

## GI SPECIAL 3C58:



# Respect To D, A Fighting Lady Who Won't Quit

When you're a working duty soldier low rank you're the shit bag that does all the dirty work and banged up body with wounds or you just come home in a body bag.

From: D, Wounded Iraq Soldier's Mom  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 11, 2005  
Subject: Re: Tired Of Getting Pushed Around

I do speak to a lot of soldiers - this one just joined up and he is in for a big surprise, what he will be really doing. He is from Virginia and they all told him all this, and now he told me I was right - so I guess there is proof to my knowledge about the lies they tell.

**I do get your emails [GI Special] to all the soldiers - some just say they agree and others are so hard core (brainwashed) that I will help them if they make it back to the VA wounded.**

One really just wants to go and kill for my son's wounds, and another buddy died due to Hodgie shot him - so I can't reach him but he told me that he would come to Tennessee after Iraq.

**We have one home and another coming home soon and many leaving out - so the message is getting out - but they keep them so busy they have no or little time.**

**When you're a working duty soldier low rank you're the shit bag that does all the dirty work and banged up body with wounds or you just come home in a body bag.**

**Everyone needs the basics in life right???**

**Well the recruiters are focusing on the below poverty level income to get 3 meals, roof over head, 15,000 bonus, travel, make something out of yourself (skill), make your family proud of you - keep out of trouble and do what your told to do and you can get rank fast.**

**That is some correct. With all the Sgts. killed last year and this year, they have a shortage of them - so they are ranking fast.**

Are they up to do it?? NO they are not very well trained but it is improving with hit and miss mistakes - so there you have my update.

**What is that ugly guys name, Donald R.???**

He said that troops could leave Iraq that things are getting better - well this leaves troops short handed, and when will this guy leave the White House????

**I know Donald R. said that and I know first hand the first 2 big deployments there soldiers didn't have training or safe equipment, look at the number wounded, and the VA should be ashamed not to be prepared.**

**Well hell my son was the best of the best, he was a true warrior, in shape, ready to kill and did, got wounded but he fought a good fight like Bush wanted, killed many over there, seen a lot of blood shed and he's on a waiting list for back surgery  
????**

**I am not up to putting up with Bull from many more - take care of the soldiers.**

**Our soldiers are suffering now!!! Donald R. should retire, the American people hate him and all the others and Bush, well he does what daddy says.**

**I wished I worked at the White House I need the money.**

**Hell, I could run this country from my living room with a red phone!!!!**

# 52% Of Americans Do Not Support The War: Want Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

September 17, 2005 By RAYMOND HERNANDEZ and MEGAN THEE, NY Times

With Hurricane Katrina already costing the federal government tens of billions of dollars, more than 8 in 10 Americans are very or somewhat concerned that the \$5 billion being spent each month on the war in Iraq is draining away money that could be used in the United States, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

**When asked how long American troops should remain in Iraq, for example, 52 percent of people interviewed called for an immediate withdrawal, even if that means abandoning President Bush's goal of restoring stability to that country.**

**Support for the war in Iraq has fallen to an all-time low, according to the poll. Only 44 percent now say the United States made the right decision in taking military action against Iraq, the lowest rating since the question was first asked by this poll more than two years ago.**

Only 42 percent said that troops should remain for as long as it takes to accomplish that mission, 12 percentage points lower than slightly over a year ago, when the question was first asked.

**The poll also found that nearly 60 percent now disapprove of the way Mr. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq. And nearly half of those surveyed said that they were not proud of what the United States was doing in that country.**

The poll also suggests that there is a widespread reluctance among Americans to make any further financial sacrifices to continue waging the war, particularly in the wake of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

**Ninety percent of people surveyed, including a majority of Republicans, said they would disapprove of cutting expenditures on domestic programs, like education and health care, to continue paying for the war.**

Americans do not see an end to the war soon, according to the poll. Thirty-eight percent said they expected American troops to be in Iraq for two to five years, while 28 percent said it would be longer. Only 26 percent said they expected the troops to be withdrawn within two years.

**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.**

## **HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT NO HONORABLE MISSION BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



US Marine in Fallujah. (AFP/US Army/File/Mike Escobar)

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Basra Demonstrators Burn Two British Tanks;**

# **“Some” British Soldiers “Lightly” Wounded; “A British Soldier Was Engulfed In Flames”**



A burning British soldier jumps from a tank, Basra September 19. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

9.19.05 AFP & Reuters & breakingnews

**Angry demonstrators in the port city of Basra set two British tanks ablaze, with their crews escaping without returning fire.**

The fighting erupted after British armour encircled the jail where the two Britons were being held.

British forces freed two undercover soldiers from jail in Basra late on Monday after a day of fighting in the southern city sparked when the soldiers fired on an Iraqi police patrol.

**An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said British forces stormed the jail using six tanks. Witnesses said about 150 Iraqi prisoners fled the jail as well.**

**Lisa Glover, spokeswoman for the British embassy in Baghdad, said three people were wounded in the operation to free the soldiers and were being treated at a nearby base. She did not give further details of how the soldiers were freed.**

**The two undercover soldiers were arrested on Monday after opening fire on Iraqi police who approached them, police and local officials said.** They said the men were wearing traditional Arab headscarves and sitting in an unmarked car.

"They were driving a civilian car and were dressed in civilian clothes when shooting took place between them and Iraqi patrols," an official in Basra said.

Mohammed al-Abadi, an official in the Basra governorate, said the two men looked suspicious to police.

**"A policeman approached them and then one of these guys fired at him. Then the police managed to capture them," Abadi told reporters. "They refused to say what their mission was. They said they were British soldiers and (suggested) to ask their commander about their mission."**

**One of the British undercover soldiers sat with a bandage on his head after being detained, a Reuters photographer said. His trousers were stained with blood spots.**

**Furious crowds pelted British armored vehicles with rocks and petrol bombs after the shooting incident.**

Tensions in Basra had already been stoked on Sunday when British forces arrested two leading members of the Mehdi army, a nationalist militia led by radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

**A British soldier was engulfed in flames as he scrambled out of a burning tank during the rioting, under a hail of stones hurled by the crowd. The tank tried to reverse away from trouble after it was attacked by Iraqis flinging petrol bombs, burning furniture and tires.**

Iraqis had driven through the streets with loudhailers demanding that the undercover Britons remain in jail.

British Defense Secretary John Reid confirmed in a statement that the two undercover soldiers were back with British forces, but shed no light on their mission or how they were released.

**Some British soldiers were lightly wounded during the rioting but would soon return to duty.**

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**Notes From A Lost War:**

**Command Still Peddling Silly Lies  
About "Great Success"**

# “The U.S. Death And Detention Counts Have Zero Credibility”



U.S. Army and Iraqi soldiers patrol in Tal Afar Sept. 11. 18: Reuters

**Since 2003, U.S. forces have detained 40,000 people, twice U.S. generals' highest public estimate of the number of fighters in the insurgency.**

**"On a day-to-day basis, the overall level of security is obviously low. We can't secure the airport road, can't stop the incoming into the Green Zone, can't stop the killings and kidnappings," Cordesman said.**

Sept. 19, 2005 By Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington Post

**Last week, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, the top U.S. military spokesman in Iraq, declared "great successes" against insurgents.**

**But Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, where Lynch briefed reporters, was under stepped-up security screening and U.S. guard for fear of suicide bombings. Insurgents for three days running last week managed to lob mortar rounds into the Green Zone, the heart of the U.S. and Iraqi administration.**

Lynch spoke at the close of a two-day onslaught of bombings and shootings that killed nearly 190 people, the bloodiest days in Baghdad since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

Over 17 days this month, guerrillas across Iraq killed at least 116 Iraqi forces.

**Witnesses said one group of insurgents proudly displayed a new rocket launcher that put U.S. armored vehicles in the glowing red beam of its targeting laser.**

**The fact that American forces still attack entire cities and towns in the west is a sign of how much territory remains out of U.S. and Iraqi government control,** said Abu Hatem Dulaimi, a member of the Ansar al-Sunna Army.

"I can say that the legend of the undefeated U.S. Army is gone, owing to our rockets and mines, which are separating them from it day after day," Dulaimi said in a telephone interview.

**"If they bet that time will be the way to end the resistance, they are wrong, because we are stronger since a year ago or maybe more."**

"The problem is, I have seen no meaningful" goal posts, said Anthony Cordesman, an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, "and a great many conflicting points" on U.S. claims to be winning against the insurgency.

While the U.S. military seems to have made some progress in parts of the west and parts of Baghdad, Cordesman said, "it isn't clear in doing so that it has really crippled any part of the insurgency."

**After generally rejecting body counts as standards of success in the Iraq war, the U.S. military last week embraced them -- just as it did during the Vietnam War. As the carnage grew in Baghdad, U.S. officials produced charts showing the number of suspects killed or detained in offensives in the west.**

Lynch, the military spokesman, cited killings and detentions of 1,534 insurgents in the region. The fact that the number of insurgents killed or captured in the northern city of Tall Afar was roughly equal to advance estimates of their strength, he said, was proof that insurgents weren't simply escaping to fight another day -- and that U.S. forces were doing more than razing infrastructure. "Zarqawi is on the ropes," Lynch told reporters.

It was not clear, however, how many of those detained or killed in the offensives were insurgents.

**Since 2003, U.S. forces have detained 40,000 people, twice U.S. generals' highest public estimate of the number of fighters in the insurgency.**

On Saturday, the Iraqi government said it had released for lack of evidence more than 500 of the 757 suspects detained in ongoing operations in the northern city of Mosul.

"The question is, what does victory mean? It certainly isn't the number of people we kill or detain," Cordesman said.

**The U.S. death and detention counts have "zero credibility," since U.S. forces provide little detail on those being killed and detained, he said.**

From Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, down to his underlings, American officials have insisted this summer that, at the least, the insurgency is not growing.



Pressed to explain the claim, U.S. military officials said recently that they meant only that they believe the insurgency remains concentrated in no more than four of Iraq's 18 provinces.

But Cordesman, the Washington-based analyst, said there was evidence that more foreign volunteers were arriving and more Iraqis were joining the insurgency. U.S. officials claim to have eliminated a number of insurgent leaders, he said, but the insurgency doesn't seem to have slowed.

"On a day-to-day basis, the overall level of security is obviously low. We can't secure the airport road, can't stop the incoming into the Green Zone, can't stop the killings and kidnappings," Cordesman said.

Insurgents -- through intimidation rather than popularity -- still have the upper hand in cities and towns where the U.S. and Iraqi military presence is weak and transient.

**"Is there enough force here right now to secure this area permanently? No. Are there opportunities for the enemy in other areas within our region? Yes," said Col. H.R. McMaster, commander of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Tall Afar.**

Cordesman said "Being fluid, dynamic, scattered, broken out into cells seems to be the way any effective insurgency wins, or certainly endures."

**Since the start of the war, the U.S. military appears to have been limited by having too few troops to block either the emergence or the growth of the insurgency.** Last week, Lynch advised what he called "combat patience" regarding plans to target the insurgents' Euphrates River strongholds in western Anbar. U.S. ground commanders there have said thousands more American forces are needed to secure towns and close the Syrian border.

Cordesman and other analysts said that ultimately, a bulked-up U.S. presence in any one area, with troops who speak no Arabic and have comparatively little expertise in counterinsurgency, risks spurring new fighters to join the insurgency at least as fast as old ones are eliminated.

"You can't win in Anbar, Baghdad or anywhere else except politically," Cordesman said.

### **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))**

## TROOP NEWS

# ***News From Occupied N. Y. City: Cops Break Up Cindy Sheehan Rally; Cowards In Blue Out Of Control Again***



**Cindy Sheehan speaking out in Union Square with Al Zappala, who also lost a son in Iraq. photo: Sarah Ferguson**

**[While you're off in Iraqi supposedly fighting for democracy, this is what cowards with handguns are doing back home in the USA. We got a democracy shortage. We need you and your weapons back here to defend us from these domestic enemies. You want to know who "hates our freedom"? They do.]**

September 19th, 2005 by Sarah Ferguson, The Village Voice

**Cindy Sheehan may be the Rosa Parks of the anti-war movement. But that didn't stop members of the New York Police Department from marching into the crowd of about 150 people gathered in Union Square Monday to hear her speak and yanking away the microphone.**

The NYPD pulled the plug just as Sheehan was calling on the audience not to lose heart in the fight to end the war in Iraq.

"We get up every morning, and every morning we see this enormous mountain in front of us," said Sheehan, speaking on behalf of the other parents and family members of fallen soldiers who have taken up the crusade to bring the troops home.

"We can't go through it, we can't go under it, so we have to go over it," she continued, just as the cops rushed the makeshift podium.

Police dragged away Paul Zulkowitz, a.k.a. Zool, an organizer with "Camp Casey NYC," the small encampment that he and other activists set up a month ago in Union Square in solidarity with Sheehan's vigil outside President Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas. The New York branch existed much to the ire of the city's Parks Department. Today, Zulkowitz was arrested for failing to obtain a sound permit—a charge that normally warrants no more than a summons.

Moments earlier, Zulkowitz had been chastising Parks officials for refusing to grant a permit to the encampment, and accusing the police of trying to harass the antiwar protest away.

Contrasting the liberal Big Apple with the hostile environs Sheehan faced in Crawford, Zulkowitz told the crowd: "You would think that here in New York City, at Union Square—our Hyde Park—you would think that we would little difficulty having a 24-hour vigil to oppose the war. In fact, we've had two arrests and eight summonses and endless harassment from the police for doing what we do."

**As the activists hustled away Sheehan and the other family members on the Bring Them Home Now tour, an enraged crowd of about 50 people stormed after the police, chanting, "Shame! Shame!"**

**Meanwhile Iraq war veteran and now peace activist Jeff Key played "God Bless America" on his trumpet.**

**"Since when can't you talk out here in Union Square?" demanded an Upper West Side social worker who identified herself as Quha, who said she'd taken her lunch break to hear Sheehan because she has a 20-year-old son who is considering enlisting.**

**"I've seen everyone and their mother come out and speak nonsense out here in this park, and for them to shut down Cindy Sheehan is just not right."**

**"They came in like gangbusters. It was really ridiculous," said Margaret Rapp, a retired teacher from Inwood who added that she planned to file a complaint after an officer forcibly shoved her in the chest. [NYC cops are really brave. They have no fear at all of retired teachers.]**

A mother of a 19-year-old, she said she'd come to hear Sheehan because she lost her fiancée during the Vietnam War. "This is very close to home. There is a chord that Cindy hits among people that have lost people in this war and other wars, or who have draft age children like me. We're scared to death."

Inspector Michael McEnroy, commander of the 13th Precinct, insisted the shutdown order had nothing to do with the content of Sheehan's speech, but was instead about the "provocation" caused by Zulkowitz. **[Right. To the scum in blue, free speech is a "provocation." Now you know what happened to the assholes that used to work for the East German secret police. They changed their names and went to work bearing firearms for the NYPD.]**

"This has been going on for much longer than today," McEnroy said, adding of Sheehan, "I don't even know the woman." **[Making him either a world class lousy liar or a world class idiot.]**

That last part prompted one pissed-off onlooker to shoot back: "Haven't you watched the news or read a paper in the last three months?"

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## **Bulgaria Begins Iraq Withdrawal Mid October**

20 September 2005 Novinite Ltd

**Bulgaria's troops will begin their withdrawal from Iraq in the middle of October, the Chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Army General Nikola Kolev announced.**

**Kolev also said that the withdrawal operation should be completed by December 31.** Still, he underlined that Bulgaria's political leaders are still mulling the form of the

Bulgaria's parliament, which has the final say over Bulgarian troop deployments, approved in May a government plan to withdraw the country's 450 troops in Iraq by the end of the year. It was also decided that the troops in Iraq are reduced to 370.

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## **Troops Forced To Take Anthrax Shot Despite Clear Orders It May Be Refused**

September 19, 2005 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

**A federal judge has ordered the Pentagon to redouble its efforts to prevent involuntary anthrax vaccinations after a military medic injected someone who did not volunteer for the shot.**

**U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan, whose ruling last year shut down the Pentagon's mandatory anthrax vaccination program, ordered military medical officials to issue recent clarifying instructions by Sept. 15 "to all medical staff administering vaccines."**

Those instructions had been written by the commander of a medical unit in Iraq for his personnel two days after the commander learned a medic in the unit mistakenly vaccinated a soldier against anthrax.

They read: "If administering anthrax vaccination, ensure the patient has signed in, received training and trifold, understands the right to refuse, and states they want to receive the anthrax vaccine. Immediately prior to administration of the anthrax vaccination (once site and vaccine are prepared) ask the patient, 'Do you want to receive the anthrax vaccination?' If the patient confirms, administer."

Army Col. John Grabenstein, director of the Military Vaccine Agency, said defense officials sent those instructions to staffs that administer vaccines on Aug. 11 and are sending them out again specifically to comply with the new court order.

**Under an earlier order by Sullivan, defense officials are required to report weekly to him on whether any anthrax shots were given involuntarily.**

An affidavit Grabenstein provided the judge describes the incident that prompted the Aug. 30 order from the court.

**On July 9, an enlisted medic in Iraq gave the anthrax shot to a soldier who was due to be vaccinated against both anthrax and hepatitis.**

**The medic thought the soldier had to get the anthrax shot; the patient thought she was getting only a hepatitis shot.**

***When she learned otherwise, she told the medic she did not want the anthrax vaccine. [That's about as clear as it gets. So why did he give her the shot anyway? For the lying "explanation," see below.]***

The medic reported the error to superiors and was told to follow instructions more carefully. The medical unit commander wrote a memo to unit members on proper procedures, and included detailed instructions about asking patients if they want the anthrax shot before injecting them.

In the affidavit, Grabenstein acknowledged the error violated "approved procedures" and said it was unintentional.

**"I do not necessarily categorize it as a violation of the injunction because the soldier understood her option to refuse and the medic was under the mistaken belief the soldier wanted anthrax vaccination. No one ordered the vaccinated soldier to receive anthrax vaccine or intended to restrict her option to refuse in any way," Grabenstein wrote. [Translation: "I'm going to spread some bullshit around that has nothing to do with the fact the soldier refused the shot and was given the shot anyway. That way I can cover my ass and hope nobody understands what the fuck I just said."]**

The clinic issued verbal and written apologies to the patient.

**An airman at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., also was vaccinated involuntarily. On Aug. 17 the technician administering the shot told the airman that Central Command required the shot.**

**The airman, who had received the standard brochure outlining the voluntary nature of the program, later questioned the action. Grabenstein revoked that clinic's authority to administer the anthrax vaccine, and reported the incident to Sullivan, he said.**

In October 2004, Sullivan issued a permanent injunction stopping mandatory anthrax vaccination because he found the vaccine was not properly licensed to protect against inhalational anthrax, the type the Pentagon said is the germ warfare threat it needs to protect against.

Defense officials began issuing voluntary shots in May, and have now given about 42,000 under the revamped program.

Slightly more than half of the troops offered the shots accept them. **[Translation: nearly half the troops have refused.]**

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## **BDU: Pink Shorts?**

9.19.05 Army Times

**The British army in late August joined in a gay pride march for the first time, as troops in uniform joined the annual Gay Pride festival in Manchester, in northern England, with thousands of supporters watching from the sidelines.**

**The army was out to attract homosexual recruits and show it can be gay friendly.**

**Soldiers gave out sweets as their float traveled along the two-mile course, following a float of muscular men in pink Lycra shorts dancing to music and blowing whistles.**

**"We don't really care what sexual orientation you are if you want to come and join us in the army," said Logistics Corps warrant officer Lutha Magloire, 39, part of the Army's Diversity Action and Recruitment Team.**

The British army has attended cultural events before, Magloire said, but this was the service's gay festival debut. The Royal Air Force took part for a second successive year, with a float featuring a plane's cockpit. Though several marchers were dressed in sailors' uniforms, there was no official Royal Navy representation.

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# “Soldiers Forced To Become Criminals For Old Men's Ambitions Won't All Come Home Quietly”



September/October 2005 Issue Mother Jones, By JoAnn Wypijewski. [Excerpt]

**That the Pentagon has been caught off guard by the elders discouraging youths from enlisting indicates not only how captured it is by its own propaganda (the war as a heavily armed school-building, sewer-digging, democracy-spreading program) but also how completely it has been gulled by the revisionist machinery that for decades has manufactured a story of Vietnam veterans and antiwar protesters as two camps, distinct and hostile.**

Jim Murphy wasn't thinking about much as a high school student near Rochester, New York, in the early 1960s. A kid with all the others sitting in the back row—the ones without a plan, sullen and indifferent, on whom their teachers had by then given up—he was, he says now, "really dead in the water. College, I blew it off. I was so far in the back row I had my hand up for the bathroom, the easiest fresh meat right there."

**He signed up for Vietnam and has been thinking about it ever since, the leeches and rashes and flammable boredom, the obsidian memory of death and horror purchased with lies.**

**The Pentagon's recruitment crisis is only the latest evidence that the authors of Operation Iraqi Freedom forgot something on the way to war: the adamant memory of Vietnam, and not in the usual sense.**

There's a truism among military strategists that "the war before" colors the one you're fighting. World War II corporatized the military, in everything from management style to

procurement to the seemingly permanent draft, even as it helped make the middle class and valorized combat experience as the ultimate manly credential.

The Vietnam War was born of all that and then convulsed on it, transforming the draft into political dynamite and restructuring the Army to make wars like the one in Iraq unthinkable, or so almost everyone on up to Colin Powell once thought.

**Now retired Army officers will say openly that there's no precedent for running a full-scale war with a volunteer army; they will cite the Powell Doctrine—prescribing war only on condition of mass public support, swift and overwhelming force, and a clear exit strategy—as the lost lesson of the war before, the thing that Bush and Cheney, with no experience of Vietnam, were mindless of, and that Powell, whether too weak, too ambitious, or too loyal, failed to impress upon them.**

**Such critiques miss the fundamental lesson, which is that soldiers forced to become criminals for old men's ambitions won't all come home quietly.**

**After Jim Murphy returned from Vietnam in 1969 he became part of the most rocking, because least expected, movement against the Vietnam War, the GI rebellion.** He doesn't describe this in his presentation to high schoolers—in 40 minutes it's all that he and his fellow vets can do to convey the reality of war, the nature of military commitment beyond a recruiter's promises, and alternative sources of scholarships, jobs, or adventure—but it forms the essential context.

**By Christmas 1971, when Murphy was among a band of Vietnam Veterans Against the War who seized the Statue of Liberty for three days, many thousands of GIs had participated in antiwar protests in American cities and at many major U.S. military bases in the world, including Saigon.**

**They produced more than 100 underground GI newspapers, listened to underground GI radio, put their heads together at dozens of GI coffeehouses established by soldiers and activists in U.S. military towns, and formed a subset of the counterculture that took a playful whack at the Army's early-'60s recruiting promise of "fun, travel, adventure," FTA, appropriating the acronym for an unvarnished answer back: "Fuck the Army."**

By the hundreds they were jailed, by the thousands exiled. Their coffeehouses were attacked by the Klan in Texas, firebombed in Idaho and South Carolina, harassed by police and local officials everywhere. Riots burst out in nearly every U.S. military prison in the world, and in the field officers were being fragged.

**In 1971 the Pentagon totalled up 503,926 "incidents of desertion" since 1966, and concluded that more than half of U.S. ground forces in Vietnam openly opposed the war. Mutiny then spread to sailors and airmen.**

**Those veterans are someone's father or uncle or teacher or coach today, someone's grandfather or neighbor or coworker or family friend.**

**They are among those whom military recruiters call "influencers."**



That the Pentagon has been caught off guard by the elders discouraging youths from enlisting indicates not only how captured it is by its own propaganda (the war as a heavily armed school-building, sewer-digging, democracy-spreading program) but also how completely it has been gulled by the revisionist machinery that for decades has manufactured a story of Vietnam veterans and antiwar protesters as two camps, distinct and hostile.

**A spanner is about to be thrown into that revisionist machinery. *Sir! No Sir!*, a shattering documentary by David Zeiger expected to be in theaters by year's end, provides many of the statistics of Vietnam-era GI resistance cited above.**

**More, it discloses the soul of soldiers, in story after story, who thought about their life, about everything they'd believed about fair play and honor and being a man and saw it negated, cynically; who realized, as former Air Force linguist Tom Bernard says in the film, that "the lies were so stark it challenged your own dignity, it challenged your own loyalty, it challenged your own humanity."**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

18 September 2005 Aljazeera & 9.19.05 AFP & Associated Press & Aljazeera

**Aljazeera has reported that unidentified fighters are believed to have taken 15 Iraqi soldiers hostage west of Samara.**

**Seven policemen and a soldier were killed when two bombers struck separate road checkpoints halfway between Baghdad and Karbala, a defense ministry official said.**

**On Sunday, the bodies of 20 men, apparently members of the Iraqi security forces, were found in the Tigris river north of Baghdad, according to the security services.**

The men had their hands tied and were executed by gunshots, according to the defence ministry, which said the bodies were found near the village of Balad.

**Aljazeera learned that unidentified fighters are believed to have captured 15 Iraqi soldiers west of Samara.**

**Iraqi police say a car bomber struck a joint U-S-Iraqi patrol (near Taji) north of Baghdad last night, killing 14 Iraqi soldiers.**

**Another bomber south of Baghdad blew himself up today near an Iraqi police commando patrol. Five policemen and two civilians were killed. Another 13 officers and bystanders were wounded.**

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

**No Flowers Today;  
Sorry About That**



Iraqi youngsters shout and clap their hands walking on the tread of an US army tank damaged by a road side bomb in Ramadi, Sept. 17 2005. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Hurricane Rita?**

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 18, 2005  
Subject: Hurricane Rita ?

The long-haired Hippie, radical, tree hugging Liberal Left, has been saying for years that Global Warming is for real. Now, it is time for the Conservative Right to admit the Liberal idiots were Right. God, that hurts!!

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran

PS: The White House is under water, and George Bush doesn't know it.

PS # 2: Texas ranks 48th in per capita spending on mental health. These are the kind of things George Bush's legacy left for the Lone Star State of mind.

PS # 3: I'm glad I am not suicidal.

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# **No War But Class War!**

## **“It Is Time, Sisters And Brothers, For A Revolution”**

I am not African American. Neither are most of my friends and coworkers. It may then surprise our ruling class, of both parties, that we saw our own faces, our own children, our own unburied, bloating, dead loved ones in the streets of New Orleans.

How much more slaughter and mendacity and patronizing platitudes will we endure before we rise up and take the power that is ours? The power and productivity that support these parasites, is ours.

September 14, 2005 Beth Moore, [barrysblogsspecialfeatures.blogspot.com](http://barrysblogsspecialfeatures.blogspot.com)

Look upon the city of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast now, and you see the true face of capitalism.

Look upon the tens of thousands of people who were abandoned, displaced, and then even disparaged by our government and its media minions for being trapped there by poverty, age, youth, or disability.

They lived for days on end with no food, water, or shelter. They lived amidst corpses and raw sewage, seeing the ill and elderly die with nothing but the odd blanket or sheet with which to cover their bodies, watching babies being born with only contaminated water in which to wash their tiny bodies, and being promised that help would come tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, until tomorrow never came for thousands.

What you see, in the majority of those people, is the productive labor force that kept that city alive before Hurricane Katrina.

**You see the people who rang up the sales of goods they could never, in their wildest dreams, afford, who waited and bussed tables, cleaned houses, cared for the children of the wealthy, and generally did all the work of a service industry that keeps a tourist city alive.**

**These are the people whose work produced the wealth of those who were able to leave the city in safety.**

**When, after days without food, water, or adequate shelter, they attempted to appropriate the goods they had generated the capital to produce, property abandoned by those whom they had supported by their labor, they were shot at, vilified, and defined as criminals.**

Yes, look at New Orleans, and you see the cold and cynical face of capitalism. Our right-wing ruling class condemns the teaching of evolution, because it seems to contradict the “Holy Bible” and the words of Jesus Christ, in whom they profess to believe, but their brand of capitalism embodies the most cruel and soulless application of Social Darwinism.

**For whom does that process favorably select?**

**It selects for the survival of those who produce nothing of substance. It favors those who, by inclination and aptitude, take from society, and from those whom they rule more than they ever return. It selects favorably for those whose bottomless appetites, ruthless will to power, and insatiable greed, threaten the survival of our entire planet.**

I grew up in Texas, and have lived in the Southern United States all my life. I immediately understood what the footage shown, and the reports of violence, looting, and lawlessness were meant to communicate, and the effect they were meant to have. Yes, the vast majority of faces I saw on the news coverage were black, and although few in this country would openly admit to racism, I understood very well the “spin” that the ruling class that controls the news media intended to communicate, even subliminally.

The majority of the faces I saw on the streets of New Orleans were African American. Their ancestors, as slaves, built this country, even as its original inhabitants, Native Americans (whose only sin was not having a strict enough immigration policy) were nearly eradicated by the divine imperative known as Manifest Destiny.

**But I did not see “black people (I know the word that many used, whether they spoke it or not) out of control,” looting and lawless. I did not see people undeserving of our compassion because they foolishly “chose” not to flee to safety, or because they are somehow inferior in their sentience and humanity.**

**No. Many of us saw ourselves – working people of all races, who live from week to week, month to month, often on far less than a living wage.**

**We saw ourselves, and our mothers and fathers and grandparents and helpless children, abandoned by those who profit from our labor, but who return barely enough of what we produce for us to afford shelter, medical care, and food.**

**I am not African American. Neither are most of my friends and coworkers. It may then surprise our ruling class, of both parties, that we saw our own faces, our own children, our own unburied, bloating, dead loved ones in the streets of New Orleans.**

It may surprise them that someone like me, a white woman with a college degree, would see, in those thousands of stranded, desperate people, my sisters and brothers, and that my heart would break and that I would be enraged.

**It has obviously come as a shock to George W. Bush and his insulated cadre of neoconservative imperialists that nearly everyone I know shares those feelings. We have spoken by phone, communicated by email, talked in the break room where I work, in tears and trembling with helpless outrage, over what appears to have been criminal negligence approaching genocide.**

We have known, at some level, for quite some time, that we are all expendable to this government, this ruling class, the oligarchy that covets our productivity, our taxes, and even the blood of our children for its wars for profit. Yes, we have known this, but the images and reports from New Orleans wrenched our guts and left us breathless with shock at this blatant and ruthless demonstration of that fact.

**The question we've asked among ourselves over the past week, then, is "What more will it take?"**

Yes, what more will it take for those of us who support the ruling class in this country with our labor, our taxes, and even the lives of our children, to say "No more!"

**When I have spoken and written of a revolution of the working class against those who live from the products of our work, and who rule us by propaganda, lethal force, and murderous negligence, many have objected.**

**Revolution is equated with violence, and often for good reason. If the ruling class resists when the people demand the power due them, and reasonable rewards for their labor, in the form, at least, of living wages, it is in the nature of that ruling class to resist with lethal force. Lethal force, in self-defense, then, has often, historically, been the only recourse for those who would demand that the power reside in the people.**

Even now, those who did not leave New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast are characterized as products of a "welfare state," and as people who depended upon the government to their own deadly detriment.

What the smug, right-wing pundits do not, or pretend not to understand, is the fact that resources for evacuation were not available to tens of thousands in that city. They do not understand what it means to work for the minimum wage, or even for a few meager dollars above it. A wage of \$8/hour cannot pay rent on safe living quarters, provide health insurance, provide adequate food for a family of two or three, or pay for a vehicle, or even for the commercial public transportation out of a city in the face of certain disaster.

**The fact is that casualties have already been sustained in this class war.**

**The dead in New Orleans are only the most dramatic, and most recent, of those casualties.**

We cannot doubt that there will be more natural disasters, for which our government, if it continues in its imperial wars for corporate profit, will still be unprepared. And in the guise of a “war on terror,” there will surely be more war, more resources diverted from the protection our own people, even though we pay our taxes, in faith, for that protection.

This is not the last assault upon us.

It is also not the last in which the casualties will be “low-balled,” by the corporate media, in which the dead and dying will be held accountable, and their lives regarded as necessary “culling” in the scheme of global corporate Social Darwinism.

**There will be more. There are, in fact, more being inflicted on a daily basis – silently, without media attention.**

**The shameful infant mortality rate in this country. The incidence of homelessness. The fact that racism is one of the several “elephants under the carpet” that can then be used to divide working people along class lines, gender and race lines, and dissolve the solidarity against the ruling class that would be essential to mounting resistance toward those who practically deny us even the privilege of existence, while profiting off our labor.**

**It is time, sisters and brothers, for a revolution.**

**How can we not look at the city of New Orleans and see that it is time for those of us who work and support the Bush administration, the Democrats who play polite political games with them for a chance at the same hegemony they now exercise, for us to band together and demand a new nation, an new government.**

**How can we not understand that we are expendable? That we are merely resources that represent the capital they covet, and for which they produce nothing, but demand everything from us?**

New Orleans is now up for grabs by the corporate empire, and Halliburton has been one of the first to start counting its money before the people of that city can even begin to count their dead.

**How much more do we have to suffer? How many lives? How many lies?**

**Give me a number. Please. Give me a number.**

Tell me, please, how many lives do we, the working people of this country, have to give up. How many lives, in countries throughout the world, will it take?

One life is precious beyond accounting, but we live in a culture in which numbers of lives apparently define our response, and can be manipulated by the news media and government and corporate entities.

**However many figures they present to us is simply too many for me, and for many others, who know exactly why those people are dead, and then there are the numbers of the displaced, who have lost everything – hundreds of thousands. Is that not a relevant number, as well?**

**Give me a number. Tell me what that number will be, tell me what it will take before we will all arise and shout, with a thunder that will be heard across the world, “NO MORE!”**

This class war has been waged since the first African American slave took flight from bondage, to be hunted down and killed like a worthless beast..

It has been waged since the first Native American realized the need to stop the incursion of the European invaders, and saw entire villages of women and children and elderly destroyed by the “righteous” wrath of European invaders.

This war has been waged from the first strike by workers who valued their own lives, and believed that their humanity was worth more than corporate gain, and then found themselves in the sites of the guns of the corporate empire of the robber barons.

It has been waged from the first time, in all those cases, that those people were injured, killed, and even set against one another by the ruling class, who hoped they would do the dirty work of culling the compliant from the defiant for them.

**So it seems there are two questions here, that must be answered.**

**How much more slaughter and mendacity and patronizing platitudes will we endure before we rise up and take the power that is ours? The power and productivity that support these parasites, is ours.**

What will it take for us to force them to face that fact?

**The second question, and one that must be answered even by those on the so-called left in this country, who have been on vacation this summer, and who now seem primed to dialectic, but not truly visceral and decisive action, is this:**

**“Which side are you on?”**

**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.**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **“The Largest Robbery In The World”**

## **As U.S. Soldiers Died, Iraqi Collaborators, U.S. Military And U.S. Intelligence Thieves Stole \$1.3 Billion Dollars**

**The rip-offs were so huge, said the paper, that Baghdad officials estimate that the Iraqis involved "were only front men and 'rogue elements' within the US military and intelligence services may have played a decisive role behind the scenes".**

September 20, 2005 Michael Howard in Baghdad, Guardian Unlimited & 2005-09-19 Middle East Online & Patrick Cockburn, The Independent

**Iraqi authorities are preparing an arrest warrant for the country's former defence minister in connection with a massive fraud case involving the "disappearance" of more than \$1bn from ministry coffers.**

**The rip-offs were so huge, said the paper, that Baghdad officials estimate that the Iraqis involved "were only front men and 'rogue elements' within the US military and intelligence services may have played a decisive role behind the scenes".**

Judge Raid al-Radhi, who is head of Iraq's commission on public integrity, said yesterday that he had given Iraq's central criminal court a dossier of evidence against Hazim Shaalan, who was minister of defence under the former government of Ayed Allawi.

**"What Shaalan and his ministry were responsible for is possibly the largest robbery in the world. Our estimates begin at \$1.3bn and go up to \$2.3bn," Judge Radhi, who is Iraq's senior anti-corruption official, told Reuters.**

The "robbery" is believed to include the signing of multimillion-dollar deals with companies to supply equipment that was sometimes inappropriate for the new army or was years out of date. It is also alleged that the ministry paid huge premiums for some military hardware.

**Mr Shaalan, who is understood to be living in Jordan, has denied complicity in the scandal, saying that his actions as defence minister were ultimately the responsibility of the US authorities in Iraq. [Right. His partners in crime.]**



**News of the warrant came after the Iraqi finance minister, Ali Allawi, claimed in an interview with the Independent newspaper that \$1bn had been stolen from the defence ministry.**

**Mr Allawi said the rampant corruption and fraud at the defence ministry had left the new Iraqi army with second-rate weapons with which to confront the insurgency. "Huge amounts of money have disappeared. In return we got nothing but scraps of metal," Mr Allawi said.**

Judge Radhi said there was also evidence against the transport, trade, interior, public works and labour ministries, and that up to 50 officials could be brought to justice.

Allegations of corruption at the defence ministry have been swirling around Baghdad for some time, but the scale of the fraud has shocked many. A defence ministry source, who requested anonymity, told The Guardian yesterday that hundreds of millions of dollars had been wasted on unnecessary and overpriced equipment for Iraq's military.

"There appears to be no oversights and accountability in the procurement," he said. Investigators have been investigating weapons and equipment deals struck by the former procurement officer Ziad Cattan and other officials.

The source said the most egregious case involved a \$236m contract last December to equip the Iraqi army with helicopters and other material.

"The money was paid upfront to a Polish company before we'd even seen what we were buying. It was very fishy," he said.

**Military equipment purchased in Poland included 28-year-old Soviet-made helicopters. The manufacturers said they should have been scrapped after 25 years of service.**

**Armoured cars purchased by Iraq turned out to be so poorly made that even a bullet from an elderly AK-47 machine-gun could penetrate their armour.**

**Other armoured cars leaked so much oil that they had to be abandoned. A deal was struck to buy 7.62mm machine-gun bullets for 16 cents each, although they should have cost between 4 and 6 cents.**

**Another contract for US machine guns, at a cost of \$3,500 each, bought Egyptian copies worth \$200.**

**"If you compare the amount that was allegedly stolen of about \$1bn compared with the budget of the ministry of defence, it is nearly 100 per cent of the ministry's budget that has gone Awol," said Mr Allawi.**

**Allawi says a further 500-600 million dollars has allegedly disappeared from the electricity, transport, interior and other ministries.**

**"This helps to explain why the supply of electricity in Baghdad has been so poor since the fall of Saddam Hussein 29 months ago despite claims by the US and**

subsequent Iraqi governments that they are doing everything to improve power generation."

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **Leave No President Behind**

From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace

To: GI Special

Sent: September 19, 2005

Subject: Levity

**A driver is stuck in a traffic jam on the highway. Nothing is moving. Suddenly a man knocks on the window. The driver rolls down his window and asks, "What happened?"**

**"Terrorists kidnapped President Bush and are asking for a \$10 million ransom otherwise they are going to douse him with gasoline and set him on fire. We are going from car to car to take up a collection."**

**The driver asks, "How much is everyone giving on average?"**

**"About a gallon."**

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

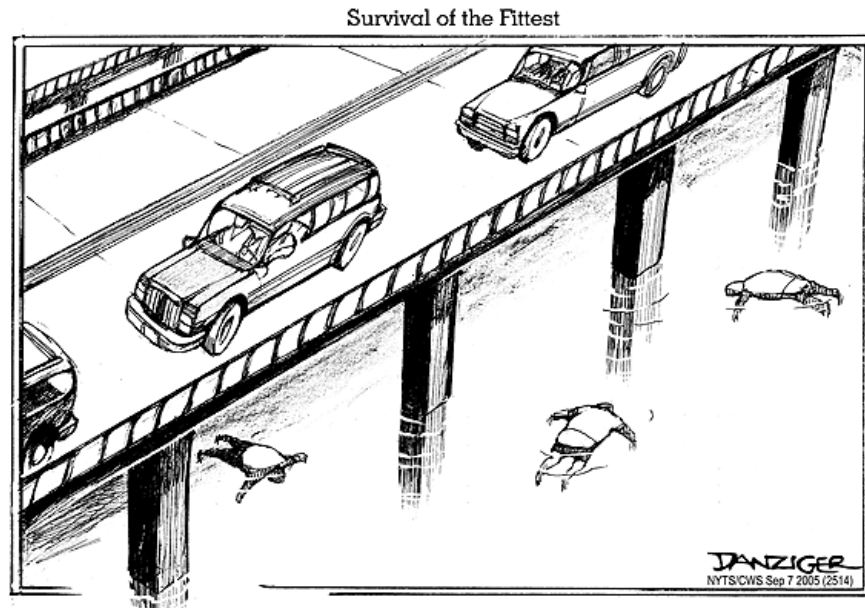
### **How Bad Is It?**

09/14/05 By John Pilger, Information Clearing House [Excerpt]

**For a few days, a selective group of liberal newspaper readers were told that poverty had risen an amazing 17 per cent under Bush; that an African-American baby born within a mile of the White House had less chance of surviving its first year than an urban baby in India; that the United States was now ranked 43rd in the world in infant mortality, 84th for measles immunisation and 89th for polio; that the world's richest oil company, ExxonMobil, would make 30 billion dollars in**

profits this year, having received a huge slice of the 14.5 billion dollars in "tax breaks" which Bush's new energy bill guarantees his elite cronies.

In his two elections, Bush has received most of his "corporate contributions" - the euphemism for bribes totalling 61.5 million dollars - from oil and gas companies.



### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

All GI Special issues achieved at website <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following have also posted issues; there may be others:

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

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

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

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