

GI SPECIAL 3C66:



ARCHANGEL REPORTING ANOTHER MEDICALLY UNFIT SOLDIER FORCED INTO IRAQ

This Soldier needs our help, she has contacted her Congressman, and her father has done the same and more, and needs more help.

Right now what this Soldier needs is support.

Please if you would like to send supporting messages to this Soldier and her father please send them to ArchAngel1BL@aol.com and I will forward them to them both.

Make some noise America.

From: ArchAngel1BL@aol.com
To: GI Special
Sent: September 21, 2005
Subject: ArchAngel reports

ArchAngel reporting yet another case of a medically unfit Soldier currently stationed in Iraq until next year.

This Soldier contacted me after reading about what I did for my husband, and her father has asked me and my fellow ArchAngels to help.

According to the Soldier's father, his daughter has chondromalacia patella which also can be called runner's knee. Her father is relaying everything that she sends to him back to me.

Names have been requested not to be mentioned, so I will call this Soldier Angel 10 because if I have counted correctly that is the number of people whom I have given advice to in request for help. It could be more, hard to keep up.

Anyway, Angel 10 is in constant pain because of her knees. She is waiting on a permanent medical profile. According to the AR (army regs.) 40-501 she should be recommended for a MEB (medical board).

In other words she should be medically discharged because she is no longer fit for military services.

She has tried to do all that she can before contacting me and that includes contacting her congressman.

She, and I think the same, thinks that because of contacting her congressman she has been signaled out and treated differently, and also feels that because of her actions that is why the doctor has given her a P-2 profile, but has informed her that as soon as the unit returns back to the states, the doctor will change it to a P-3 and help her get the medical discharge that she needs.

Wait a sec. if he says this, doesn't it mean that she needs a 3 now so that a MEB can be started?

Also, Angel 10 reported that there was a major change on the P-3 profile, and that change is this: It says chronic knee pain, when all the sick call slips that were given stated chondromalacia patella.

Why was it changed???

Why didn't it say the same as all the other sick call slips???

It looks as if intimidation or a favor was asked between the command and this doctor.

Let me put it this way, doctors are being encouraged to make Soldiers who are in pain look like something else.

Currently the profile that she carried before the P-2, and the current one now, she is being forced to go against.

On her profile she has a max weight to lift or carry of 40 lbs. She was told that it was going to be 20, but all of a sudden it's 40 lbs. Something sure does smell filmier here and it smells of BULLSHIT!!!

Not only will her P-2 profile deem her unfit, but she is also no longer qualified to perform her MOS. I will not mention the job title, but will say what is most important, and that is: **To obtain this MOS, the physical demands rating of HEAVY, which means to lift, on an occasional basis, a max of 100 lbs with frequent or constant lifting of 50 lbs.**

Her max weight again is 40 lbs. Her protective gear alone is pushing this limit, and she is having to carry this on large distances in a very hilly and uneven environment.

Now, lets go back in time for a min.

Do you remember when I was fighting for my husband, Sgt. Lampin, and his max weight was 30? Well the main thing that was forcing him to go against his profile everyday, was the protective vest and extra gear that he had to carry with him at all times.

Again, according to the company that makes these vests, a large vest with inserts weights a total of 25 lbs. I am almost sure that the vest that Angel 10 is wearing, is most likely a medium, which if I am not mistaken weights 20 lbs if not more, because I have found out that a new vest is being worn and it weights even more, and that is with inserts.

So right at this moment she is having to go against her medical profile because the added gear to this vest will gross out that max weight she is allowed to carry.

Here is a bit of familiar news as well.

Like my husband, she is taking medications that may make her dizzy or drowsy: to use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. The med. is called Roxicet, which is a form of codeine (narcotic). She is also taking Tylenol 3 with codeine.

Angel 10 and her father want to fight this wrong because it is not right forcing Soldiers who are medically unfit to war.

What do you think America?

In hopes that we think the same, I think that this crap needs to stop.

I have made many written request to the DOD about this, and all I ever get is this: A medical profile is not considered a recommendation that can be overturned by a Commander; however, a soldier's unit commander has the authority to determine

what duties or task a soldier can perform based on the limitations of the soldier's profile.

This statement alone twists back on itself. First it says that a commander cannot overturn a recommendation, but then can still determine if a Soldier can be deployed if they do something else, based on their job.

What kind of crap is that?

According to AR 40-501, a commander does not have the authority to override a Permanent Profile, but as the commander, he does have the authority to question or challenge any profile issued to a Soldier for clarity of the profile.

I have asked this before, and I will ask it again: "why does a soldier bother going to a doctor for his/her medical needs when a commander has the right to override their needs and send them into war?"

That question was answered by the AG at Fort Polk and **according to AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, both state a commander has certain command authority based on his position to make decisions in the best interest of the Army and his unit. These decisions are not always the most popular decisions, but they are decisions based on Army and unit needs.**

My response to this "what about the Soldier with the medical issue, needs?" The military cannot have it both ways.

What is sad is this is happening more and more everyday.

Not only have I been contacted by Angel 10, but by many others who do not want me to write about them in fear of what might happen.

Some were even threaten by their commanding officers that their life will be at risk, or even been told that they hope they get killed in Iraq.

Some of these Soldiers are also being abused fiscally, and when reported, all that happened was a slap on the wrist.

Why are my fellow brothers and sisters in arms being treated this way? It just makes me so mad that I want to put an extra shine on my combat boot and stick it up somebody's - well I will leave that picture to you.

Rank is getting abused too much, and some new rules need to be made, and some need to be changed. It is a wonder that we have a military today after all that has taken place, and you know what? I wonder what it will look like when this is over?

ArchAngel would like to say this to the Soldiers/Troops, their friends and family members who read my articles.

Don't be scared to fight.

You have rights, and fighting for them is one of them.

If a Soldier asks for help, help them. Fight for them.

The military hates it when family members and friends get involved, because they have no control over them.

They also hate it when Congressionals are crammed down their throats because it does go on record. If you are ever asked to help, start by contacting your State Reps. then to add fuel to the fire, go to the local news papers and tell them the story.

To The Soldier/Troops Who Want Help.

There are a few things that you need to do.

First, make two copies of your medical records, one for yourself, and one that you can send to a family member or good friend whom you trust greatly. That second copy is just in case you loose yours.

Always request a copy of any medical document that is written.

Do not take the excuse of you can't have one because you can't take it out of the building. That is BS, because you have every right to have anything involving your medical history.

Second contact your State Rep. anyway that you can.

Use caution if mailing a letter, because some commands have been holding letters addressed to any congressman or senator.

The best way is to send the letter to someone else and ask them to forward the letter to whom you are trying to contact.

Make sure that in the letter that you write, you give them permission to investigate your situation.

If you have a profile, follow it to the letter and if you do anything against it, start keeping a journal of it. Write down time, date, what you had to do, and who told you to do it. Try to make sure you have a witness.

Do as you are told within your profile, and don't back talk.

Your superiors will try everything and anything to get you into trouble. Don't give them a reason. You are all good Soldiers, and just because you want to fight for your rights doesn't make you a bad one.

SOUND OFF BECAUSE YOU HAVE RIGHTS!!!!

This Soldier needs our help, she has contacted her Congressman, and her father has done the same and more, and needs more help.

Right now what this Soldier needs is support.

Please if you would like to send supporting messages to this Soldier and her father please send them to ArchAngel1BL@aol.com and I will forward them to them both.

Also I would like to post your comments on GI Special, or you can post a response.

Please, you helped me out with my fight for my husband, lets help fight for this Soldier.

Make some noise America.

Be looking for updates.

**God Bless our Troops,
God Bless America,
ArchAngle1BL**

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two Soldiers Killed In Shaibah

September 27, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 981-05

The Department of Defense announced today the death of two soldiers. They died in Shaibah, Iraq, on Sept. 26, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their HMMWV during convoy operations. They were also attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. Both soldiers were assigned to the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Brigade, Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Killed were:
Sgt. Andrew P. Wallace, 25, of Oshkosh, Wis.**

Spc. Michael J. Wendling, 20, of Mayville, Wis.

The Death Of A Marine

September 27, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 976-05

Pvt. Elijah M. Ortega, 19, of Oxnard, Calif., died Sept. 26 as result of a non-hostile gunshot wound at Camp Baharia, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The incident is currently under investigation.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

26 September 2005 Aljazeera

Two civilians and two police officers have been killed by a bomb that ripped through their vehicle in southwest Afghanistan, according to a provincial official.

The remote-controlled device in Helmand province was thought to have been planted by rebels allied to the ousted Taliban rulers, provincial government spokesman Mohammad Wali told AFP on Monday.

In neighbouring Zabul, a bomb went off as a US military convoy passed through but there were no casualties, the US military said.

TROOP NEWS

**Got A Complaint About
Unarmored Vehicles?
Lousy Supplies?
Command Stupidity?**

Bloggers Be Advised: G2 Ordered To Come After You

September 26, 2005 By Jim Tice, Army Times staff writer. [Excerpt]

The Army's top soldier has issued a terse directive to field commands, chiding them for security lapses that he says put U.S. forces at risk.

"It is serious business, and we must do a better job across the Army," said Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker in an Aug. 23 message to all Army activities.

Schoomaker said that despite an earlier security directive from Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody, some soldiers continue to post sensitive information to Internet sites and blogs, such as photos depicting weapon system vulnerabilities, and tactics, techniques and procedures. **[Translation of the General's bullshit: no more of those photos showing unarmored Humvees and trucks that embarrassed Lord and Master Rumsfeld. No more complaints about anything. Those, you see, are "vulnerabilities." This is just the Pentagon trying to shut up the troops. Lots of luck. The assholes in command never have been able to impose 100% censorship on troops' complaints, and they never will be. There are a thousand ways to get around this idiocy. Since the troops are smarter than the officers, they'll find at least 900 of them.]**

"Leaders at all levels must take charge of this issue and get the message down to the lowest levels," Schoomaker said.

To assist commanders in getting the word out, [translation: to help asshole Schoomaker hunt down troops saying things he doesn't like] Schoomaker said the Office of the G-2 (intelligence) will soon field training modules and mobile training teams.

"Get the word out and focus on this issue now," said Schoomaker.

"I expect to see immediate improvement."

In late July, an Arizona National Guardsman was punished for violating operational security in entries on his blog, www.leonardclark.com, according to Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Spc. Leonard A. Clark was busted one rank to private first class, fined \$820 per month for two months and sentenced to 45 days' restriction and 45 days of extra duty.

Clark was the first known case of a blogger getting in trouble since a theaterwide policy went into effect in April requiring all Defense Department personnel who blog from Iraq to register their sites with their commands. **[Clark wrote that Bush, Rumsfeld and the whole pack of Imperial politicians lied about the war. That's what pissed them off.]**

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)

600 Iowa Guard Members Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse

September 26, 2005 Army Times

Through early October, send-off ceremonies will be held for about 600 soldiers of the Iowa Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, who have been mobilized as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. [Translation: OIF; Operation Iraqi Fuckup.]

They have been ordered to active duty for 20 months.

TWO ARSHOLS, THAT LOVE TO KILL PEOPLE

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She came to the rally 9.24 in Washington DC and she writes about her experience below.

[She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. Her words carry more weight, and contain more truth, than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians. T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: September 27, 2005
Subject: blair

BLAIR: THE WAY TO STOP THE INNOCENT DYING IS NOT TO RETREAT

BLAIR ALSO DEFENDED HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSH,

HE WOULD, TWO ARSHOLS, THAT LOVE TO KILL PEOPLE,
HE WANTS TO STOP THE INNOCENT DYING, WHOT THE HELL
WAS MY BOY, A MAD MAN WITH A GUN? HE WAS A 19 YEAR OLD
BOY, TERRORISM, WELL THE TERRORISTS ARE BUSH AND BLAIR,
WHEN I WAS IN AMERICA, AMERICAN PEOPLE, WERE SAYING TO
ME WE ARE SO SORRY FOR YOU, THAT GORDON WAS KILLIED,
ITS NOT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THAT HAVE TO SAY SORRY
ITS BLAIR, HE KILLIED MY BOY, SO MENY CROSSES. GOD MY
HART WAS SO HURT, NOW I AM MAD, I DONT KNOW HOW MENY
TERS I SHED IN AMERICA , SO MENY PEOPLE HURTING,
I WOULD LOVE TO SAY THANK YOU TO AMERICA FOR HAVING
ME. I DID GET MY FINGER PRINTS TAKING AND A PHOTO OF
ME. WHOT THE HELL. IF BUSH WHONTED A PHOTO HE SHOULD
OF GOT ME AT THE RALLY WHEN I WAS SAYING , BUSH BLAIR
HOW MENY KIDS DID YOU KILL TO DAY, WELL BLAIR LOOK
OUT I AM HOME, I AM ON THE WAR PATH, BUT NOT IN IRAQ
IN SCOTLAND, LOVE YOUS ALL ROSE,

MORE:

Rose Gentle

September 23rd, 2005 by Sarah Ferguson, Village Voice

Joining the American moms was Sheehan's Scottish counterpart, Rose Gentle, a former cleaning lady from Glasgow who launched a similar campaign to demand

that British prime minister Tony Blair meet with her after her 19-year-old son, Gordon, was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol with the British Army outside of Basra.

“I’m here today because my son was murdered . . . by Tony Blair and the lies of his government,” Gentle said.

“Just as the same as Cindy, we’ve asked Tony Blair to meet with us for a full year. And Tony Blair has refused to do it. He says he won’t debate with a grieving mum.”

Gentle and other military families in Britain have petitioned the high court in London for a formal investigation of Blair’s handling in the war, spurred by the revelation of the so-called Downing Street Memo, a report from a British cabinet meeting that suggests the Bush administration misled the public about its intentions and manipulated evidence in the run-up to the war in Iraq.

“Tony Blair says Iraq is safer now because of the war, but there is no water, no food, no electricity, no schools. How can that be safe?” Gentle demanded.

“Now the troops don’t know who their friends are, they don’t know who their enemies are.” Gentle also voiced frustration with the media for relying on Pentagon press briefings and not reaching out military families like her, who, she said, have a better idea of just how chaotic things are on the ground in Iraq.

“We get the phone calls, we get the e-mails,” she told the reporters.

Local Soldier Slowly Heals From Iraq Blast Wounds

09/27/2005 By SHAWBONG FOK/Democrat staff Writer

Sgt. Brandon Huff of Woodland, whose left leg was taken by a hidden explosive in Mosul, Iraq last April, is still being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

He has been receiving physical and occupational therapy five times week. The physical therapy has strengthened him to walk again while using a prosthetic leg. And the occupational therapy addresses his weaknesses incurred from a stroke he suffered as a result of blood clots. Doctors haven't yet figured out precisely when the blood clot happened.

So far, he has seen the support of many friends and family. Friends have flown in to Washington, D.C., where the hospital is based, to see him.

"That was the best emotional support he could have had," said Marcia Hammill, Brandon's mother, a speech therapist for the Yolo County Office of Education.

Donations have helped pay for housing and flying friends back to see Huff.

Huff has even gotten a dose of national media attention. The "Today Show" of NBC interviewed him last week during a hospital-based kayaking program he's participated in. The class helps soldiers for re-entry into the real world. The segment is scheduled to air in the near future.

Driving has also become a possibility. For that, he has signed up to take a driving test again to reinstate his license.

But climbing back up hasn't been smooth. He had a seizure in August most likely due to "low magnesium and a past stroke," Hammill said. Magnesium is essential muscle and nerve control, she added, so "we've been fighting because (Huff) is fighting."

She continued, "That is our current battle right now - to find out why he isn't able to maintain magnesium in his system."

He lost his left leg caused by a bomb that blew up while his platoon scouted for a reported car bomb on April 20. Shrapnel sprayed throughout his body. He had, at first, been listed as seriously injured but stable.

Family and friends have been supportive right from the start. His brother, Adam Huff, took a leave of absence from UC San Diego to be with Brandon during the past months.

"He really helped him with therapy during the spring," Hammill said. "They have quiet a bond."

Brandon's mother is now living in Washington, D.C. She has also taken a leave of absence.

Asked if Brandon would move back to Woodland, where he grew up, she said, "He probably will have more therapy to do at (Walter Reed Army Medical Center).

"There is such as strong bond there, where patients - most of them amputees - all push each other along," she said.

Lafayette Soldier Injured In Iraq Now Home On Leave

September 27, 2005 Anne Thompson, newschannel9

A soldier from Lafayette, Georgia is home recuperating this week, after his convoy in Iraq was attacked last month. Sgt. 1st Class Andy Gideon was hurt, along with the other men riding in his Humvee. Sgt. Gideon is no newcomer to the military life. He's an 18 year veteran, currently assigned to the 48th Brigade 108th Armored 3rd Division in Calhoun, Georgia.

He went with his National Guard unit to Iraq in November of last year.

And last month, he says he had a very close call.

South of Baghdad, Sgt. Gideon's mission was to bring supplies to troops who needed them. Under cover of darkness, insurgents blew up an improvised explosive device as his Humvee went by. Sgt. Gideon told Newschannel 9, "I was helping my soldiers. I was injured, and I kept talking on the radio to try and get us more help and our medics were working on the most severe guys. And I didn't know my injury to my arm yet, I just knew it hurt."

The bomb broke through the Humvee's protective armor. Shrapnel flew into Sgt. Gideon's neck and straight through his arm. Doctors later told him the knuckle on his index finger looked like sawdust.

All three men with Sgt. Gideon were hurt, but all lived.

As we were finishing up our interview, we asked Gideon if he had any medals to show us.

He reluctantly brought out a purple heart - for a soldier who says he's thinking now about the troops still there, on duty without him, "They're still there and I'm here, but it's not of my choosing."

Sgt. Gideon is still waiting to hear from his doctors whether he will return to duty in Iraq. He's home on convalescent leave for a few more weeks.

Prohibiting Homosexuals From Serving Openly Makes More People Embarrassed By The Military Than Proud Of It

September 26, 2005 Army Times

The Pentagon's practice of prohibiting homosexuals from serving openly makes more people embarrassed by the military than proud of it, according to a new University of California poll.

According to the poll, 24.2 percent of respondents said the policy makes them embarrassed by the military while 17.5 percent said the policy makes them proud. Fifty-six percent said that the policy has no impact on their feelings about the military.

The survey was designed by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a research institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, to test how the gay ban is perceived among individuals the military seeks to recruit. The center's mission is to promote the study of gays, lesbians and other sexual minorities in the armed forces.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

Paranoid Lunatic In Command: General Forbids The Shaka

September 26, 2005 Army Times

There may be the “Hawaiian word of the day” at Camp Victory in Iraq, but there isn’t complete aloha for the shaka favored by Hawaii National Guard soldiers, the Honolulu Advertiser reported.

The thumb-and-pinkie salute, a ubiquitous symbol of pride, heritage and greeting in Hawaii, was banned at Camp Victory guard stations after a National Guard soldier mistakenly flashed a shaka to a senior officer instead of a salute.

The officer — soldiers say it was a general — took umbrage and gave the shaka the thumbs down.

The shaka ban, one of the first times Hawaii culture has publicly bumped into regular-Army protocol in Iraq, is seen as humbug by local soldiers.

“Yeah ... kinda ridiculous,” said one Hawaii soldier who didn’t want to be named. “A coupla hundred pushups would have been better than banning the shaka.”

Despite the shaka ban at entry control points and checkpoints, there still is the popular “Hawaiian word of the day” at Al Faw palace.

After arriving at the base near Baghdad International Airport about seven months ago, the soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry, who guard Al Faw started writing a Hawaiian word each day on a slate for passers-by to learn.

[The general probably remembers “the dap,” from Vietnam days. That’s the greeting black soldiers gave each other, in defiance of command, to show solidarity against racism, and their hate for their commanders, the politicians, and the war. This idiot general brings on the very thing he’s afraid of: even more resistance from the troops to the endless tedious bullshit that command tries to impose to show that the officers are in control.]

Predators In Action

09/26 Kären Ahern, Associate Member of Veterans for Peace #92. [Excerpt]

I was sorry to hear a student at BIHS, W, senior, had recruiters even calling his cell phone last year, though that number had never been given out, to his knowledge.

The 2nd time he threatened to sue them if they called again. It was very unsettling for him. He had a friend who enlisted last year who did not have a clue about what he was getting into, so it deeply concerns him as it does so many community members.

No one can understand how pesky the recruiters are until their child starts getting calls and letters as they near graduation.

It went on for two years for my daughter, Alanna. It is very important to use our right to opt our children out and inform parents and students that it is their right.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

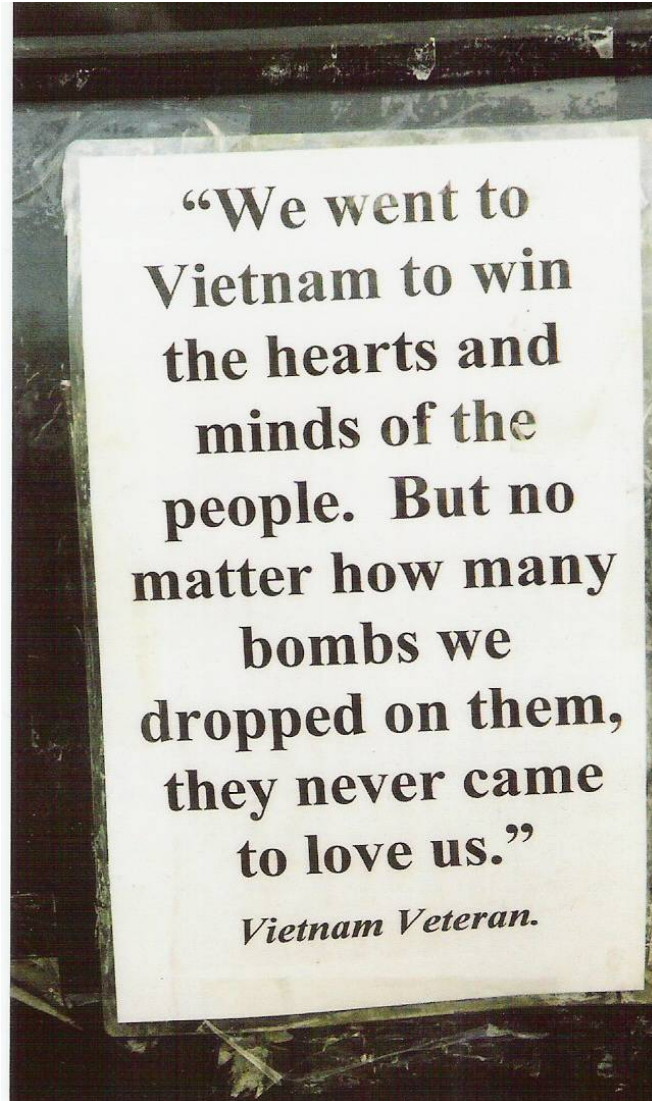


Iraqi firefighters spray water on a burning car following a car bomb attack in Baghdad Sept. 27, 2005 targeting SUV's carrying security guards working with US companies. Four people were injured and nobody was killed according to eye witnesses. AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Toxic Truth



A message from a Vietnam Veteran, on the side of a car at "Camp Casey." The war in Iraq is identical, and the end results will be the same insanity.

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net T)

***The Veteran Meets The
Congressman:***

Texans Applaud Demand To Bring The Troops Home Immediately

I was pleasantly surprised by the audience reaction with only one person booing me and about one third of those present clapping and cheering my question. It was the only question that elicited such an audience response. I hope that such was not lost on the Congressman?

September 24, 2005 From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace

I was not one of the over 100,000 in Washington DC today.

Instead, I went to a townhall meeting by the local GOP Congressman.

I wondered if, given the homeland security response to VFP volunteers at Camp Casey III in Louisiana, that perhaps I might be excluded from the meeting when I showed up in a VFP t-shirt with a sticker on it reading 1,914 KIA FOR A LIE? Not quite, but I was intercepted just inside the door by a woman whose business card ID'd her as the Constituent Services Director. Such a fancy title for what was essentially the Congressman's schmoozer.

She flashed a big smile that I did not return and said "I see you're a veteran, what war did you serve in?" The focus of her conversation was to try to make it all about me.

She was unable to keep it confined to that when I kept bringing the conversation back to policy issues. When asked "are you a disabled veteran?" I replied that no, I was one of over the half million Category 8 veterans made ineligible for VA healthcare services by the Bush administration.

Apparently there was still a turnip stuck in my collar from the truck I had just fallen off from, as she told me "Actually those cuts were made by the VA Director, not President Bush." Perhaps she mistakenly assumed that I had attended public school in Texas, usually ranked about 46th in per capita spending among the states, and so I might not be expected to know that the VA Director is appointed by the President?

Her smile faded a bit and she had no snappy replies for me when I again redirected the focus to issues rather than myself by asking why the Congressman had voted for a VA budget that was a services reduction in real dollar terms with the proposed closing of seven VA hospitals in a time of war?

She lost her smile altogether when I expressed concern for the estimated 30% of returning troops from Afghanistan & Iraq with PTSD issues.

I left her with that to think about and went to stand at the back of the room rather than take a chair. I wanted to make sure the Congressman could read my t-shirt from the stage over the seated crowd of mostly elderly people, with the occasional Texas big hair lady, soccer moms who looked like they just stepped from their Ford Expeditions, and

some regular middle class looking folks there with less than easy questions for the Congressman.

I was apparently considered the major security / public relations risk, as the only two guys in the room other than the Congressman wearing suits positioned themselves standing on either side of me.

The entire meeting was scheduled to last for only an hour, with the Congressman's spiel taking up the first 30 minutes. No doubt the intent was to limit the event to a meaningless photo op?

The first couple guys in line to ask questions wasted much of the time when they tried to turn it into a debate for which they wanted a resolution, rather than a simple Q&A session. While they had some valid issues on gay rights and spending priorities, their debate style ate up much of the time, forcing the Constituent Services Director to cut them off and pass the microphone to the next questioner.

She handed me the mike with a stern look and told me "Only ONE question!" So I had to pass on opening with asking about the fairness of Congress being exempt from social security deductions and drawing their salary for life with cost of living adjustments as a retirement plan.

I limited my only question allowed to:

Given that the Downing Street Memo proved what many of us suspected about nonexistent WMD's being used as a cover story for an attempt to control Iraqi oil;

And given that the result of this attempted oil grab is a drop in Iraqi oil production from pre-war levels, as well as \$3/gallon gasoline at home;

And given that the current administration policy claiming that we need to stay the course in Iraq to prevent a civil war ignores the fact that a state of civil war already exists in Iraq;

WHY HAVE YOU NOT CALLED FOR BRINGING OUR TROOPS HOME IMMEDIATELY?

That was about as diplomatic as I get. I edited a few words like "lies", "propaganda", & "neocon" out of my first draft in consideration of the primarily GOP supporter audience.

I was pleasantly surprised by the audience reaction with only one person booing me and about one third of those present clapping and cheering my question. It was the only question that elicited such an audience response. I hope that such was not lost on the Congressman?

Anticipating a question on Iraq, he used my question as a springboard for his canned pitch on the subject. We were treated to a verbose and flowery five minute spiel that could be summarized as "progress is being made". Apparently it was hoped that the voters have a short attention span and do not recall THERE IS A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL from 35 years ago?

There were three power point slides to go along with the Congressman's Iraq spiel. The first was a destroyed Iraqi electrical generator. Apparently we were supposed to think it was lack of operator maintenance, and not the US Air Force that destroyed the generator?

The second slide was a new replacement generator, made by Siemens, which has a local production facility here in North Texas. No mention was made of how many hours a day, or how many days a week that they actually have electric service now in Iraq.

The third slide was an Iraqi child "waving" from a rooftop to the helicopter that took the Congressman to visit the electric generator.

Never mind that the kid looked to me like he was actually shaking a fist at the helicopter. Such details can be subjective from a photo snapped from a helicopter at 2,000 feet altitude.

Again, no mention of if progress is being made in Iraq as claimed, then why did the Congressman travel by helicopter and armored vehicle for his visit?

Would not a real politician in an Iraq grateful to be liberated want to walk the streets and shake hands with the people?

David Honish
Chapter 106 North Texas Veterans For Peace

“Whatever The Means Of The Empire, If The People Resist, They Will Eventually Succeed”

September-October 2005 International Socialist Review; David Barsamian interviews Hana Al Bayaty. Hana Al Bayaty is an Iraqi-French film-maker and a journalist for the Al-Ahram newspaper in Egypt. [Excerpt]

[Interview questions in italics.]

FIRST WITH the attack on Afghanistan and then with the attack on Iraq, the U.S. government talked a lot about women—that women were going to be liberated, that they were to have a new and improved and better life. First of all, what is your analysis of those rationales? And what is your critique of certain aspects of the feminist movement?

FIRST, I believe that democracy and human rights are processes that have to be local and have to be earned locally. Of course, there are some standards of human dignity but then women don't behave the same according to their different cultures, and trying to import some stereotype of what freedom is for women in the West to the Middle East just

doesn't fit the picture, and these women don't feel close to this kind of description of freedom.

Today, Iraqi women are under extreme difficulties due to the occupation. Their movements are restricted, and they are the main victims of unemployment. Iraqi women used to be cadre in many different professions—teachers, scientists, doctors, and so on.

Now they are the main targets of the occupation.

Regarding the alleged “freedom” that was brought, it depends what you consider freedom. If freedom is not first freedom to live, freedom to have shelter, freedom to educate your children in peace, and provide them with a future, freedom to think, but rather how you will dress or how you will be able to use different means to express yourself it's just not the same.

Many people are trying to justify the occupation of Iraq, even people who in the first place were opposed to the invasion of Iraq, by the threat of rising fundamentalism and what it represents on the front of the gender issue.

Of course, the economic situation has had a dramatic impact on social behavior and the social environment. So, for the time being, the situation under occupation is such that some trends of conservatism, or a return to tradition, certain phenomena like this we can witness in Iraq. But this will not stop until the occupation ends.

I think the situation of women under occupation is much worse than under any legitimate government, whether it is Islamist or not. Even if I don't support the Islamists myself—I am a very secular person—I still believe that a government emanating from its people will respect its people much more than do the occupiers, who are humiliating the local population.

So I think it's a way to split the antiwar movement, and to split the support for the Iraqi's right of resistance and of self-determination and to reclaim their sovereignty:

I would rather condemn any kind of violence that is done to individuals and Iraqis. Then women's rights is an issue once we are sovereign. It's a real issue, of course.

But for the time being, the main issue and the main force that we have to oppose is the occupation, not some group of Islamists who are trying to resist it.

IRAQ HAS one of the oldest communist parties in the entire Middle East and I know it has fragmented into different sub-parties. Is it still an active force and does it have credibility in sectors of the population?

THE IRAQI Communist Party has collaborated with the United States and probably Israel for many years in the attempt to remove Saddam Hussein's regime. It was once, in the 1960s and 1970s, a very broad and respected movement. Today, in the last election, this very large movement received only 20,000 votes, a disaster for the Communist Party.

By collaborating with the occupation, by not understanding the interests, the needs, and the necessities of the Iraqi people, they have alienated themselves directly and completely from the Iraqi people.

They were in the Governing Council, and they are in the assembly drafting a constitution. They are collaborating, they are part of this ruling group, most of whom were outside Iraq and who came back inside Iraq with the idea of opening its markets.

It is funny to hear that the Iraqi Communist Party is ready to totally liberalize Iraq's economy, to make the Iraqi economy a free-market economy with no control over its resources.

What kind of Communist Party is this? There is a complete theoretical contradiction between its acts and the theory that is implied in the word "communism."

IS THERE any Left formation that we should know about that you respect?

THERE IS a statement we have to advertise that was signed by forty-seven parties concerning the boycott. It stressed seven points.

This platform text is supported by something called the Iraqi National Foundation Congress, which is an umbrella group of several organizations. Some are leftists, some are nationalists, and some are moderate Islamists. It was also signed by the Sadr movement, which is supported by the poor section of the Shia community.

These different movements work together. They have a very clear agenda, and they want to use any means to get rid of this occupation and to create a situation where they can hold free and fair elections, have a Constituent Assembly, and try to start a new political process and national reconciliation in Iraq.

A LOT of people have been comparing the U.S. occupation in Iraq to what happened to the French in Algeria, suggesting that they will have a long guerrilla war and eventually they will leave the country.

I BELIEVE that the occupation forces have already lost the war, whether it is politically, economically, or militarily. Even militarily, they have tremendous power to subjugate the Iraqi population, but they cannot do it.

Whatever the means of the empire, if the people resist, they will eventually succeed.

The problem is that, as with any imperialist power, it can take years before the United States even acknowledges it has failed and that it should withdraw

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace]

The Secret's Out: Too Many Secrets

September 26, 2005 Army Times

The federal government classified 15.6 million documents in 2004, nearly double the total for 2001 and up almost fivefold from 1994, according to a recent study by the advocacy group OpenTheGovernment.org.

The group's second annual "Secrecy Report Card" states the government spent \$7.2 billion securing its secrets in 2004 — not including the CIA, for which spending on protecting classification is classified.

And while public requests for materials through the Freedom of Information Act reached 4 million in 2004 — quadruple the number from 1999 — spending on fulfilling those requests increased just 17 percent.

The group, a coalition of watchdog, activist and journalism organizations, is backing a bill sponsored by Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., that would overhaul FOIA, making it easier for the public to request information and to recover legal fees from the government when it illegally blocks the release of public information.

Received:

From: Nathan S
To: GI Special
Sent: September 27, 2005

Found this online. It's a screen shot from a George W. Bush television ad when he was running for his second term. It shows clearly how he views US soldiers... disposable clones.



Received:

New Profile Tour

From: JM
To: GI Special
Sent: September 27, 2005
Subject: Do you think you could help with this?

New Profile, of Israel, has a founder member in the U.S. on a speaking tour, next month.

This group is very active indeed in trying to stop the occupation of Palestine.

They actively support all resistance to military service and have, on many occasions, put themselves between Israeli tanks and Palestinian civilians.

The majority of it's members are women and I'm hoping you will give some publicity to the tour. It starts off in New York so you may find time to attend yourself. many thanks for anything you can do to help.

Help Support New Profile Tour in the U.S.

Dear all,

From October 15 through November 9th, New Profile activist Dr. Diana Dolev (please see bio below) will be touring in the U.S. This speaking tour is sponsored jointly by the Refusers Solidarity Network (RSN; <http://www.refusersolidarity.net/>) and the Youth and Militarism Program of the American Friends Service Committee (www.afsc.org/youthmil/default.htm).

It is designed to introduce a variety of U.S. audiences, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to the feminist, anti-militarist ideas and work of New Profile in Israel/Palestine, to clarify and emphasize the crucial links between U.S. militarization and militarization in Israel/Palestine, in turn connecting Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza (the latter still under Israeli control) and the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

In addition the tour is planned to strengthen the networking and ties of New Profile and the Israeli refuser movement with groups in the U.S. working against militarization, against the Israeli occupation of Palestine, against the U.S.-led war and occupation in Iraq, and last but by no means least, New Profile hopes that this tour will raise funding for our ongoing work.

Diana will be speaking on the following topics:

- Militarization, Gender and Anti-Militarist Activism in Israel
- De-Militarizing Israeli Schools and Curricula
- Women's Leadership in the Fight against Militarism and Occupation
- Women's Activism against War Culture
- Society and the Military in Israel from a Feminist Perspective
- Architecture and Militarism in Israel from a Feminist Perspective

In addition, Diana and New Profile are delighted that some of the venues will be shared with co-speaker Liz Rivera Goldstein, of Port Townsend, Washington, who has been appointed coordinator of the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth.

This is the tour itinerary as it stands at the moment:

17th October --	arrival --	New York City, N.Y.
19th October --	lecture --	Carnegie Mellon U. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
24th October --	lecture --	Ohio State Univ. Columbus, Ohio
25th October --	informal lunch & lecture --	Ohio State Univ. Columbus, Ohio
26th October --	informal dinner & lecture --	Wesleyan Univ. Delaware, Ohio
1st November--	lecture --	Duke Univ. Durham, North Carolina
2nd November --	lecture --	F.O.R. Ashville, North Carolina (to be confirmed)
3rd November--	lecture --	American Univ. Washington D.C.
4th November--	panel on anti-militarism --	Brecht Forum New York City, N.Y.
5th November--	lecture --	N.Y. Univ. New York City, N.Y.
8th November--	lecture --	Princeton Univ. Princeton, New Jersey
9th November --	departure	

How you can help:

1) Organize an event:

No talks are scheduled as yet for **October 16th through 24th**. Most of the later dates include just a single event. **November 6th and 7th** are also free.

If you have access to a venue and an audience on one of these dates, at a location not too distant from the general area of the tour,

Diana (and possibly Liz) would be glad to visit your community. Please bear in mind that this will require vouching for accomodation and covering travel fare from the previous location. In addition, as this is also a fundraising tour, we would appreciate an honorarium and/or a collection at the event itself, if possible.

2) Notify friends and contacts in the vicinity of exiting events:

Please spread word of these events through your personal contacts and networks. Once we have the exact times and hall locations, we'll be glad to provide you with details. But we suggest that you give people prior notice so they'll be able to keep the relevant date open.

3) Attend an event near your home:

Diana would be very happy to meet some of the many people on this list in person. We're sure that her talks will offer you some new and highly interesting insights on the work of New Profile in the current context in Israel/Palestine. We hope you'll be able to attend one (or more) of the events on the list.

We will keep you updated as we finalize details of each event and add new venues to the list.

Our warm thanks for any help and support you can offer.

Yours,
Ruth Hiller, Rela Mazali, Diana Dolev
New Profile

BIO:

Dr. Diana Dolev teaches at two schools of design in Israel and researches the connections between national identity and architecture. Her PhD dissertation analyzed the militarization of the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Diana has been an activist since 1980 when she facilitated a group of Palestinian and Jewish students at the "Education for Peace" program at Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, later introducing the curriculum into six high schools in Israel. In 1987, Diana established a branch of the Association for Civil Rights (ACRI) in Beer Sheva then going on to found the "Gaza Team," which petitioned Israeli authorities against human rights violations in the Gaza Strip. The team collected detailed testimonies and succeeded in exposing Israeli atrocities in the mainstream media.

Since initiating a weekly Women in Black vigil in Beer Sheva in 1998, Diana has been consistently active with WIB, most recently as a member of the organizing committee of the August 2005 international WIB conference in Jerusalem.

Diana has been a member of New Profile since the founding event in 1998, mainly focusing her work with New Profile in the educational team.

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.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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