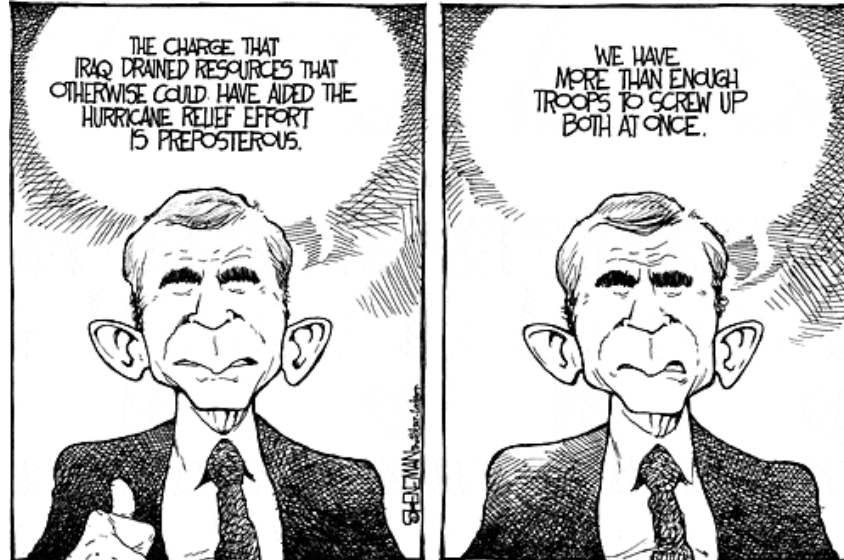


## GI SPECIAL 3C61:



**“They Think That Pretty Ribbons And Shiny Things Are Going To Make Up For What You’ve Lost”**

Cushman says he feels like the military forgot about him, that he was never even told when the rest of his unit was coming home.

September 21, 2005 Holly Maynard, CLEAR CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS

Last week, members of the 101st Calvary unit out of Geneva came home. However, one member of that unit John Cushman wasn't there for the homecoming. In fact, he couldn't even bring himself to even watch it on TV.

John came home months earlier, when he was wounded.

**Cushman was awarded a Purple Heart, but, he says, the symbol of courage means nothing to him now.**

**"They think that pretty ribbons and shiny things are going to make up for what you've lost. It doesn't make the dreams go away every night, doesn't make me sleep any better," he said.**

Cushman was wounded in an explosion last December in Iraq.

He has just had shrapnel taken out of his knee and had reconstructive surgery on his face. He's working on getting hearing aids for his ears.

Those are the physical problems. But, Cushman is also dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. His mom is afraid of his temper and his two young sons know to back off.

**"They understand sometimes Daddy is going to get mad. Don't sneak up behind Daddy and grab him, touch him, or tickle him," he said.**

**He also hates going anywhere where there's a lot of people. In Iraq, that meant bombs could be close.**

**"I hate driving, hate public places, going out to eat, hate shopping," he said.**

Cushman doesn't have a job. Instead he spends a lot of the time at the VA Hospital with a support group for people with PTSD. When he's not doing that, he's with a psychiatrist, or doing physical therapy.

He encourages any new veterans who may need help to get it as soon as possible.

"Get it dealt with, before it tears your family apart, tears you apart," he said.

**Cushman says he feels like the military forgot about him, that he was never even told when the rest of his unit was coming home.**

### **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))**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS



**9.22.05: Sgt. Michael Egan, shown in a photo released by his family, was one of four Army National Guard soldiers killed by roadside bombs in Iraq, military officials said Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2005. (AP Photo/Family photo via CN8 News-image from video)**

---

### **Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier; Six Wounded**

22 September 2005 Aljazeera

**A roadside bomb hit a US patrol of Humvees in southern Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding six, an official said.**

The explosion occurred at 10.30pm (1830 GMT) on Wednesday in the Dora section of Baghdad, said Sergeant 1st Class David Abrams of the US Army.

---

### **Roadside Bomb Kills Kentucky Guardsmen**

Sep 22, 2005 wave3.com

**(FRANKFORT, Ky.) -- A Kentucky National Guard Soldier was killed this week when his armored humvee encountered a roadside bomb. Two more Guardsmen were injured in the Tuesday incident.**

According to a statement today from the Guard, William Alvin Allers was assigned to the Kentucky Army National Guard's 617th Military Police Company.

**The 28-year-old Allers joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in September 2003. He had served with the U-S Army and worked in Leitchfield for an office supply business.**

The company is based in Richmond with a detachment in Bowling Green.

**Allers is the eighth member of the Kentucky National Guard to die in the Iraq war. Allers becomes the second Kentucky soldier killed in Iraq within a week.**

---

## **Soldier Killed In Kirkuk Wreck**

Sep. 22, 2005 By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press MNF

The U.S. military said an American soldier died Wednesday night of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident near Kirkuk at about 9:30 p.m. September 21.

---

## **Car Bomb South Of Baghdad Wounds U.S. Soldier**

Sep. 22, 2005 By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press

**Thursday, a bomb hidden in a parked car exploded near a U.S. military convoy on a road about 11 miles south of Baghdad, slightly wounding one soldier.**

---

## **Sandwich Soldier Wounded**

September 22, 2005 By Silene Gordon, CNC

Christopher Donnellan, a 2005 Upper Cape Cod Technical School graduate from Sandwich, was wounded in Baghdad recently, but is said to be recovering.

"Christopher is doing well," said his mother, Sue Hampton. "I have spoken with him several times. He says to tell people that he is doing fine and on light duty right now, which means doing nothing and letting the medics watch him carefully, so for that I am grateful."

**According to Hampton, her son said that two Iraqi 9-year-olds told him of a suspicious item, which Donnellan said was an improvised explosive device (IED) wrapped in a rice bag inside a concrete block. Donnellan cordoned off a large**

**area, put the boys in his Humvee, and used his robot (a device with a camera) to attempt to scan the IED. As he approached it, he knelt down to adjust his robot and an insurgent set off the bomb.**

Donnellan was hit by some shrapnel in his right hand and neck. The hand is fine, said his mother, but there is still some shrapnel in his neck, which medics are hoping will work itself out on its own. He was taken by ambulance to a combat army support hospital, where he was treated and later released and placed on light duty, said Hampton.

---

## **Trucker From Weiser Wounded**

9/21/05 WEISER SIGNAL AMERICAN

A Weiser man working as a trucker in Iraq was wounded this week during an attack on his convoy, the man's stepdaughter told the Signal American.

Brooke Morgan, Weiser, the adult stepdaughter of Terry Steward, reported yesterday that Steward suffered three gunshot wounds while driving in a convoy approximately 40 miles outside the city of Balad in northern Iraq.

Morgan said that she and her mother, Darlene Steward of Weiser, Terry Steward's wife, were informed about the incident by the trucker himself in a phone conversation the injured man placed to his Weiser home yesterday after he had undergone surgery.

**Morgan said Terry Steward told the women that his convoy encountered improvised explosive devices, which detonated, and automatic weapons fire. Three other truckers were killed in the attack, Morgan said her stepfather reported. She said he reported that his own injuries included two gunshot wounds in one leg and a single gunshot wound in the groin.**

Morgan believes her stepfather underwent surgery at a military base in Balad before being transported to two other military locations.

**Terry Steward was employed to drive truck in Iraq by Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), a Halliburton Inc. subsidiary.** Morgan said he had approximately eight months remaining of a two-year employment commitment at the time of this week's attack. He returned to Iraq last month after being home on leave in late July and early August.

Morgan said Terry Steward was raised in Indian Valley and also has relatives in Council and Boise.

---

## **Powerful Blast Shakes US Kirkuk Military Base**

22 September 2005 Focus Information Agency

**A powerful blast has shaken an US military base located nearby the airport in northern Iraqi town of Kirkuk, Iraqi news agency INA reported. There has been no further information on the incident.**

---

## **British Command Cuts Basra Patrols; Province Government Cuts Ties With Occupation**

**"All regular meetings between the governorate and British troops have been cancelled and we will not allow British soldiers into the governorate building or any other public office in Basra," Nadim al-Jabiri, spokesman for the provincial governor in Basra, told AFP on Thursday.**

Sep. 22, 2005 By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press & (AFP) & Sep 21, 2005 Patrick Cockburn, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd

**British troops in the tense southern city of Basra greatly reduced their presence in the streets Thursday, apparently responding to a provincial governor's call to sever cooperation until London apologized for storming a police station to free two of its soldiers.**

**For the second day, no British forces were seen accompanying Iraqi police on patrols of Basra, as they routinely had in the past.**

**"All regular meetings between the governorate and British troops have been cancelled and we will not allow British soldiers into the governorate building or any other public office in Basra," Nadim al-Jabiri, spokesman for the provincial governor in Basra, told AFP on Thursday.**

The head of the 41-member provincial council, Mohammed Saadun al-Abidi, confirmed the decision to halt all contacts with the 8,500-strong British force which is responsible for security in the region.

"Yesterday, the provincial council voted in session to boycott British troops, and we are demanding that they return the two British soldiers to Iraqi custody," Abidi said.

Ordinary Iraqis were drawing their own conclusion about what had happened in Basra.

**Abdul Hamid, a goldsmith, said over the phone from the city: "People here have seen that our government has no authority in Iraq. The British did not respect them when they smashed into the jail, so why should we respect our own leaders?"**

## **REAL BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



9.22.05: US soldier from the E/ company 2-7 Infantry division patrols a highway in Tikrit. (AFP/Tauseef Mustafa)

---

## **“The War Is Lost” “We've Taken Samara Four Times, And Lost It Again Four Times” U.S. Commander Says**

September 21, 2005, Chris Floyd, Empire Burlesque, [chris-floyd.com](http://chris-floyd.com) [Excerpt]

American forces continually stage massive military actions against "rebel" towns, dropping 500-pound bombs on residential areas, using thousands of troops, air power, armor, etc., to "clean out an area." And they succeed.

**But just as in Vietnam, as soon as the US forces move on, the insurgents move back and take over the town again.**

**As one U.S. commander noted last week, "We've taken Samara four times, and lost it again four times."**

**The war is lost.**

Three years after the invasion, the occupation forces control less and less of the country all the time.

The level of wanton violence -- from all sides -- keeps rising. The physical infrastructure of the country continues to deteriorate. The social fabric is in tatters. "Reconstruction" has degenerated into outright robbery and all-pervasive graft.

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **“He Picks Up A Spade In A Field And Looks Just Like Any Other Village Farmer”**

September 22, 2005 By Paul McGeough, Chief Herald Correspondent in Kabul

So far this year, more than 1000 Afghan civilians and terrorism suspects have been killed, along with almost 70 Americans.

In that time the Taliban has revealed itself as a leaner, more tightly organised guerilla force

**"Now it's faceless. Their detonators are so sophisticated, they can sit back two kilometres and explode an IED remotely through a simple wire antenna hanging from a bush next to a device that might have been planted days or weeks earlier. Boom! Off it goes and before you know it, he is back over the mountain where he picks up a spade in a field and looks just like any other village farmer."**

**And apart from their use of more sophisticated IEDs, they also have proven access to what are believed to be Russian and Chinese-made surface-to-air missiles (SAMs). They have downed several US aircraft and launched brazen, but failed, strikes on others taking off from American bases.**

**Mr Karzai also questioned the US reliance on powerful air-strikes on suspected Taliban and other anti-Kabul camps and hideouts, in which the Americans are frequently accused of killing peaceful Afghan civilians. And he reiterated an early demand that US-led forces must seek permission from the Afghan authorities before searching Afghan homes.**

The Americans measure success against the Taliban in bodies. They claim to have killed at least 450 out of a total insurgent force of several thousand in the past four months. **[Q: How do you know when an Imperial occupier has lost the war? A:**



When its officials crawl back to the use of body counts to show progress. Classic marker of total incomprehension of counter-insurgency warfare.]

---

## **“The Afghan People Support Us And Give Us Help Wherever We Go”**

September 22, 2005 By Daniel Cooney, Associated Press

A purported Taliban spokesman, Mullah Latif Hakimi, said “Our morale is very high. We will never stop fighting and are willing to die for our cause,” he said in a call to The Associated Press from an undisclosed location.

**“The Afghan people support us and give us help wherever we go.”**

---

## **85% Didn't Vote In Occupation Election**

September 21, 2005 New York Times on the Web

The Taliban rejected Afghanistan's elections as a "U.S. drama" that drew only a 15 percent turnout and vowed to intensify the war, calling into question President Hamid Karzai's contention that the need for military force had diminished.

---

### **TROOP NEWS**

## ***What's The Noble Mission To Die For In Iraq?*** **Winning The 2006 Elections!** **Withdrawal Now Would Fuck It Up For The Bush Regime**

September 22, 2005 By Tom Raum, Associated Press

Argues Anthony Cordesman, an expert on Iraq with the Center for Strategic and International studies: “If you pull troops out too quickly now, and you see the

situation in Iraq collapse before the midterm elections, the impact is going to be far more serious than if you keep the troops in at reasonable levels.”

He adds: “There are certain political realities here that are obvious. And some forms of short-term expediency make about as much sense as shooting yourself in the foot.”

---

## **War Support Gone; Majority Knows Defeat Coming**

[Thanks to Don Bacon, Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

September 22, 2005 WMTW TV Channel 8 - Portland Maine & By Sidney Blumenthal, Salon.com & CNN & September 21, 2005 The Canadian Press

**An Associated Press-Ipsos poll indicates two-thirds of Americans think Bush is spending too much money in Iraq.**

**Less than one-third of the American public now supports his policy in Iraq, according to a CNN/Gallup poll.**

**The poll also reports that Americans have become bitterly pessimistic, with 54 percent saying they believe the United States "won't win."**

**Only 39 percent of those polled said they favored the war in Iraq -- down from 47 percent in March -- and 59 percent were opposed.**

**As well, a recent New York Times survey suggested more than eight in 10 Americans are concerned about the \$5 billion US spent each month in Iraq, with support for the war falling to an all-time low.**

**The president's record low approval ratings after the bungled response to Katrina didn't improve following a nationally televised speech last week where he promised to fund one of the world's largest reconstruction efforts.**

---

## **Bush Buddies At Halliburton's KBR Gave Iraq Troops Raw Sewage, Bacteria & Parasites In Untreated Water For Years: “Incompetence And Willful Negligence In Protecting The Water Supply”**

Sept. 20 (HalliburtonWatch.org)

**Former KBR employees and water quality specialists, Ben Carter and Ken May, told HalliburtonWatch that KBR knowingly exposes troops and civilians to contaminated water from Iraq's Euphrates River. One internal KBR email provided to HalliburtonWatch says that, for "possibly a year," the level of contamination at one camp was two times the normal level for untreated water.**

**"I discovered the water being delivered from the Euphrates for the military was not being treated properly and thousands were being exposed daily to numerous pathogenic organisms," Carter informed HalliburtonWatch.**

**Carter worked at Camp Ar Ramadi, located 70 miles west of Baghdad in the notoriously violent Sunni Triangle, but he says water contamination problems exist throughout Iraq's military camps.**

He helped manage KBR's Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU), which is a water treatment system designed to produce potable (drinkable) water from a variety of raw water sources such as lakes, lagoons and rivers. ROWPU is supposed to provide the troops with clean water from Iraq's Euphrates River.

**William Granger of KBR Water Quality for Iraq reached this conclusion in an email after investigating Carter's complaint: "Fact: We exposed a base camp population (military and civilian) to a water source that was not treated. The level of contamination was roughly 2x the normal contamination of untreated water from the Euphrates River."**

**Granger admitted that the contamination was "most likely ... ongoing through the entire life" of the camp, but that he was "not sure if any attempt to notify the exposed population was ever made."**

In a company email last March to his superior, Harold "Mo" Orr, coordinator for Halliburton's health and safety department said, "We have determined that the military (Command Surgeon) has not given any kind of signoff on the military ROWPU (As required by the military SOP) nor has KBR ever inquired about this before. This was only discovered thru the investigation of possible contamination by Ben Carter who is right now in charge of the ROWPU."

Orr's request for further investigation into the matter was overruled by KBR's health, safety and environmental manager, Jay Delahoussaye, who said in an email that the initial health hazard turned out to be "erroneous" and that "corrective measures" were taken and "No KBR personnel were exposed to contaminated water."

But Granger responded with another email, saying it was unclear whether corrective action had been taken. He said it was "highly likely" that someone from KBR finally started chlorinating the water this year, but that "there is no documentation" to confirm it. **Nor is there documentation to show KBR is testing the water three times per day as required by the military, Granger said.**

**Nonetheless, Carter said chlorination is not enough to remedy the problem since raw sewage is routinely dumped less than two miles from the water intake location, in violation of military policy and procedure.**

**"Chlorination of water tanks, while certainly beneficial, is not sufficient protection from parasitic exposure," Carter said in an email to Granger, who is still employed with KBR.**

**According to Carter, Granger had written a scathing, 21-page report to KBR management about water quality at Ar Ramadi. Carter says the report proves the company's "incompetence and willful negligence" in protecting the water supply.**

Granger has refused to comply with a company gag order and is convinced his employment will be terminated soon, says Carter.

**In an email to Ken May, Granger said, "I stand by all of my email's (internal or not). I have consistently been dogged in my approach that protection of the soldier, contractor, and subcontractor is paramount."**

In another email to Carter, Granger said he would support Carter's legal actions and that he's looking into legal protections for himself as a whistleblower. "I won't turn over any documents until I understand what is protected or not ... but know that if called to testify or such that I will disclose all that is in the report verbally," he said in the email.

Carter is in the process of obtaining worker's compensation from Halliburton over an illness he says was caused by the contaminated water.

**Soldiers are often evacuated out of Iraq for non-combat related illnesses. The Association of Military Surgeons found that 9.1 percent of soldiers evacuated in 2003 suffered from problems of the digestive system; another 6.4 percent had nervous system disorders; 6.1% suffered urological problems; and 8.3 percent suffered from unknown illnesses.**

***In the early months of the war, the Army sent a team of investigators to probe a series of mysterious illnesses. Earlier this month, Canada reported an outbreak of gastrointestinal problems among soldiers serving in Afghanistan, where KBR is also involved.***

Of a possible sign of things to come, May said he observed an unsecured potable water tank used for food preparation at a dining facility. The bolts used to tighten the lid over the tank were missing. In an email to HalliburtonWatch, May said the tank was located in an open area "for anyone to enter, including the enemy." He worries that "contaminants/poisons could be introduced which could result in mass casualties."

Today, Halliburton spokesperson, Melissa Norcross says KBR supplies clean drinking water throughout Camp Ar Ramadi, but that "For drinking and food preparation, KBR continues to supply bottled water throughout Iraq." She insists that "there have been no documented cases of unusual illnesses or health conditions" at Ar Ramadi.

**But a private company email supplied to HalliburtonWatch appears to conflict with Halliburton's public denial. Halliburton public relations official, Jennifer Dellinger,**

**wrote to her colleagues that Faith Sproul, who works in Halliburton's workers' compensation department, "does believe that initial tests showed some contamination to be present."**

**As a result, Dellinger wrote, Sproul was concerned that former employees might "make a claim for disability" and "we could receive some queries on this if these former employees decide to go to the press."** So, Dellinger asked her public relations colleagues, "Can you run some traps on this and see what you can find out?"

**Carter resigned two weeks prior to Ken May, discovering what he said was "unsafe water and pressure to cover it up." "I tried to correct the problem, only to be blackballed by management and I eventually left this employment," Carter told HalliburtonWatch.**

Carter and May cite "poor company behavior patterns and practices from Site Management as the tell-tale sign of disaster looming around the corner if intervention is not taken very soon."

KBR's health and safety manager at Ar Ramadi, Harold Orr, also resigned because of the water issue but has remained silent, says May.

**Carter and May also describe instances where a site manager urged everyone to conceal contamination information from the company's health and safety department.**

According to May, statements were made in an "All Hands Meeting" by then Site Manger Suzanne-Raku Williams, Warren Smith, and acting Medic Phillip Daigle suggesting that if anyone became sick, it was probably from the handles from the port-a-lets toilets and not from water contamination.

**In response, Ken May resigned out of disgust and frustration. In an email to superiors, he chastised KBR for what he said was "retaliatory behavior from dishonest site management" and "inaction" that "compromised" camp safety and the health of the people who work there.**

He expressed concern over "the lack of oversight from the outside to investigate, redirect, and periodically monitor" the water to assure a healthy workplace. "Unfortunately, because of the lack of regards for my wellbeing (and) no response or action from KBR/Halliburton I have no recourse other than to resign," he said in an email to his supervisor.

Carter and May's experience is not uncommon at KBR, where former employees have described instances of being ostracized or terminated if they dare to speak out against company negligence, mismanagement or malfeasance.

**Other former KBR employees have testified about being fired or urged to quit or conceal information after pointing out low-cost solutions to simple problems.**

*But, a cynic might note, allowing small problems to grow into expensive ones through purposeful neglect actually boosts KBR's profits as there is a profit guarantee of 1% to 3% over cost for the LOGCAP III contract.*

As with all of KBR's "cost plus" military contracts, the more expensive the problem, the greater the fee paid to KBR from the government.

So, it would seem there is actually a built-in incentive not to prevent small problems or reward whistleblower employees like Carter and May when neglect will result in a costlier problem down the road and more profits for KBR.

**MORE:**

## **Pentagon Defies Congress; Hiding Documents About War Profiteer Halliburton's Thieving**

September 21, 2005 The Hill

Almost one year after the House Government Reform Committee launched an investigation into the Pentagon's contracts with Halliburton Corp. in Iraq, the panel still has not received all the documents it requested from the Department of Defense.

---

## **1000 Turn Out For Sheehan In Baltimore: "They Are Feeding Off Our Children's Flesh And Blood"**



September 21 2005 William Hughes, MMN

Cindy Sheehan, and the "Bring Them Home Now Tour," hit Baltimore City last night. The Shriver auditorium on the Johns Hopkins U. campus was packed to capacity to hear the anti-Iraqi War messages of her and others. Sheehan said, we need an "Opposition Party" and that Congress is mostly made up of cowards, who have given "a liar" and "a maniac," - George W. Bush - the power to invade Iraq. If Congress doesn't shape up, she said: "Fire them!"

**A capacity crowd estimated at over 1,000 filled the facility, with plenty of flags, banners, signs and posters, too, decorating the confines of the facility.**

**Tia Steele, whose stepson, David, age 21, a U.S. Marine, was recently killed in Iraq, acted as a chairperson for the proceedings.** On stage with her were representatives from "Iraq Veterans Against the War," "Military Families Speak Out," "Veterans for Peace," and "Gold Star Families for Peace."

**Sheehan said, "Bush violates the Constitution every time he opens his mouth." She underscored how the new Iraqi regime is "a sham government - a puppet government," and that many of its mover and shakers "encouraged the invasion so that they could get rich. They are feeding off our children's flesh and blood."**

**"Freedom and democracy begin at home," Sheehan said in an obvious dig at one of Bush's ubiquitous pro-Iraqi war propaganda lines. "Sixty-two percent of the country want our troops to start coming home. That's democracy! That's majority rule! If Bush believes in democracy, then he should bring our troops home."**

---

## **Honorable Marine On Duty Defending Cindy Sheehan: New DVD Lets Soldiers Speak Their Truth**

From: Nancy Fulton  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 21, 2005

**I wrote up a press release about videos of anti-war soldiers speaking about the War in Iraq that I'm posting on google.com.**

**<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2005/9/prweb288010.htm>**

**That story appears in the top listings for the search term Cindy Sheehan on News.Google.com and News.Yahoo.Com. Since she's doing that huge protest**

**this weekend, I suspect our story will continue to get some play.** You are listed at the bottom of the release as a place people should visit to get more information about antiwar soldiers.

I think your site has some of the best/most reliable –actual - news coverage of what's up in Iraq. I always here about upticks in casualties, new offensives (and offenses), and new Pentagon policies on your site first.

Hopefully some more people will find you.

**[Hopefully, several million people will see the work you've done. You and others are doing the heavy lifting. GI Special can report when others act. T]**

\*\*\*\*\*

September 22, 2005 PRWEB [Excerpt]

**Jeff Key, Lance Corporal in the US Marine Corp, is currently serving as Cindy Sheehan's body guard.**

**In his clip [see below for more about the video] he makes it clear that he is not a pacifist. He became a Marine to protect and defend defenseless people.**

"I'm sick to death of being told how much better the Iraqi's lives are."

**He suggests that if the people of the United States were offered a solution to all the nation's troubles, ranging from health care to education, at the price the Iraqi's have been asked to pay they wouldn't accept the offer.**

<p><b>"What if someone came to us and said 'We're gonna fix all of these problems ... The only thing is, we're going to kill tens of thousands of you.'"</b></p>
--

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nancy Fulton says, "James Metropole, Susie Shannon and I are just everyday citizens.**

**"We started making this documentary, a first for all of us, because we wanted to know the truth of what was going on in Iraq.**

**"We were tired of hearing generals and politicians talk about conditions in Iraq when their visits were little more than four hour touch downs. We were disgusted by the images we saw coming out of Abu Ghraib and the images of dead soldiers and civilians flooding our TV screens.**

**"So, we turned to our soldiers for answers. James Metropole was a soldier, my family has a tradition of military service . . .**



**“We knew US Soldiers are the only US citizens who know exactly how the United States is waging war in Iraq. We knew US Soldiers would tell us the unvarnished truth.**

**“Did they have the right training and equipment? What did they see? What did they do?**

**“We had no idea their responses would be so explosive or so compelling. Soldiers really are American heroes facing the kind of moral and ethical dilemmas the rest of us can only imagine. We came to understand the terrible price soldiers pay for the innocent deaths they cause and the lives they aren't allowed to save.”**

***Metropole Filmworx will be putting DVD's containing soldier statements in the hands of elected representatives during the anti-war protest led by Cindy Sheehan. Anyone looking for the truth of what's happening on the ground in Iraq has to start with the soldiers who have spent months or years there.***

**Metropole Filmworx will be posting additional clips of soldiers talking about their service in Iraq in the weeks to come.**

**Information on how soldiers can arrange to be interviewed for the documentary, and links to soldier antiwar statements on [video.google.com](http://video.google.com), can be found on [www.metropolefilmworx.com](http://www.metropolefilmworx.com).**

**For more information about antiwar soldiers visit [www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net) and [www.optruth.com](http://www.optruth.com) and [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org).**

***Antiwar statements from US Soldiers who have served in the Iraq War (OIF) appear online now at [Video.Google.Com](http://Video.Google.Com).***

***Metropole Filmworx LLC choose [Video.Google.Com](http://Video.Google.Com) as a distribution method for clips of soldier videos in order to insure they would be available on demand in time for the September 23, 2005 protest in Washington DC led by Cindy Sheehan.***

**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.**

## **“My Unit Killed Civilians, And They Knew It”**

September 23, 2005 By Erik Wallenberg, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

BURLINGTON, Vt.--More than 250 people packed into the University of Vermont's (UVM) largest lecture hall September 9 to hear Dave Cline, president of Veterans for

Peace, speak against the war in Iraq, his experience at Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas and later in Covington, La.

The opening plenary included Joseph Turcotte from Iraq Veterans Against the War, who spoke about the lies that have been told by the government and media to justify the war and atrocities committed in Iraq. "My unit killed civilians, and they knew it," Turcotte said.

For his part, Cline called for the troops to get out of Iraq now, arguing "the people of Vietnam were never given one iota of justice from the U.S."

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

22 September 2005 Aljazeera & By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press & Arabic News & (CNN) & (KUNA)

**In Baghdad, two members of the Maghawir police were killed and other three injured in an armed attack targeting their vehicle on Wednesday early morning in al-Shuula quarters.**

**An official in the Iraqi police said that a large fire erupted on Wednesday evening in the building of the Iraqi ministry of public works.** The official said that fire fighting cars hurried to the place but gave no further details, and it was not known yet the size of the losses inflicted on the ministry.

**An Iraqi police colonel and his driver have been killed while driving on a highway near Baquba, north of Baghdad, police sources said.**

The attack on Thursday, between Baquba and Kanaan, some 50km north of the capital, was carried out by unidentified armed men in a car.

**Also in Baghdad, an unidentified armed group fire on a pickup truck carrying six security guards from the Ministry of Immigration, killing four and wounding two, an Interior Ministry official said. The armed group escaped.**

**A man and two of his sons were killed when his home in the New Baghdad area was raided by about 25 gunmen dressed in police uniforms and black masks, said police Col. Ahmed Abod. A second son was captured.**

**Abod said the father, Muhsin Akmosh Al-Timimi, had been working with foreign companies operating in Iraq.**

**Two policemen patrolling northeast Baghdad were killed in a separate drive-by shooting, police Col. Ahmed al-Alawi said.**

**In Baquba, two Iraqi police officers were wounded when their convoy came under rocket attack on the city's western outskirts Thursday, police said.**

**Another Iraqi police officer was killed in Samarra and five others were injured, including three policemen during a mortar attack against the police station in the city.**

Sources at the joint coordination center said that the US forces sealed off the scene and the wounded were rushed to hospital.



An Iraqi protester throws stones at a British tank during clashes in Basra 9.21.05. (AFP/Essam Al-Sudani)

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

## **Kirkuk Pipelines Blown Up**

22 September 2005 Aljazeera & (AFP)

**A bomb damaged oil pipelines near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, sending plumes of black smoke and fire up into the air, officials said on Thursday.**

The bomb, which exploded late on Wednesday, was placed beneath aboveground pipelines, which connect the Bay Hassan oil fields with Kirkuk in northern Iraq, said police Brigadier Sarhad Qadir.

Officials in Iraq's Northern Oil Company said the heavily damaged pipelines would be repaired within five days.



9.22.05: An Iraqi soldier walks past a burning crude oil-transporting pipeline, some 35 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of the oil-producing town of Kirkuk. Several crude oil-transporting pipelines in northern Iraq were burning fiercely following an attack, an oil installation protection force official told AFP. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

---

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Got That Right X 2**

Letter To The Editor [Excerpt]  
Simon Jenkins  
September 21, 2005  
The Guardian

**Signalling withdrawal would, it is said, give a green light to the gangs and private militias, to revenge attacks, ethnic cleansing and even partition. That threat is no longer meaningful since these are all happening anyway.**

The militias have reportedly infiltrated at least half the police and internal security forces in each area. Barely a tenth of the army is considered loyal to the central authority.

**That a Basra police station should be vulnerable to al-Sadr irregulars is appalling.**

**The 150,000 foreign troops on Iraqi soil are overwhelmingly committed to self-protection. They do not do law and order any more.**

Power is finding its new locus, in the mafias, sheikhdoms, militias and warlords that flourish amid anarchy. Where there is no security, the gunman is always king.

---

## **“It Would Be Like 1 Million Foreign Invaders Coming To The U.S.”**

September 21, 2005 By ERIC RUDER, CounterPunch [Excerpt]

**An Interview with Camilo Mejia, Iraq Veteran:**

*Ruder: Do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to stay or should troops be withdrawn immediately?*

Mejia: There should be immediate withdrawal.

**To say that the Iraqis need 160,000 people armed to the teeth in order to succeed is straight-out racist. That's like saying that you have a family, and that somebody with a stick needs to be in your house in order for you to be able to run your house. And then every mistake you make, you get smacked upside the head because somebody else knows what's good for you better than you do.**

**It would be like 1 million foreign invaders coming to the U.S. and saying that we're going to stay because you have problems. You have a president who steals elections, and you have racial minorities left behind to fend for themselves in hurricanes.**

**The hypocrisy is incredible. We demand that the Iraqis have 25 percent female representation in Congress. And what is it here? It's 14 percent! And yet we use all these arguments as reasons to stay--I don't really mean "we," I mean the government.**

How can we even speak about freeing anybody when we're not free ourselves?

We have one of the worst, if not the worst, education system of any industrialized nation. We have more than 40 million people without health insurance. We have an education system that charges people to go to college.

**We have this beautiful Bill of Rights and this beautiful Constitution that unfortunately have never applied to everyone, just very select groups. We need**

freedom here before we can even think about helping anybody with their own freedom.

---

## ***Consumer Fraud:*** **“Anti-War” Leaders Still Sucking Up To The Imperial, Soldier-Killing Democrats**

September 23, 2005 Socialist Worker Editorial [Excerpt]

[M]any leading voices of the antiwar movement continue to put a central focus on working with congressional Democrats. This has meant settling for watered-down proposals that the politicians are prepared to accept.

For instance, the antiwar group United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) hailed legislation proposed by Democratic Rep. Lynn Woolsey that calls on the Bush administration to “develop and implement a plan to begin the immediate withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Iraq.”

The tortured wording was carefully drafted to be far from UFPJ’s own stated position in favor of troops out now--so that supporters of the Woolsey amendment couldn’t be accused of wanting to “cut and run” from Iraq. As Woolsey herself said at a February press conference, “We must play a role in facilitating their transition to stable democracy”--similar rhetoric to what you hear from Bush administration officials.

Holding up Woolsey’s compromised proposal--which is far from having the support of the bulk of congressional Democrats--as a victory for the antiwar movement accepts the same logic that confined our struggle during the 2004 presidential election.

All national antiwar protests--excepting one mobilization specifically against the Republican National Convention--were suspended during the elections so that antiwar movement leaders could devote their energy to getting “anybody but Bush” into office, even if that candidate, John Kerry, was pro-occupation and pro-war.

<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>
--

# OCCUPATION REPORT

## No Oil For Blood: Too Dangerous

September 21, 2005 International Herald Tribune

**The big international oil companies have no concrete plans to develop the Iraqi petroleum industry**, meaning that it will be several years before the country has a hope of returning to its 1979 peak in production and probably a decade before Iraq could pump the 5.5 million to six million barrels a day potentially available from its reserves, according to Issam al-Chalabi, a former Iraqi oil minister.

---

## *So Much For That “Sovereignty” Bullshit:* **U.S. Occupation Scum Decide Iraqi Travelers Can’t Come Home; 13 Year Old Amputee Among Them**



Children are among those stranded on the Iraq-Syria border

23 September 2005 Aljazeera

**Hundreds of Iraqis have been stuck on the Syrian side of the Iraq-Syria border after being refused entry by Iraqi security forces.** The stranded Iraqis are mainly travellers returning to their country after visiting neighbouring Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

**The stranded say they have been barred from entering their country by a US army decision, implemented by Iraqi security forces. They have been gathering daily at the checkpoint appealing for a solution.**

**The government in Baghdad has given no indication it plans to look into the issue.**

**News reports suggest that dozens of pilgrims from Makkah in Saudi Arabia are among those stuck in the desert along with sick people and their families.**

The Iraqis have appealed to human rights organisations to intervene and convince their government to let them enter the country.

**The Aljazeera reporter at the border checkpoint said one of those stuck in the middle of the desert was Adnan, a 13-year-old boy. Adnan arrived at the checkpoint from Jordan after having his leg amputated. He has been waiting for over a week at the border.**

A woman who had run out of money said the Iraqi border guards did not show any concern for her, while the Syrians took care of her and her children's needs. Another stricken Iraqi said a woman delivered her baby at a nearby mosque.

**An Iraqi guard pulled out his gun and pointed it at Aljazeera's cameraman to show his resentment at the channel's attempt to document the drama.**

**The stranded Iraqis fear their ordeal will continue for a long time and their plight will be forgotten even as the health problems of some of them worsen while others are running out of money.**

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Palestinian Newborns Die In Checkpoint Delays**

22 Sep 2005 Reuters [Thanks to Katherine G, who sent this in.]

**UNITED NATIONS, Sept 22 (Reuters) -Sixty-one women have given birth at Israeli checkpoints since 2000 due to delays in getting through the checkpoints, and 36 of their babies died as a result, the United Nations said on Thursday.**



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

---

## **“And They Sang Old Songs I Thought They Were Extinct, For I Haven't Heard Them In A Long Time....”**

September 15, 2005 By Faiza Jarrar, [afamilyinbaghdad.blogspot.com](http://afamilyinbaghdad.blogspot.com). Translated by May/Baghdad

**Yesterday evening, I went out with my family to participate in a candle demonstration with a lot of people, mostly from Palestine, to stand in front of the UN building in Amman, and give an outcry against the existence of the Separating Wall in Palestine, for which an International Justice Court's verdict was issued, to be demolished, but Israel refuses to fulfill the verdict, and the Security Council is drowning in stories of administrative and financial corruption...**

And the whole world seems like it is in a deep sleep.....

**I saw the Palestinian women wearing their traditional embroidered clothes, putting the Arab kuffia on their shoulders, with the Palestinian flag drawn on it, they were carrying the candles, and shouting: "Palestine is Arabic, from water to water." (Meaning; from the Dead Sea waters, to the Mediterranean).**

**And we all shouted: No to the wall....**

**They sang, and I sang with them, the anthem of "My homeland"....**

**And they sang old songs I thought they were extinct, for I haven't heard them in a long time....**

**(The wind blew, and the gunpowder sang... oh, my homeland, ask for as much young men as you wish...)**

**I smiled bitterly as I looked at them, there were generations standing before me; women in their sixties, certainly grandmothers, young women in their twenties and thirties, and young girls in primary schools...**

**Memory took me back to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, where I worked in a rebuilding engineering committee, from 1976 to 1978.**

**They used to sing the same songs, and shout the same slogans.....**

I said to myself: these people saw hell from America, Britain, and Israel, but the new generations still shout and sing the songs of the ancestors, completely believing in their rights in the land of Palestine, the right to return....

---

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Working Class Abandoned Again, In Houston, As Hurricane Approaches: “Everyone Just Says, 'Get Out, Get Out.' I've Got No Way Of Getting Out”**

"All the banks are closed and I just got off work," said Thomas Visor, holding his sweaty paycheck as he, too, tried to get inside the store, where more than 100 people, all of them black or Hispanic, fretted in line. "This is crazy. How are you supposed to evacuate a hurricane if you don't have money? Answer me that?"

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

September 22, 2005 By DEBORAH HASTINGS, AP NATIONAL WRITER

HOUSTON -- Wilma Skinner would like to scream at the officials of this city. If only someone would pick up their phone.

"I done called for a shelter, I done called for help. There ain't none. No one answers," she said, standing in blistering heat outside a check-cashing store that had just run out of its main commodity. "Everyone just says, 'Get out, get out.' I've got no way of getting out. And now I've got no money."

With Hurricane Rita breathing down Houston's neck, those with cars were stuck in gridlock trying to get out. Those like Skinner - poor, and with a broken-down car - were simply stuck, and fuming at being abandoned, they say.

"All the banks are closed and I just got off work," said Thomas Visor, holding his sweaty paycheck as he, too, tried to get inside the store, where more than 100 people, all of them black or Hispanic, fretted in line. "This is crazy. How are you supposed to evacuate a hurricane if you don't have money? Answer me that?"

Some of those who did have money, and did try to get out, didn't get very far.

Judie Anderson of La Porte, Texas, covered just 45 miles in 12 hours. She had been on the road since 10 p.m. Wednesday, headed toward Oklahoma, which by Thursday was still very far away.

"This is the worst planning I've ever seen," she said. "They say, 'We've learned a lot from Hurricane Katrina.' Well, you couldn't prove it by me."

On Bellaire Boulevard in southwest Houston, a weeping woman and her young daughter stood on the sidewalk, surrounded by plastic bags full of clothes and blankets. "I'd like to go, but nobody come get me," the woman said in broken English. When asked her name, she looked frightened. "No se, no se," she said: Spanish for "I don't know."

Her daughter, who appeared to be about 9, whispered in English, "We're from Mexico."

For the poor and the disenfranchised, the mighty evacuation orders that preceded Rita were something they could only ignore.

In Deer Park, a working-class suburb of refineries south of Houston, Stacy and Troy Curtis, waited for help outside the police station. Less than three weeks ago, the couple left New Orleans after it was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

With no vehicle, and little money, they tried to get their lives together while staying at a hotel in Deer Park. Stacy Curtis, a nursing assistant in New Orleans, had a job interview scheduled for Thursday.

But most businesses had shut down because the neighborhood will likely flood if the hurricane hits Galveston Bay. The streets were empty Thursday afternoon.

"We're stuck here," Stacy Curtis said. "Got no other place to go."

An emergency official eventually sent a van to take the couple to a shelter at a recreation center.

Monica Holmes, who has debilitating lupus, sat in her car at a Houston gas station that had no gas. "We can't go nowhere," she said, tapping a fingernail against the dashboard fuel gauge. "Look here," she said. "I'm right on E."

Her husband, a security guard, had a paycheck, but no way to cash it.

"We were going to try to go to Nacogdoches" in east Texas, not far from the Louisiana border, she said. "But even if we could get on the road, we're not going to get out. **These people that left yesterday, they're still on the beltway. They haven't even got out of Houston.**"

Mandatory evacuation orders were issued Wednesday for the area.

Skinner, accompanied by her 6-year-old grandson, Dagenal Bellard, would settle for a bus.

"They got them for the outlying areas, for the Gulf and Galveston, but they ain't made no preparations for us in the city, for the poor people here. There ain't no (evacuation) buses here. I got nowhere to go."

---

## The Bad News: Bush Promises To Stay In U.S.

22 September 2005 By Sidney Blumenthal, Salon.com

On Iraq, President Bush declared on Feb. 4, 2004, "We will do what it takes. We will not leave until the job is done."

On post-Hurricane Katrina reconstruction, on Sept. 15, he eerily echoed, "We will do what it takes. We will stay as long as it takes."

It was reassuring for the nation to be told by the president in his televised address that he intends to "stay" in the United States and not cut and run.

---

## Waist Deep In The Big Muddy

September 22, 2005 Artandkathy, Veterans For Peace

Donald Rumsfeld is giving the president his daily briefing.

He concludes by saying: "Yesterday, 3 Brazilian soldiers were killed."

"OH NO!" the President exclaims. "That's terrible!"

His staff sits stunned at this display of emotion, nervously watching as the President sits, head in hands.

Finally, the President looks up and asks, "How many is a brazillion?"

### **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>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more

information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**