside the Sadeer Hotel, as two US helicopters could be seen flying over the area, he said.

The nationalities of the victims were not immediately available, the source added.

It followed a similar attack against U.S. troops nearby.

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## **Mercenary Hotel Bombed**

Sep. 02, 2005 AP

**A blast occurred at a hotel used mainly by foreign contractors. One person was injured, police said. The bomb exploded as a convoy of vehicles was entering the hotel compound. One driver was injured and his vehicle was destroyed, said police Maj. Abbas Mohammed.**

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**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



Baghdad August 2, 2005. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

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# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## Convoy Hit, Two Captured

9.2.05 New York Times

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**A British engineer and his interpreter were captured, and three members of their escort killed, when their convoy was ambushed in western Afghanistan.**

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## Raids “Not Al-Qaeda's Work”

9.2.05 London Financial Times

**U.S. and allied intelligence agencies believe that the recent surge in violence in Afghanistan is not related to al Qaeda or the Taliban insurgency, but rather is the work of "disparate elements" that are unconnected and uncoordinated.**

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# TROOP NEWS

## Bulgarian Troops Going Home

September 02, 2005 The Associated Press

**Bulgaria has begun preparations to withdraw its 400 troops from Iraq, the prime minister announced Friday.**

**In May, Bulgaria's parliament voted to cut the number of troops in Iraq from 460 to 400 and to continue their mission through the end of 2005.**

**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.**



# A Soldier Speaks: Kelly Dougherty



Kelly Dougherty, at an anti-war rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in March of 2005.

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

**They're normal people, just like anyone else. They have families. They're probably either going to college or have a career that they're working on. And they have just as many questions and doubts about what's going on in Iraq -- and especially if they're there, or their family members are there. They're just not over there to serve the interests of the U.S. They have a whole separate life besides the military.**

August 24, 2005 By Celina R. De Leon, AlterNet [Excerpts]

**Kelly Dougherty, 27, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, served with the National Guard in Kuwait in February 2003 and then served in Iraq from April 2003 to February 2004. She was stationed in southern Iraq, near the city of Nazaria.**

Kelly joined the National Guard in 1996 as a medic when she was 17 to help pay for college. Now she is co-founder of a national coalition of American veterans who oppose the war, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). She speaks out across the country with IVAW about her experiences as part of the military police in Iraq and why she opposes the war and what she calls "the occupation of Iraq."

*Did you interact with any local Iraqis while you were there?*

We saw every day, Iraqis every time we worked, because we escorted convoys, who were going off base to patrol. We had a pretty large control area.

But our interaction was kind of bizarre because of course you can't interact with an Iraqi person as a U.S. military member in any kind of way you would interact with someone back home. Well, because first of all, you don't speak the same language. And we were there for ten months and for nine months we didn't have a translator.

Our job is to do policing among the Iraqis and to try to find out what the situation is, what these people are arguing about, or if they did something, and you can't even communicate with them. So that caused a lot of problems, a lot of misunderstandings,

and I think a lot of things got out of control because we just didn't understand what was going on. We couldn't talk to anyone.

**And secondly, of course we're occupying their country. You know you can't really talk to someone like an equal when you have been given all this power over people.**

I also saw, a lot of times, abuses of power by people in the military -- using excessive, unwarranted force against the Iraqis because they could get away with it. One of the things we dealt with a lot in my unit was guarding broken-down vehicles. All these convoys would drive by every day, hundreds and hundreds of vehicles every day, and most of them were owned by Brown and Root, which is a subsidiary of the Halliburton Corporation.

These fuel tankers would sometimes break down or they would get stuck in the mud and we would have to go and secure them so the Iraqis wouldn't loot them. ... One of the most frustrating things about our mission there was every day when we went out to guard these trucks, we'd have to call back to the base and request rapid route when someone recovered a vehicle because supposedly it's an asset -- because it's full of fuel and of course the money from the vehicle.

**So, we'd wait there for two or three hours guarding this vehicle from hundreds of Iraqis, who wanted to get something, because they didn't have any jobs and they were still poor. It's hard to understand how a piece of scrap metal from a vehicle can be worth something. But for people who have nothing, it really was an asset to them.**

**Inevitably, after waiting there for three hours, we'd get a call that we weren't going to get anyone out there so just leave it. We've been guarding it for three hours. Or we would get orders to destroy it and burn it. You know it's really hard when you're initially told that, 'Oh, you're going to be helping the Iraqi people,' but all that you're really doing is destroying something in front of them. That was really frustrating.**

And after a while we got some riot control stuff, what's called "less than lethal" ammunition -- bean bag shots for guns, and rubber bullets and smoke grenades. Things like that to control the crowds. I saw a lot of abuse of those things, like indiscriminate firing with rubber bullets, because you know it's probably not going to kill someone. So, for some it was funny to do drive-by shootings with rubber bullets. And the things are no joke! It could kill someone, like a small child. Or if it hits you in the face. It's something you don't play with.

We were originally in an area of Iraq that was originally one of the safer areas and it had more support from the local people for the war. But to me, I was more apprehensive every day I went out because I knew every day we were making enemies from people who might have wanted to give us the benefit of the doubt, or who had hope in us originally. Now, they (don't).

**When a mother's seven-year-old son comes home with a huge welt because he was shot by a rubber bullet, or someone threw rocks at him -- every day I could tell we were making more and more enemies. I definitely sensed a change from**

when we first got there -- when we would drive by, people would wave at us and smile at us. To when we left -- more and more people would just turn their backs or give us rude gestures.

**And of course you can't blame the Iraqi people.**

**At the same time, you can't totally blame the American soldiers. Because you're sent to Iraq without really knowing why you're there, your mission keeps changing, it seems like you're not accomplishing anything and you're kind of just protecting yourself.**

*Is there anything you would like to add that you feel is not being covered by the media?*

First of all, when I was in Iraq, the news they showed, which probably won't come too much as a surprise -- they show FOX news. That's all the coverage the military in Iraq gets.

We hear from the President and we hear from people in the military how we're going to stay the course and we're making headway, and this is so important, and we're there for all these great reasons.

**But then you don't hear mainstream voices from veterans who have been there, and seen what it's like, who have come back and are against it. ...**

**Some policy expert gets a lot more credit just because they're better educated. The mainstream media doesn't seem interested in covering a veteran's perspective or an Iraqi's perspective.**

You never hear from an average Iraqi about how they feel about it, and I think that's terrible. They're the ones whose country is being invaded. They're the ones who are having the most casualties. Something like 100,000 Iraqis have died in the war, yet you never hear from them. Like they're not even worthy to being talked to at all!

**People in Washington talk about people in the military as if all they live for is the military and this country. And we can't even talk about an exit strategy because it'll make the troops over there feel like we don't support them. ...**

**They're normal people, just like anyone else. They have families. They're probably either going to college or have a career that they're working on. And they have just as many questions and doubts about what's going on in Iraq -- and especially if they're there, or their family members are there. They're just not over there to serve the interests of the U.S. They have a whole separate life besides the military.**

They talk about us in abstract terms -- we're all these people who are serving our country. Most of the people who are over there, they're not thinking so much about, "Well, I have to stay here so the Iraqi people can have a democratic society."

They're like, "I have to do my job so that I stay alive, and the people around me also stay alive, and then we can go back home to our families." That's why they're there -- to protect the real people they are close to.

*Has IVAW faced any negative reactions or harassment?*

Overwhelmingly, we've just gotten lots of support. We get hate emails to the office, but we get many, many more positive emails. Like people wanting to join.

In March we went to Fayetteville, North Carolina -- home of Fort Bragg, the biggest army base in the nation. It's in the South and we got lots of support.

So, you never know where you're going to get support, and it's often in more places than you think.

**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))

# **GENERAL SHITHEAD UNILATERALLY ANNOUNCES SHOOT-TO-KILL POLICY FOR NEW ORLEANS' POOR AND BLACK**

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. The headline is his, and the comment that follows the Blum quote.]

"Lt. Gen. Steven Blum of the National Guard said the 7,000 National Guardsmen arriving in Louisiana on Friday would be dedicated to restoring order in New Orleans. He said half of them had just returned from assignments overseas and are "highly proficient in the use of lethal force." He pledged to put down the violence "in a quick and efficient manner."

**[BLUM'S MOTTO: IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR POOR PEOPLE IN IRAQ, WHY NOT THE POOR PEOPLE IN AMERICA?]**

**Lt. Gen. Steven Blum of the National Guard said the 7,000 National Guardsmen arriving in Louisiana on Friday would be dedicated to restoring order in New Orleans. He said half of them had just returned from assignments overseas and are "highly proficient in the use of lethal force." He pledged to put down the violence "in a quick and efficient manner."**

Sep 2 By ALLEN G. BREED, Associated Press Writer

More than four days after Hurricane Katrina struck, the National Guard arrived in force Friday with food, water and weapons, churning through the floodwaters in a vast truck convoy that was met with both catcalls and cries of "Thank you, Jesus!" from the suffering multitudes.

"Lord, I thank you for getting us out of here," Leschia Radford at the New Orleans Convention Center as the military rolled in with orders to retake the streets and feed the hungry.

But 46-year-old Michael Levy said, "They should have been here days ago. I ain't glad to see 'em" — words that brought shouts of "Hell, yeah!" from those around him. He added: "We've been sleeping on the ... ground like rats. I say burn this whole ... city down."

The arrival of the thousands of soldiers came amid blistering criticism from the mayor and others who said the federal government had bungled the relief effort and let people die in the streets for lack of food, water or medicine. Thousands are feared dead in New Orleans.

**Lt. Gen. Steven Blum of the National Guard said the 7,000 National Guardsmen arriving in Louisiana on Friday would be dedicated to restoring order in New Orleans. He said half of them had just returned from assignments overseas and are "highly proficient in the use of lethal force." He pledged to put down the violence "in a quick and efficient manner."**

With a cigar-chomping general in the convoy's lead vehicle, the camouflage-green National Guard trucks rolled through muddy water up to their axles to reach the convention center, where 15,000 to 20,000 desperate and often seething refugees had taken shelter.

Guardsmen carrying rifles also arrived at the Louisiana Superdome, where a vast crowd of bedraggled people fanned themselves miserably in the heat, waiting to be rescued from the heat, the filth and the gagging stench inside the stadium.

City officials have accused the government — namely the Federal Emergency Management Agency — of responding sluggishly.

**"Get off your asses and let's do something," the mayor told WWL-AM Thursday night in a rambling interview in which he cursed, yelled and ultimately burst into tears. At one point he said: "Excuse my French — everybody in America — but I am pissed."**

**MORE:**

# OK For Bush Buddies To Loot The Treasury But Its "Open Season" On Starving In New Orleans

September 2, 2005 Mike Whitney, Uruknet.info [Excerpt]

Rather than address the dire needs of the stranded people, Bush has approved "shoot to kill" orders for looters.

Unbelievable?!?

So, now its "open season" on starving people scavenging through the ruins of the city looking for sustenance for their family?

What possible purpose does it serve to take 1500 Guardsman off their duties of treating the wounded and feeding the hungry, and making them patrol the streets to round up petty-thieves?

And why has Bush approved the deploying of snipers to the tops of New Orleans buildings instead of health-care workers to its overcrowded facilities?

"I think there should be zero tolerance for people breaking the law during an emergency such as this," Bush boomed on ABC's Good Morning America.

Bush is a firm believer that looting should limited to the class of carpet-baggers and war criminals to which he belongs.

He has no problem with the "no-bid" contracts and war-profiteering that has plagued Iraqi debacle from day-one.

The \$9 billion of pilfered Iraqi oil revenue never even drew a raised eyebrow from our benighted leader, but the notion that that corruption might be extended democratically to everyone regardless of class.

That's the REAL crime as Bush sees it.

**MORE:**

## When The Hungry Take Food, They're Called Looters

[Thanks to CS, who sent this in.]

September 3, 2005 By JORDAN FLAHERTY, CounterPunch [Excerpt]

While the rich escaped New Orleans, those with nowhere to go and no way to get there were left behind. Adding salt to the wound, the local and national media have spent the last week demonizing those left behind. As someone that loves New Orleans and the people in it, this is the part of this tragedy that hurts me the most, and it hurts me deeply.

**No sane person should classify someone who takes food from indefinitely closed stores in a desperate, starving city as a "looter," but that's just what the media did over and over again. Sheriffs and politicians talked of having troops protect stores instead of perform rescue operations.**

**MORE:**

## **Bush Blaming The Victims Again! “The Irony Is Not Lost On This Military Veteran”**

From: George McAnamara  
To: Veterans For Peace  
Sent: September 02, 2005 12:29 PM  
Subject: Bush blaming the victims again!

It is a travesty that the Bush Administration is once again blaming the victims. We need a coordinated Federal response that provides necessary hydration, sustenance and shelter to the Hundreds of thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina and the failed policies of endless taxcuts for the wealthy and no true "Homeland Security".

We in New York City know that the Bush Administration-Federal policies are only as good as their last photo-op or sound bite. These are the same thieves with their congressional enablers that stole over \$125 million (which is inadequate anyway) from the "Ground Zero" rescue workers compensation fund on July 29th 2005!

**They keep hiring lawyers like Chertoff and the new FEMA head and yet they want to limit trial lawyers from protecting their corporate victims?**

**So the Bush Administration needs a mouthpiece but poor people damaged by corporations and failed federal policies don't need legal assistance?**

**The irony is not lost on this military veteran.**

**Bring the Troops Home now especially the National Guard for true Homeland Security.**

George McAnanama  
US Army 1966-1968  
Veterans For Peace NYC Chapter 034

**MORE:**

# **“New Orleans Looted By The U.S. Federal Government, Not The Hungry Citizens”**

## **“The Man Responsible For Their Death Strums A Guitar”**

The means of protecting the city and its people were already bought and paid for, but that money was stolen to support the “war on terror,” while stranded people who are trying to survive are described as “looters” by the newspapers.

September 02, 2005, Jolly Roger, Anti-Allawi-group. [Excerpt]

**Because the levy was never reinforced, the citizens were told to evacuate days before the hurricane hit, but no thought was given to the 100,000 people who didn't have the means to simply jump in their cars and drive away. It's much like being on a sinking ship, and seeing “Whites Only” written on all the lifeboats.**

**The means of protecting the city and its people were already bought and paid for, but that money was stolen to support the “war on terror,” while stranded people who are trying to survive are described as “looters” by the newspapers.**

**New Orleans was “looted” by the U.S. federal government, not the hungry citizens our government doomed to death, and the U.S. federal government is directly responsible for the carnage that has engulfed that city, not the citizens who fired a few shots in anger.**

If I were doomed to die in a sinking city while my loved ones died around me, I might also be a bit angry with the government that stole my means of survival. Matter of fact, I'm well fed, comfortable, and perfectly safe, and I'm getting angry just thinking about it.

You see, another disturbing fact of Katrina is that although the storm has passed, it has created waves of anger that will ripple across America for some time to come.

The entire nation is now witnessing our government's obvious disregard for the lives of Americans.

**The unnecessary victims of Katrina float in the streets of New Orleans, while the man responsible for their death strums a guitar. Katrina will force all Americans to re-think the role of government in their lives, and in that regard, the storm is only beginning.**

**MORE:**



**Also, have you noticed, that not until today did we see that there were actually two white people involved in the looting.**

**Prior to this, CNN and others gloated as they showed black people doing the looting; finally, today, it all came out, many of the organizers of the looting are white, and many white people have been looting as well—but the media decided once again that only black people break the law. September 2, 2005 Sam Hamod, Uruknet.info**

**MORE:**

## **The Media Racists At Work: Blacks “Loot” Whites “Gather Food”**

**Had the government reacted to the approach of Katrina with a massive caravan of military trucks, all these people, and the patients in the city's charity hospitals, too, could have been safely evacuated. Food could have been stockpiled out of the city at military bases and other assembly points to care for the evacuees.**

September 2, 2005 DAVE LINDORFF, CouterPunch [Excerpt]

Fully 20 percent of the city's poorest population, mostly black, was left to fend for itself by emergency management officials. These were people with no cars and no money for a bus out of town.

**Had the government reacted to the approach of Katrina with a massive caravan of military trucks, all these people, and the patients in the city's charity hospitals, too, could have been safely evacuated. Food could have been stockpiled out of the city at military bases and other assembly points to care for the evacuees.**

Instead, they were all left to their own devices.

**With no food and no water, and no rescue in site, the survivors in New Orleans did what anyone would do under those circumstances: the went to the local markets, which were flooded and closed, their food about to rot or rust away anyhow, and helped themselves.**

**Is that looting, or is that taking the initiative and surviving? (At the AP, apparently, it depends upon what race you are.**

**One AP photo, of a black man wading through waste-deep water with a garbage bag full of food, described him as having "looted a grocery store."**

**Another AP photo, of two whites wading through waste-deep water carrying similar bags, referred to them as "gathering food from a flooded grocery store.")**

MORE:

## **“Any Idea Where All Our Helicopters Are?”**

September 2nd, 2005 By Michael Moore [Excerpt]

Dear Mr. Bush:

Any idea where all our helicopters are?

**It's Day 5 of Hurricane Katrina and thousands remain stranded in New Orleans and need to be airlifted. Where on earth could you have misplaced all our military choppers?** Do you need help finding them? I once lost my car in a Sears parking lot. Man, was that a drag.

**Also, any idea where all our national guard soldiers are? We could really use them right now for the type of thing they signed up to do like helping with national disasters. How come they weren't there to begin with?**

There will be those who will try to politicize this tragedy and try to use it against you. Just have your people keep pointing that out. Respond to nothing. Even those pesky scientists who predicted this would happen because the water in the Gulf of Mexico is getting hotter and hotter making a storm like this inevitable. Ignore them and all their global warming Chicken Littles. There is nothing unusual about a hurricane that was so wide it would be like having one F-4 tornado that stretched from New York to Cleveland.

**No, Mr. Bush, you just stay the course. It's not your fault that 30 percent of New Orleans lives in poverty or that tens of thousands had no transportation to get out of town. C'mon, they're black! I mean, it's not like this happened to Kennebunkport. Can you imagine leaving white people on their roofs for five days? Don't make me laugh! Race has nothing -- NOTHING -- to do with this!**

You hang in there, Mr. Bush. Just try to find a few of our Army helicopters and send them there.

**Pretend the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast are near Tikrit.**

MORE:

## **The Obscenity Of The Year: Bush Tells Citizens To Come Up With Hurricane Relief Money**

September 2, 2005 NORMAN SOLOMON, CounterPunch [Excerpt]

**There is something egregiously obscene about the people in charge of the U.S. government telling citizens to donate money for a hurricane relief effort while the administration, from the president on down, has viciously abdicated its most basic responsibilities.**

**For the activities it views as really important, like the war on Iraq, the Bush White House hardly requires private contributions while siphoning off vast quantities of taxpayer funds. But when the task is to save lives instead of destroying them, kids are supposed to bust open their piggy banks.**

**"True compassion," Martin Luther King Jr. pointed out, "is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."**

**He accused the federal government of demonstrating "hostility to the poor" -- appropriating "military funds with alacrity and generosity" but providing "poverty funds with miserliness." Four decades later, de facto hostility to the poor remains government policy, and its results include widespread deaths in New Orleans that could have been prevented.**

**MORE:**

## **Big Surprise: Halliburton Gets Hurricane Repair Contracts From Military**

Sept. 1 (HalliburtonWatch.org)

**The US Navy asked Halliburton to repair naval facilities damaged by Hurricane Katrina, the Houston Chronicle reported today. The work was assigned to Halliburton's KBR subsidiary under the Navy's \$500 million CONCAP contract awarded to KBR in 2001 and renewed in 2004. The repairs will take place in Louisiana and Mississippi. [My, they could move fast on that, couldn't they?]**

Earlier this year, the Navy awarded \$350 million in contracts to KBR and three other companies to repair naval facilities in northwest Florida damaged by Hurricane Ivan, which struck in September 2004. The ongoing work includes repairs to aircraft support facilities, medium industrial buildings, marine construction, mechanical and electrical improvements, civil construction, and family housing renovation.

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# Camp Casey: “People Told Me That They Had Never Been A Part Of A Protest Before”

September 1, 2005 LYNN GONZALES, Counterpunch.

*Lynn Gonzalez is a counselor with the San Diego Military Counseling Project, part of the G.I. Rights Hotline network that assists enlisted men and women seeking discharge and proudly supports the growing anti-war movement within the military ranks. She can be reached at: lynngonzalez68@hotmail.com*

What strikes me most about Camp Casey and its inhabitants is how very centrist, mainstream and organic this movement is. One would not be hard pressed to call it divine intervention. The euphoria and unity among Democrats, disenfranchised Republicans, people of faith, previously a-political military families, rural heartland people, as well as seasoned anti-war activists is absolutely palpable.

**Time and time again people told me that they had never been a part of a protest before. That they had opposed the war in Iraq in silence; voiceless and isolated in their perceived powerlessness to stop it.**

**And then Cindy's story moved them, and they felt compelled to come to Crawford. I heard over and over again stories about how people could not sleep, made all kinds of elaborate arrangements, became obsessed with the need to make their way to Crawford.**

This support is both personal and widespread. Take the case of James from Orlando. A computer technician under contract with Disney, James arrived in Crawford a few days after I did. While left leaning and dissatisfied with his upwardly mobile (and hollow) lifestyle, James had never been an activist. One morning he told me, "This is day 4 of being an activist and I'm calling my boss to let him know I'm not coming back. I'll work remotely from Crawford or I'll quit." His boss agreed but the very next day he told me that he had quit anyway. "I realized we don't even speak the same language," he said of a conference call he had participated in, "I can't play their game anymore." He intends to stay with Cindy for now, and he'll decide what to do next when his savings run out...about 6 months from now, he calculates.

He is not alone. People hug each other constantly. They say, "I love you" to people they've known 15 minutes. They cry often, connecting viscerally to the pain this war is causing the military families and veterans that are present.

**But, above all, they are transformed, "born-again". Known as a friend of Cindy's, I've received their messages. Bily from Air America in Phoenix said, "Tell Cindy that she has given me hope again I'd lost it for a really long time."**

**Dot, working the welcoming table when Cindy was in California caring for her mother said, "Tell Cindy that people just keep coming. A lot of them are saying**

that they had not intended to come, but when they heard about Cindy's mom they decided that they had to, that they had to be a part of keeping this movement alive."

And Julie from San Diego, whose activism had consisted of precinct walking for Kerry, said, "Tell Cindy she's changed my life. She's empowered me I've found my voice."

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## Abu G.

**The prison does not have enough guards. The inside guards work 12-hour shifts with one day off a week. The outside guards work four hours, eight hours off, with no days off, he said.**

September 02, 2005 By Denise Freitag, Staff Reporter, Journal Press

His job may not sound too exciting on the surface, spending up to eight hours in a vehicle, six days a week, traveling three to seven miles per hour along the same set of designated routes.

But this job is what led James Stahley, 38, Greendale, to receiving a Purple Heart.

As a specialist with the National Guard's Alpha Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, the 1985 Lawrenceburg High School graduate was injured while responding to a spotting of improvised explosive devices Monday, May 16, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Stahley drives a what is known as a Buffalo, a six-wheeled, armored "SUV on steroids." The vehicle is used to hunt for improvised explosive devices that can be picked up by an "arm" located on the vehicle.

Though driving is tedious, it allows him to be "in control." At times he also operates the vehicle's arm, said Stahley.

**The crew on the Buffalos usually work six days a week. Routes usually take from four to eight hours to cover with no stops, except for bathroom breaks, he said.**

Half of their days off are usually spent on maintenance of the vehicle, he said.

The roadside bombs can come in a variety of forms, including inside dead animals, he said.

He was sitting in the Buffalo behind another driver the day a service call was received about a possible IED near one of their routes. The call was made after misplaced dirt was spotted from a helicopter. Several IEDs were located, said Stahley.

**On the way away from the site, however, the Buffalo was taken on a path to return to the normal route that was different from the path scanned on the way. Soon a Humvee carrying security forces riding in front of the Buffalo was hit by another**

**group of exploding IEDs. The Humvee shot about five feet into the air, and was engulfed in flames, he said.**

Though most of the security forces in the Humvee were able to escape, one man was hanging out the door, unconscious, he said.

He ran with another man to pull the security forces member from the Humvee, said Stahley.

In the meantime, someone else tried to break the ammo arm from the Humvee before the rounds cooked off. The ammo arm, however, would not budge, he said.

More explosions followed and Stahley ended up with a head injury and hearing loss.

Though the man pulled from the Humvee had to be treated for injuries, everyone survived, said Stahley.

Stahley, who works as a paid firefighter in Cheviot and Delhi, also helped provide initial treatment for the man pulled from the Humvee.

**After spending almost six months in Baghdad, Stahley became a tower guard at the now notorious Abu Ghraib prison where dealing with suicide bombers and mortar attacks is not uncommon.**

**The prison does not have enough guards. The inside guards work 12-hour shifts with one day off a week. The outside guards work four hours, eight hours off, with no days off, he said. [Anyone remotely familiar with prison operation understands what that means: tired, pissed-off guards, who take it out on the prisoners. More brilliant occupation planning. Nothing like tormenting prisoners to recruit even more for the resistance.]**

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## **General Loses Mind**

September 2, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript, Presenter: Army Lieutenant General John Vines, Commander of Multinational Corps-Iraq and Commander General of the 18th Airborne Corps

**“We're making progress. We're making progress -- extraordinary progress in the Mosul area and the Baghdad area, and we're making progress in other areas.**

**“There is an extraordinary amount of it in other parts, but it is a tough fight, one we're making progress in and one we are winning.**

**“The Iraqi security forces continue to make progress.”**

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# IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

## Assorted Resistance Action

Sept 1 (Reuters) & Aljazeera & 2 September 2005 BBC & (KUNA) & (Xinhuanet) & Reuters

**Five Iraqi soldiers were killed and nine others wounded Friday morning when a roadside bomb hit their vehicle in the northern Iraqi town Baiji, a security source told Xinhua.**

"A roadside bomb detonated at about 10:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) and struck an Iraqi military convoy as it was heading to Mosul through the highway near Baiji," a source from Tikrit US-Iraqi liaison office told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

***The soldiers of the convoy opened fire at pedestrians on the attack site which is on the edge of Baiji, some 200 km north of Baghdad, the source said.***

The source added that there were casualties among civilians but could not provide the specific number.

**BAQUBA - Two policemen were killed and two wounded when armed fighters ambushed their patrol on its way back to Baquba from Khan Bani Sa'ad, 25km (15 miles) to the south, a police source said.**

**Two separate blasts - targeting a US convoy and a private security convoy - rock central Baghdad, injuring one person.**

**The body of a police officer was also found in the Al-Qanat Street, and the dead body of another police officer was found near the Souk Al-Thulathaa area of Al-Zayouna district.**

**A police source said two Katyusha rockets slammed into the Tigris River bank in front of the Green Zone. No casualties were reported.**

**In Al-Sayediya area, armed fighters bombed the house of a leader in the party of former premier Iyad Allawi. No casualties were reported.**

**MAHAWHEEL - A police source said one policeman was killed and another wounded when their car was struck by a roadside bomb on a highway to Mahaweel, 85 km (21 miles) south of Baghdad.**

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **“Baghdad, Iraq And New Orleans, Louisiana Have A Lot In Common”**

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 02, 2005  
Subject: It's Right In Front Of Us

**Baghdad, New Orleans--war has come home to America!!**

**The affects from this insanity, will ripple like an earthquake clear across the United States. The U.S. government will use "Looters and Crime" as a scapegoat to cover-up the madness of what is really happening.**

**Baghdad, Iraq and New Orleans, Louisiana have a lot in common. [And Falluja.]**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran**

<p><b>What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to <a href="mailto:contact@militaryproject.org">contact@militaryproject.org</a>. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.</b></p>
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## **DOWN WITH THE ROMAN HELICOPTER**

From: MAX WATTS  
Sent: September 02, 2005  
Subject: DOWN WITH THE ROMAN HELICOPTER

Years ago Erka and I read a book. In it a young Roman Woman slept with a German soldier, and conceived. The soldier was whisked away – to North Africa, by helicopter, and never returned. In 1940.

There were no helicopters in Rome in 1940. We don't remember much else from that book, but whenever we note a careless anachronism, or something making little sense, we look at one another and say: Another Roman Helicopter !



Now, I'll be the first to admit that it's not very important – to history, literature, or politics – whether one minor author invents non-existent helicopters in 1940 Rome -- When Italy declared war against defeated France. Now, if they were to write that there were no helicopters in Vietnam in 1975, nor even mentioned them – at all - in that American defeat, would that be – unimportant? Impossible!

**Who can forget the dramatic scenes of the last helicopter taking off from the US Embassy rooftop in Saigon, knocking the fleeing clingers off the skids? Or the GI's scrambling off the Hueys into combat against the Vietnamese? Can't be done, to wipe that out of history, into the Memory Hole.**

**We don't, here and now, have Orwell's Ministry of Truth, the daily rewrites of the past, changing yesteryears papers to conform with today's, this year's or decade's, correct line!**

**But sometimes I wonder whether that is necessary. Somehow the past is adapted, fit to print, at least emptied of – essential – content. Thirty years down the track, an anniversary, I read scores of articles about "the loss" of Saigon – (Who lost, who found, it ? Mox nix, never mind about that.)**

**None, but really none! even mentioned the Resistance Inside The American Army. RITA.**

**Was RITA, like the Roman Helicopter, a non-existent figment of some author's imagination? Did nothing to end the Vietnam war?**

**Fortunately.... I take out my DVDs, my videos, of FTA, that murdered Film. Lazarus-like, it's back, alive!**

**Shows tens of thousands of Resisting GI's, cheering Jane Fonda, dissing the war. And I go on to SIR NO SIR! Yes, Rita happened. And – it may be, so far unsung, happening again right now.**

If want more, check:

FILMS: FTA, SIR NO SIR! Winter Soldier...

Books: Soldiers In Revolt, Left Face; G.I. Resister...

Electronic Paper: GI Special

**And for history buffs: How come the GI's went home from the Philippines, rather than to China, in 1945.**

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## **Killing People To “Send A Signal”**

<p><b>Whenever one hears that we must continue fighting in order to preserve our "credibility," you know that we've hit rock bottom.</b></p>
--

**Can we legitimately ask men to keep dying in order to protect our government's "credibility"? Not in my book.**

August 18 2005 Steven LaTulippe, Prison Planet [Excerpt]

**Scanning the news these past few weeks has been somewhat of a surreal experience.**

**Our cowboy president has been holed up in his Texas ranch trying to put a positive spin on his seemingly endless military conflict in the East. Jane Fonda has been taking flak for her planned antiwar bus excursion, and the Rolling Stones are kicking off a huge summer concert tour.**

**It's like we're all living inside an episode of a new tragic sitcom called That 60s Show. One could even forgive our baby boomer friends for mistakenly believing that they were experiencing a "flashback" from some long, bygone episode of hallucinogen abuse.**

**Unfortunately, as Marx once wrote so succinctly, history usually repeats itself...first as tragedy, and then as farce.**

**Even the new war is a squalid reproduction. While not yet as destructive as Vietnam, the Iraq invasion has managed to set a new, even lower standard for leadership in our government.**

**Looking across the landscape, the only positive thing that I see happening now is Cindy Sheehan's brave peace vigil outside Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.**

**This is the first time that I've seen anyone actually land a political punch on these otherwise slippery neocons. I have to tip my hat to her. She started with only a broken heart but has nevertheless made a real difference in our national discourse.**

President Bush's response to her call for a withdrawal consisted of yet more Vietnam-speak that should alarm every thoughtful American. At his recent press conference, he continued his LBJ imitation:

**"I also have heard the voices of those saying 'pull out now', and I've thought about their cry, and their sincere desire to reduce the loss of life by pulling our troops out. I just strongly disagree. Pulling the troops out would send a terrible signal to the enemy..."**

There are many reasons to ask men to die in war. Protecting one's family and home is the most obvious. Defending one's community from a foreign attack is another. Perhaps the most abstract (yet still justifiable) cause is in defense of a system of government that guarantees individual rights.

This war in Iraq does not meet any of these criteria. Saddam, of course, had no weapons of mass destruction and was not a military danger to the United States. He was

not even threatening to attack us. The only serious threat to our constitutional liberties comes from Washington.

The above statement by our President represents only the most recent in a long string of lame rationalizations given for this unjustifiable war.

**But war should not be about "sending messages." If the President wants to "send a signal," he should try Western Union. We should never sacrifice the lives of our soldiers for diplomatic maneuvering or geopolitical "communication."**

**His statement is merely a variation of the dreaded "credibility" argument. Whenever one hears that we must continue fighting in order to preserve our "credibility," you know that we've hit rock bottom.**

**Can we legitimately ask men to keep dying in order to protect our government's "credibility"?**

**Not in my book.**

The Johnson Administration realized that Vietnam was a hopeless quagmire sometime in 1968. Being self-centered egomaniacs, they refused to admit their mistake and cut the losses. Instead, they pushed ahead with their war policy in the hope that things would somehow work out.

The result was many more years of bloody warfare in which a lot of good men lost their lives.

**And that is one hellishly high price to pay in order to "send a signal."**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **General Says Bush Will Continue Using Violence To Intimidate Iraqis**

September 2, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript, Presenter: Army Lieutenant General John Vines, Commander of Multinational Corps-Iraq and Commander General of the 18th Airborne Corps

**“Unfortunately, there are those who want to deprive them of the opportunity to determine their own destiny, and they'll use violence to do it. And consequently, we expect that we will see violence used as a tool to intimidate Iraqis to keep them from participating, to deprive them of that right.”**

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# Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



A U.S. soldier puts on gloves to search a group of Iraqi women for weapons during a raid searching for illegal weapons inside their house in Baghdad August 3, 2005.  
REUTERS/Andrea Comas

**There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country, busting into their houses by force, and humiliating them with bullshit body searches to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.**

**But your officers know this, don't they? Don't they?**

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

## **U.S. Teams To Stay Embedded: Local Troops Useless Without Them**

9.2.05 Washington Times, September 2, 2005

**The U.S. military will maintain human tethers inside Iraqi combat units, even those out on their own, because they do not yet have resupply and intelligence capabilities needed to fight independently. [Then why does the story use the words "out on their own" if they can't function out on their own? Duh.]**

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