

GI SPECIAL 3C86:

ENOUGH BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A US marine from the 6th Civil Affairs Group (CAG) with the 6th Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) during a sandstorm in Fallujah. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

“What In The Hell Is Going On?”

From: D, Wounded Iraq Soldier's Mom

To: GI Special

Sent: October 17, 2005

Subject: Re: GI Special 3C85: The Enemy Attacks Iraq Vets

I see again the Ramadi and Fallujah area soldiers are killed. That is a bad spot. That is were my son was. When he says where he was in Iraq to the reps at the VA, their reply is “wow that was the hot spot of the war” - and the war was over a year ago!

About the soldier that got his patch striped away by an NCO he can report to higher chain of command - they do this all the time in the Army.

Like all the equipment will be locked up and someone else will come with a key and unlock it, take several items out, and the last soldier that was to lock will get it and have pay taken out of his own pay to pay for the "stolen equipment."

They do this just to see soldiers in lower rank suffer, as a joke.

There are a lot of assholes, I call them, in that position.

I have seen this and heard of other things happening.

Another thing is you have Ranger NCOs in the regular Army over some troops and they can't be in the Ranger NCO group due to they don't have the all the brains or they got booted out, so they really boss and give the regular joes a hard time. I have seen this also.

Our military is needed but really needs to be cleaned up.

This is not my fathers Army anymore. He is looking down from heaven - due to nam war - thinking what in the hell is going on???

This military needs to sharpened up, and shape up the chain of command.

See, I told you they cut the program at the VA. That is wrong, very wrong. They canceled my sons' classes. There were only four anyway, but he needs them and he needs surgery too, could be February before he gets that.

I freeze in February but I will go were every he goes to have his surgery - but the VA cuts are not right - see how they are treated???

My son fought in Iraq and he fought hard and came home all banged up and he gets treated this way? This is UNAMERICAN.

What is happening to this country?????

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)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Hammond Mourns Soldier



10/11/05 By VIC COUVILLION, Special to The Advocate

HAMMOND -- Pfc. Benny S. Franklin, 19, of Hammond, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division who was described by his high school principal as a leader in the school's Jr. ROTC program, died Friday from injuries he sustained while on patrol in Afghanistan.

According to information from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., Franklin was critically injured when he stepped on a land mine near the town of Gereshk in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Franklin, a 2004 graduate of Hammond High School, was a radio telephone operator for a forward observer team assigned to A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment.

Franklin was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division in December 2004.

Myers said Franklin enrolled at Hammond High School just before his junior year, after moving to Hammond from Mississippi.

Myers said Franklin had visited the high school shortly before his deployment to Afghanistan earlier this year.

Franklin is survived by his mother, Wanda D. Tillis, and his father, Benny D. Jackson, according to the 82nd Airborne news release.

Blast In Iraq Kills Ex-Tucsonan

October 15, 2005 ERIC SAGARA, Tucson Citizen

If Master Sgt. Kenneth E. Hunt Jr. had decided to retire or hadn't given a subordinate the day off, he might be alive today.

The 1983 Santa Rita High School graduate died Wednesday at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas after spending nearly three months trying to recover from injuries received in a roadside blast in Iraq.

The day he died was his daughter Kimberly's 13th birthday.

Hunt's mother, Juanita, said the 40-year-old was the oldest patient in the San Antonio-area military hospital.

Hunt was injured July 24 while in the turret of an armored Humvee. It was part of a six-vehicle team looking for makeshift explosives in Al Taqaddum, in the Sunni-dominated Al-Anbar province west of Baghdad, the heart of the Iraqi insurgency.

His vehicle struck an anti-tank mine after a large explosion rocked one of the other vehicles, wounding four Marines.

Sixty percent of Hunt's body was burned in the blast, and he was taken to a hospital in Bilad, Iraq, before being flown to Brooke two days later.

At the time of the explosion, Hunt was a month overdue for retirement, his mother said.

"He just wanted to be sure that his men were safe," Juanita Hunt said in a telephone interview yesterday from her home in Eufaula, Ala. "That was the kind of man he was.

"When he got hurt he was not even supposed to be there," she said. "He was just supposed to send his men to do the job, to patrol the area, but he decided to give the day off to the guy who was supposed to do it."

Hunt signed up for the Marines in 1983 fresh out of Santa Rita and was stationed most recently at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma. He was assigned to the Marine Wing Support Group 37 of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force and was sent to Iraq on Feb. 11.

Juanita Hunt and her husband, Kenneth Hunt Sr., moved to Alabama in the late 1980s.

His mother described Hunt as a quiet man who shared his father's sense of humor and preferred to spend time with his family when not on assignment. She recalled thinking it was odd that her son was a drill instructor at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego.

"When he told me he was going to be a drill instructor, I said, 'You don't have the voice,'" Juanita Hunt said. But "he loved to talk to those kids that were joining up. He touched their hearts. He saved the lives of a lot of people by teaching them to do their job well."

Growing up, he played baseball. At Santa Rita, he played football and participated in track. His mother said one year he won third place in a pole vault event.

He liked to play the guitar and loved to listen to Kiss. He didn't drink or smoke and led a quiet teenage life, she said.

Maryland Man Killed At Tal AFAR



Cpl. Bernard L. Ceo, of Baltimore, shown in an undated photo provided by his family, was killed Oct. 14, 2005, with two other soldiers while traveling in a convoy in Al Taji, Iraq. All three were members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 243rd Engineer Company based in Baltimore. (AP Photo/Family Photo)

Overton County Guardsman Killed

10/15/2005 AP

A member of the Tennessee Army National Guard from Overton County has been killed in Iraq.

Sergeant Robert Wesley Tucker of Hilham was killed by an improvised explosive device Thursday in Iraq. Tucker was a member of the 3rd Squadron of the 278th Regimental Combat Team of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

He was driving an armored Humvee on convoy near Ad Dujayl when the device went off near the vehicle.

Tucker served in the National Guard for two years.

Pasadena Marine Killed

Oct. 13, 2005 Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. - Marine Lance Cpl. Sergio Escobar had a rough time in high school, running with a tough crowd and dropping out before finishing at a continuation school.

But after he joined the Marines, things changed, his stepfather said Tuesday, days after learning Escobar, 18, was killed by an explosive device set by enemy forces in Ramadi, Iraq.

In the year after Escobar joined the service, he apologized to his family for his teenage rebellion and began to spend more time with his 7-year-old sister and 3-year-old brother.

"He changed a lot. When he graduated from boot camp, he was totally different. He was real nice, the way he would talk to me with a lot respect," Ricardo Ortiz of Pasadena said.

Escobar was killed in the explosion Oct. 9, roughly two months after he arrived in Iraq. He was assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division from Twentynine Palms. As part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was attached to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

A native of Vera Cruz, Mexico, Escobar came to the United States with his mother, Patricia, when he was 3. He returned to Mexico to live with his grandmother after his mother and Ortiz married, eventually returning to live with them in Pasadena.

Shortly before he left for Iraq, he married his girlfriend Sophia Conchas.

Ortiz said the family was hoping to honor Escobar's love of classic cars by getting friends to drive them during his funeral.

"He used to tell me if I ever die, I want you to take me in one of those classic cars, like a Chevy Impala," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said he and his wife didn't want their son to join the military.

"I said 'why don't you go to college?'" he recalled, but he added that Escobar, who had participated in the ROTC in high school, had his heart set on the service.

"He was tough. He wanted to show he was tough. He was a leader," Ortiz said.

Funeral services were pending.

Baltimore Man Killed



This photograph, provided by the Baltimore Fire Department, shows Sgt. Brian R. Conner, 36, of Gwynn Oak, Md., a member of the Maryland National Guard's 243rd Engineer Company. Conner, a Baltimore firefighter, was among three soldiers from Maryland killed in Iraq on Oct. 14, the first members of the Maryland National Guard killed in the line of duty overseas since World War II. (AP Photo/Baltimore Fire Department)

Soldier From Monroe Dies A Month After Firefight: “I Begged Him Not To Go”

Oct. 10, 2005 Associated Press

MONROE, Mich. - A soldier from Monroe died of injuries received in western Iraq, the Defense Department said Monday.

Army Pfc. Nicholas J. Greer, 21, died Friday of a gunshot wound suffered when insurgents attacked his patrol unit in Haqlaniyah, Iraq.

Sgt. Eric A. Fifer, 22, of Knoxville, Tenn., was wounded in the same attack. He died at the Al Asad Air Base, military officials said.

Both soldiers were assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Greer, who was born and raised in Monroe, had been in Iraq only about two weeks, according to his mother, Kelly Greer. He enlisted in September 2004 and was stationed in Afghanistan before going to Iraq, where he served as a sniper marksman and helicopter search and rescue specialist, she said.

"He said, 'Mom, I want to fight terrorism,'" Greer told The Monroe Evening News for a story carried on the newspaper's Web site Monday. "I begged him not to go. I didn't want him to go during war. But he wanted to go after 9-11."

In addition to his mother, Greer is survived by his stepfather, a brother and a sister.

Greer was the 62nd member of the U.S. armed forces with known Michigan ties to be killed in Iraq.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: 25 Civilians Executed For Looking At Wreck Of U.S. Vehicle



Iraqi children cry next to the body of a boy killed by US in Ramadi Oct. 17 2005. U.S. warplanes and helicopters bombed two villages near the restive city of Ramadi, killing an estimated 50 civilians.(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

Ramadi residents who survived the attack were furious.

"The planes came and bombed us right after prayers," one man shouted as others buried bodies near Ramadi. "These are innocent civilians. To hell with this constitution."

10/17/2005 By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press & BBC & By Andrew Quinn, Reuters

Helicopters and warplanes bombed two villages near Ramadi in western Iraq on Sunday, killing about 70 people, the US military says.

It said all the dead were militants, although eyewitnesses are quoted saying that many were civilians.

On Saturday, a roadside bomb killed five U.S. soldiers in a vehicle in the Al-Bu Ubaid village on the eastern outskirts of Ramadi.

On Sunday, a group of about two dozen Iraqis gathered around the wreckage; they were hit by U.S. airstrikes, the military and witnesses said.

The military said the crowd was setting another roadside bomb when F-15 warplanes hit them, killing about 20 people it described as "terrorists."

But several residents and one local leader said they were civilians gathering to gawk at and take pieces of the wreckage, as often occurs after an American vehicle is hit.

Tribal leader Chiad Saad said the airstrike killed 25 civilians, and several others said the same thing, although they refused to give their names out of fear for their safety.

The other deaths occurred in the nearby village of Al-Bu Faraj.

The military said a group of gunmen opened fire on a Cobra attack helicopter that spotted their position. The Cobra returned fire, killing about 10. The men ran into a nearby house, where gunmen were seen unloading weapons before an F/A-18 warplane bombed the building, killing 40 insurgents, the military said.

Witnesses said at least 14 of the dead were civilians. After a man was wounded in an airstrike, he was brought into a nearby building that was struck by warplanes, said the witnesses, who refused to give their names out of fear for their safety.

An Iraqi journalist reporting for The Associated Press said he later saw the 14 bodies and the damaged building.

Associated Press Television News video from the scene showed the victims included at least two children and one woman. Witnesses said seven other children were among

the dead. APTN also showed two children among the wounded at Ramadi General Hospital.

Ramadi police Lieutenant Karim Salim said 20 of those killed were civilians, including some children as young as 11. Doctors in the city had made a similar assessment on Sunday.

"Their bodies were completely ripped apart," Salim said.

Ramadi residents who survived the attack were furious.

"The planes came and bombed us right after prayers," one man shouted as others buried bodies near Ramadi. "These are innocent civilians. To hell with this constitution."



An Iraqi boy mourns the death of a relative after a U.S. air strike on the western Iraqi city of Ramadi, October 17, 2005. REUTERS/Stringer

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Demonstrations Spreading As

Occupation Elections Fraud Confirmed

"These elections no longer have any meaning. So many bribes have been given. Some candidates have bought their way to power," said Bashir Bezhen, an official with the state Ariana airlines who stood as an independent candidate in Kabul but lost.

"The counters were shameless in their work. They were like businessmen, making deals with whoever had money. There should be a re-count."

16 October 2005 Aljazeera

A UN-backed election commission has dismissed about 50 of its staff for suspected fraud in last month's legislative polls, officials said, raising doubts about the legitimacy of Afghanistan's final formal step towards democracy.

About 680 ballot boxes, almost 3% of the total, have been taken out of the counting process because of suspicions they were stuffed, said Richard Atwood, chief of operations for the joint UN-Afghan election commission.

Atwood said investigations into the fraud had slowed the counting of the ballots.

Almost a month after the 18 September vote, provisional results have been published in only 20 of the 34 provinces.

Accusations of irregularities in the count have sparked demonstrations in several cities, including the capital, Kabul.

"These elections no longer have any meaning. So many bribes have been given. Some candidates have bought their way to power," said Bashir Bezhen, an official with the state Ariana airlines who stood as an independent candidate in Kabul but lost.

"The counters were shameless in their work. They were like businessmen, making deals with whoever had money. There should be a re-count."

Many of those who have been declared winners in the provisional results are suspected regional commanders, including Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, a powerful militia leader who New York-based Human Rights Watch has accused of war crimes.

Electoral law bars anyone with links to armed groups from competing; but with nearly 2800 candidates, activists say many of the regional commanders involved in the bloodshed of the past quarter-century have slipped through a UN-backed review they call woefully inadequate.

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Marines line the steps of the Catholic Church of the Assumption in Bellevue, Pa., Monday, Oct. 17, 2005 at the memorial service for twenty-year-old Marine Lance Corporal Patrick Brian Kenny. Kenny was killed Oct. 5, 2005 in Fallujah, Iraq, when a roadside explosive hit a humvee he was traveling in. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

Expand Insurance Options

10.10.05

Letters To The Editor
Army Times

Having read "SBP enrollment window opens Oct. 1" [Sept. 9], I find it interesting that there isn't much mention that about 73 percent of retirees did not enroll in the Survivor Benefit Plan in the first place. I am one of them. At least to me, there is a problem here.

Maybe, instead of making a soldier pay for something that a spouse can take half of in a divorce before retirement, we should do a better job of counseling soldiers in money management.

Instead we wait until it's too late — age, illness or injury. So if you have an illness you are stuck with SBP, because you will not be able to get decent coverage at a reasonable price.

Only one option is not a good option, and we are doing a disservice to our soldiers by not better educating them earlier that there are other options.

Command Sgt. Maj. Earnie Holifield (ret.)
Potomac, Md.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

So Much For That

10.17.05 By LEE KEATH, Associated Press Writer

"Whatever happens or will happen in politics has nothing to do with the will of the people. It comes from the political elite who run Iraq along with the Americans out of the Green Zone in Baghdad," said Zuhair Qassam al-Khashab, a mathematics professor in Mosul who voted "no."

Assorted Resistance Action

10.16.05 Reuters & By JOHN F. BURNS and DEXTER FILKINS, New York Times & Aljazeera & 10/17/2005 By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press & DPA & By Andrew Quinn, Reuters

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and three wounded when gunmen hurled grenades in a market in Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, police officer Sami Muhammed said.

A roadside bomb struck an Iraqi Army patrol in Saadiya, north of Baghdad, killing three soldiers.

On Monday, a drive-by shooting killed two policemen in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Baghdad - A top Iraqi Interior Ministry aide was killed by insurgents southwest of Baghdad, said a ministry spokesman Monday.

Spokesman Adnan Abdul-Rahman said Colonel Saad Abbas Fadhil a security advisor at the ministry, was assassinated in front of his house in Saydiya late on Sunday. He said his son who was in his company was wounded as well.

BAIJI - Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and seven wounded when a roadside bomb struck a joint U.S. and Iraqi army patrol in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, an army source said.

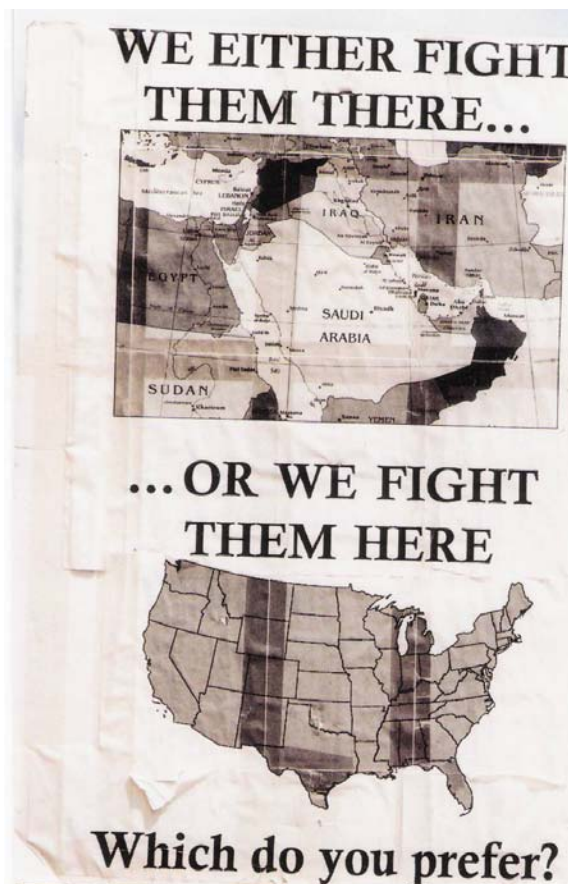
Three Iraqi soldiers were killed in a bomb blast as they inspected a polling station northeast of the capital.

In al-Anbar province, 10 workers for the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission were abducted while heading to work at the polls.

In the northern city of Mosul, police found the bodies of eight men believed to be Iraqi soldiers shot through the head.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



A Bush supporter carries a sign that says the exact same thing that was said about Vietnam. People do not know their history. Mike Hastie

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)

George Bush And His Endless LIES!

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 17, 2005
Subject: George Bush and his endless LIES!

2005 American soldiers killed by 2005.

The Iraq death march continues into 2006. "Bring 'Em On."

If we don't stop the Viet Cong in Vietnam, we'll have to stop them in America.

They'll come over here in those little round fishing boats, with their AK 47's, and they will land on the Oregon Coast.

The Terrorists are coming, the Terrorists are coming!!

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
October 17, 2005**

<p>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.</p>
--

Jane Fonda's Life So Far (1) The Role of the Accident in History [And About The FTA Show Too]

10.1. 2005 By Max Watts. **[Watts was in Paris then, with Fonda. This is first hand.]**

Plekhanov, a Russian who translated Karl Marx's writing into Russian, introduced Lenin to them, wrote much about the role of the individual, or of the accident, in history.

He thought that at certain times, when the "masses" moved, certain "roles" opened up, and that individuals would – almost inevitably – act to fill them. Plek was thinking, specifically, of the first, great, French revolution and of generals such as Napoleon Buonaparte, but the concept applies far more widely.

In 1968, in Paris, France, masses moved. Made history, changed France, the world. And a famous, established, very pregnant, American actress quite accidentally changed her own life, and that of many others, – and, yes, quite a bit of history as well.

Jane Fonda, looking for her step-mother Susan expected in Paris to check up on her pregnancy, met, quite accidentally, really only due to a chance phone call, "a nineteen-year-old freshfaced kid named Dick Perrin, who turned out to be a U.S. army resister from the 1st Battalion of the 64th Armored stationed in West Germany" (1)

It was Jane Fonda's first encounter with an American serviceman actively opposed to the Vietnam war, a RITA, a Resister Inside the Army. The encounter, discussions with Perrin, and soon other RITA GIs, changed Fonda's life completely.

It ended the indolent, permissive, comfortable life she had lived with her French husband, the famous producer/director Roger Vadim. Soon once "sex-kitten Barbarella" Fonda became a body- heart-and soul- anti-war activist – her major focus now supporting the Resisters inside the American Army (2). She left Vadim, who, though against the Vietnam war, had cynically opposed any personal engagement. Vadim dis(mis)sed Fonda as "Jane of Arc".

There was little comfort in her new life. Fonda now was vilified, framed, arrested, threatened, spat on....

Invited by the Vietnamese government to witness the – denied by the Pentagon – attacks on the Red River dikes, Fonda flew to Hanoi, then being bombed night and day.

Hated by the Nixons, Rayguns, Warnicks as "Hanoi Jane", Jane was cheered, yes loved, world-wide by ten thousands rank-and-file GI's when she toured with her radical "FTA" (Fuck or Free the Army) show.

GI's found here support and confirmation of their – often dangerous and costly - Resistance. The FTA show – harassed, performed just off-base, was a radical counterpoint to the Bob Hope pro-war propaganda, touring with full army support and endorsement.

The film - of the show – with thousands of American soldiers, sailors, airpeople actively participating in Hawaii, Okinawa, the Philippines, Japan, was, and is, dynamite. It explodes the wide-spread (utterly untrue) fabricated myths that the returning soldiers were "spat on" by peacenik women, Jane Fonda look-alikes (3).

In July 1972 almost all copies of the film were destroyed – apparently on orders of the Nixon White House. "FTA" was suppressed, not because it starred the activist Jane Fonda, but because it showed the soldiers, thousand of GI's, on the anti-war, anti-army, RITA, side (4, 5).

Of course, in that militant decade (1965-1975), Jane Fonda might anyway "have gone to the left", become an activist.

But if she had not – in 1968 Paris - so accidentally met Privates Perrin, Klug, Wagner, would she, and with her other actors, Donald Sutherland, Holly Near, Fonda's British friend Vanessa Redgrave (6), have so effectively supported the Resistance Inside the Army? Understood Ritas essential role helping defeat American Imperialism in Vietnam? Continue, today, help RITA in Iraq?

What is the role of the accident – in history? Plek and I put a bob each way, leave the answer open.

1. Fonda, Jane: My Life So Far (An Autobiography). Jane Fonda will be visiting Australia, speaking – also – about her book, in Sydney and Brisbane from 10-14 November. Details on the Green Left Discussion Site.
2. Personal contacts; See also: "Soldiers in Revolt" by David Cortright, Haymarket Books, Chicago, USA; U\$ 16
3. Lemcke, Jerry: The Spitting Image, and (5)
4. FTA Film – Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland, et al. And a cast of thousands American soldiers. 97 Minutes. DVD/VCR copies \$ 25
5. Sir No Sir ! Film. – The Resistance Inside The Army. 85 Minutes. To be released asap. Preview copies:
6. Vanessa Redgrave was "turned on" to Rita by her friend Jane Fonda. Redgrave played an important start-up and support role for the American Air Force Resistance movement "PEACE" (People Emerging Against Corrupt Establishments) in Britain, 1970/1972

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.

“Ah, For The Good Old Days Of Secular Fascist Dictatorship”

October 12, 2005 Center for Defense Information Via Interpax

“There was electricity for air conditioners in the summer.

“There was running water.

“You could drive across Baghdad without encountering anything more serious than a shakedown from local police.

"In prewar days, a person could a have beer without worrying about getting his or her head chopped off. A woman could teach in a university without religious nut

cases blowing her brains out, as had already happened to three female professors at the University of Mosul in northern Iraq.

“Ah, for the good old days of secular fascist dictatorship.”

Col. Chet Richards, US Airforce Reserve

Sgt. Says Call Them To Account

October 13, 2005: **By Sgt. Kevin Benderman; Letter from his imprisonment at Fort Lewis**

It has been said that you should never question what the heads of government tell you is right, but I say that by the very way that the constitution of this country is laid out there is an expectation of every citizen to do just that.

It is every citizen's responsibility, as well as their inherent right, to question the motives of our elected leaders. Our form of government is unique in the world in that respect.

Slowly we have allowed those that we have hired to serve us in our government to twist the intent of the founding fathers into what we now have.

They now want us to believe that we are never supposed to question their actions or hold them accountable for the mistakes they make. And yet, in certain cases, there are actions that they take which are blatantly illegal.

I believe it is past time for the citizens of this country to stand up and tell the people we have hired to work for us that we expect them to perform to the higher standard we have set for them.

It is time to let our employees know that we will not tolerate condescension from them.

If they break the laws of this country then they will be held accountable for what they are responsible for.

They should not be able to pass the buck on their own insubordination to the American citizens for which they work.

Just Say No To Uncle Sam

It's appalling that the military says, "Hey, they're OK to die in the desert but not OK to live openly on base in San Clemente or Fort Hood or anyplace else." It is not all right that when these gay troops return home, their same-sex partners

cannot even greet them in the same place others can greet their spouses. No, we have to wait for our loved ones to get to a general area; we're not allowed on board, on deck, or anyplace else to openly welcome home our partners. It's a national disgrace and it must stop. And we must stop it.

October 12, 2005 By Charles Karel Bouley II, Advocate

No, it is not progress when the military turns a blind eye in order to send openly gay soldiers to die in Iraq. Quite the opposite. In fact, maybe all gays and lesbians should boycott serving our country until our country serves us.

It's official. The United States wants us dead. Us being gays and lesbians. And that's about it.

Those in charge don't think we're fit to marry. Most don't think we should raise children or have legal rights where that's concerned. Hell, some states would simply outlaw our existence all together.

But die, well, that's OK.

We can be fodder for political campaigns that divide the nation and, apparently, fodder to feed the terrorists in Iraq.

It appears the U.S. military has forgotten its failed "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the case of Iraq. In fact, according to the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, the armed forces have forgotten their ban on gays and lesbians altogether where Iraq is concerned. Instead, the Army is telling commanders that even if soldiers come out loudly and proudly, they should be shipped off to the war zone.

Great. Debate us, humiliate us, ostracize us completely as far as the military is concerned during peacetime. But when trouble starts, oh, no, we're good enough now.

Suddenly their worries of gay men molesting poor unsuspecting marines in the showers goes out the window. Their fears of butch lesbians forcing the petite, feminine ladies of the armed forces in to long-term relationships with U-Hauls, plaid, and cats are not as important as battling the terrorists who have taken root in the chaos the Bush administration has created in the Middle East.

What a disgrace, for the armed services, and for gays and lesbians.

There are those who say this is a good thing, that it will show those in charge that we are fit to serve alongside our nongay counterparts and that after Iraq things will change based on our valiant service and lack of any incidents, incidents those closed-minded bigots foretold in their tales of woe and horror about why gays and lesbians couldn't serve openly in the first place.

My experience tells me otherwise.

My experience tells me that bigots and closed-minded individuals will let you sacrifice your life for them but will not repay in kind. They will let you uproot your world, complete their military tasks, and then afterward immediately remove your status of equality back to one of inferiority. Southerners let slaves fight for them. And many expected them to return to their servitude after the war.

Before we decide to serve our country, to fulfill our responsibility, our country needs to meet its responsibility to us. Before we offer up our lives, bodies, and souls to Uncle Sam, he needs to stop treating us like bastard stepchildren at a family reunion. Before we participate in George Bush's dirty little war, he needs to stop touring the country touting a constitutional amendment to create a second-class citizenry, particularly when he wants to amend a document that the founding fathers created to guarantee equality and protection for minority opinions.

The fact is, no one should be in Iraq, but least of all gays and lesbians. The democracy the United States is allegedly fighting for—the new, free Iraq—is actually a theocracy, based in Sharia law. Women barely have any rights, let alone gays and lesbians. In Iran, right next door, gays and lesbians get hanged or beheaded. In Iraq many would do much of the same to us.

So we're serving in a military that doesn't normally want us in it, one that makes us serve in silence, and then are being sent to a country to fight for a new government there that again would seek only to oppress us should we live under it. Yeah, that makes a lot of sense.

And it's time we stop sugarcoating it. Did Jefferson, Washington, Adams, and the rest say that the only way to win the battle for rights in America was as members of the British parliament or as Redcoats?

A revolution was started over a tea tax; meanwhile, we are openly targeted by members of government for discrimination, refused the opportunity to serve as free, open human beings in our country's military, and we're supposed to continue buying in to it, being good little citizens, hoping one day it will change?

Say it with me: poppycock.

Yes, people will go to jail, or the brig. But it's time we start standing for something, because it seems these days gays and lesbians don't stand for much. Our organizations are too busy patting each other on the back, or worse, patting the backs of those nongays who don't oppress us or who actually vote with us for equality, to really do anything.

It's appalling that the military says, "Hey, they're OK to die in the desert but not OK to live openly on base in San Clemente or Fort Hood or anyplace else." It is not all right that when these gay troops return home, their same-sex partners cannot even greet them in the same place others can greet their spouses. No, we have to wait for our loved ones to get to a general area; we're not allowed on board, on deck, or anyplace else to openly welcome home our partners. It's a national disgrace and it must stop. And we must stop it.

Just say no. Literally, just say no. Do not enlist. The military needs troops right now. They need us more than we need them. Do not enlist. If you are in the service, get out any legal way you can.

And let it be known nationally that we're not IED fodder, we're not roadside bomb targets, and we're not American shrapnel to be blown about while our partners are denied any real benefits under military policy. It's time we let the United States know we're not going to lift one finger to defend a country that refuses to let us do so honestly, openly, with dignity.

We're not going to run off to their dirty little war and then, if we don't come back, have our partners shunned.

Gays in the military think they're doing some big patriotic duty. On the contrary, by letting this institution, this government, get away with this kind of behavior, we are buying into a spirit that is so un-American, so unpatriotic, that it sickens me.

If the ban can be disregarded or lifted for Iraq, it can be removed permanently. But until that point, and until the point where our partners can live on base, where our unions are recognized on or off, although we're expected to pay for your weapons, to give tax dollars to pay the salaries of those who fight, we won't do the fighting. Until you treat us as full Americans we won't act like it. And if you, those on the other side, don't like that philosophy, then change the rules.

But we won't be blown up for you, we won't be shot at, we won't be shipped to a foreign land that wouldn't even let us live openly if we were civilians there and you do nothing, say nothing, to change that. Not once in any policy meeting, to the best of my knowledge, has gay rights been brought up in Iraq or its new constitution. And in our country they're trying to bastardize ours to dehumanize us.

No, Uncle Sam. You're the evil uncle that would molest us and not even give us the pleasure of a reach-around (to paraphrase that military classic, Full Metal Jacket).

And that must stop. And we can stop it.

Until our military grants us the same rights, until our country gives us equal footing, the only fatigues any self-respecting gay or lesbian should wear are to a theme party at a local club, and the only danger we should put ourselves in for our nation is the danger each of us feel each and every day in so many parts of the nation where living openly is enough to get you killed.

We have our own wars to fight at home. We don't need to fight yours in foreign lands for people that would behead us anyway.

Keep your ban. We don't want to play your war games until we win major fights of our own.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Surprise! Surprise! Vote On Constitution A Crude Fraud

[You'd think with the billions being spread around, the Occupation could at least fake it convincingly. But no, the Bush occupation runs an election farce that would make the old East German Stalinist government look like a beacon of representative government. These people are the biggest no-talent losers going. Unfortunately, the U.S. soldiers and Iraqis they kill can't laugh any more.]

Oct 17, 2005 Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraq's election commission announced Monday that officials were investigating "unusually high" numbers of "yes" votes in about a dozen provinces during Iraq's landmark referendum on a new constitution, raising questions about irregularities in the balloting.

Word of the review came as Sunni Arab leaders repeated accusations of fraud after initial reports from the provinces suggested the constitution had passed.

Among the Sunni allegations are that police took ballot boxes from heavily "no" districts, and that some "yes" areas had more votes than registered voters. [Oops.]

Election officials in many provinces have released their initial counts, indicating that Sunni attempts to defeat the charter failed.

But the commission found that the number of "yes" votes in most provinces appeared "unusually high" and would be audited, with random samples taken from ballot boxes to test them, said the commission's head, Adil al-Lami.

The high numbers were seen among the nine Shiite provinces of the south and the three Kurdish ones in the north, al-Lami told The Associated Press.

Those provinces reported to AP "yes" votes above 90 percent, with some as high as 97 and 98 percent. [What a lack of ambition. Why not 105 or 115%?]

The official with knowledge of the counting process said the unexpected results were not isolated to the Shiite and Kurdish provinces and were "all around the country." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the count.

A prominent Sunni Arab politician, Saleh al-Mutlaq, claimed Diyala in particular had seen vote rigging. He said he was told by the manager of a polling station in a Kurdish district of Diyala that 39,000 votes were cast although only 36,000 voters were registered there.

Al-Mutlaq said soldiers broke into a polling station in a Sunni district of the Diyala city of Baqouba and took ballot boxes heavy with "no" votes and that later results showed a "yes" majority.

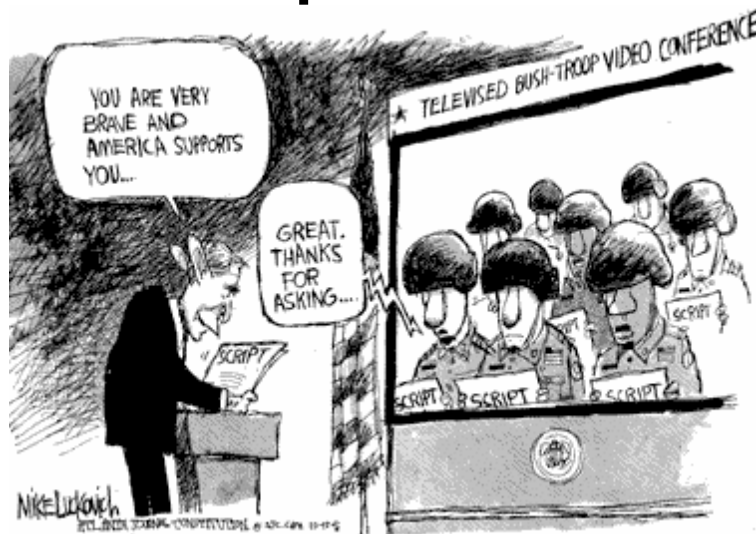
"Bottom line, we can say that the whole operation witnessed interference from government forces," he said.

Al-Mutlaq and Sunni Arab parliament member Meshaan al-Jubouri said polling officials in Ninevah had informed them that the provincial capital, Mosul, voted predominantly "no" - as high as 80 percent - while the Electoral Commission reported a 50-50 split.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush's Obscene Performance With Troops In Tikrit



October 16, 2005 Matthew Rothschild, Common Dreams. [Excerpt]

It was obscene enough that Bush put on such a staged event. Turns out now that one of the soldiers he called on was actually a Pentagon PR person, whom he refused to identify as such.

But even more obscene was Bush's immature and foolish boasting about how cool it was that the soldiers were in Tikrit, Saddam's hometown.

First, he said, "By the way, you're in Tikrit, as I understand it, as well. It's kind of an interesting place to be. It's Saddam's old stomping grounds."

He's so out of it he thinks the people of Tikrit are grateful to the U.S. troops for being there.

He asked one of the soldiers, "As you move around, I assume you have a chance to interface with the civilians there in that part of the world. And a lot of Americans are wondering whether or not people appreciate your presence. . . . Can you give us a sense for the reception of the people there in Tikrit toward coalition forces?"

The soldier, as instructed, passed that question on to another soldier, Captain Williams, who couldn't answer how U.S. soldiers "interface" with civilians because they can't. It's too dangerous.

Captain Williams referred to comments his "Iraqi counterpart" had made after talking to the locals in Tikrit. "And from what he told me that the locals told him, the Iraqi people are ready and eager to vote in this referendum," Captain Williams said.

That was the answer Bush wanted. "That's good," he said. "It's pretty interesting. That's a pretty interesting concept for the people of Tikrit, when you really think about the fact that that was Saddam's hometown."

In an obnoxiously cavalier comment, Bush told one of the soldiers, "It's probably a little early for me to go to Tikrit." No shit!

How easy it is for him. He's not putting his life on the line in Tikrit. No, he's asking these troops to do that. And he has put them in a no-win situation. That's what's most obscene of all.

Despite his happy talk, and the rehearsed cheeriness of the troops, and even the vote on the constitution, Bush cannot change the situation on the ground.

And the more oblivious he is to that fact, and the more boastful he is of the false progress in Iraq, the more shameful his entire enterprise becomes.

MORE:

Asshole At Work

[Thanks to John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

10.17.05Thinkprogress.org

Armed Forces Radio (AFR) is a station that broadcasts to American troops overseas through “over 1,000 outlets in more than 175 countries.” It currently features an hour of programming by right-wing host Rush Limbaugh. There is no comparable progressive program.

Today, that was supposed change. Ed Schultz – the host of the most popular progressive radio show in the country — was supposed to start broadcasting on Armed Forces radio. Jones Radio, the company that syndicates The Ed Shultz Show, received an email on September 29 from an Armed Forces Radio official confirming that one hour of Schultz’s program would begin airing today, October 17.

But this morning at 6AM, the producer of the Ed Schultz show, James Holm, received a call from Pentagon communications aide Allison Barber. She told Holm that she was calling so early to let Schultz know his show would not begin airing on AFR today.

You’ll remember Barber as the aide caught coaching troops before a photo-op with President Bush last week.

Barber told Holm that the Ed Schultz show would not start on AFR today because her boss, Pentagon spokesman Larry DiRita, was out of the country and couldn’t approve it. Barber also said she was going out of the country soon for a week-and-a-half.

Holm asked Barber if the show would begin when DiRita and Barber returned. Barber said she couldn’t guarantee that.

Here’s the really interesting part. Barber told Holm she heard Ed announced that he would begin on AFR during his show Friday. Schultz’s show Friday began with audio outtakes of Barber sounding foolish as she rehearsed the troops “Q&A session” with Bush.

Received:

Iraq Vet Wanted To Write Book Chapter

From: Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg elizabethwg@gmail.com
To: GI Special
Sent: October 17, 2005
Subject: 10 Excellent Reasons Not to Join the US Military

I'm sorry to ask you this (again) but could you put a request in the next GI Bulletin for a soldier or veteran to write the chapter -- You may kill others who don't deserve to die?

Every chapter is set but that one.

Some of the other contributors are: Cindy Sheehan, Monica and Kevin Benderman, Luke and Marti Hiken, and Tod Ensign.

Thank you!
Elizabeth

Received:

**Peace Soldiers A Force To Be Reckoned
With**

From: AH
To: GI Special
Sent: September 10, 2005

It's nice to see so many writers who aren't afraid to speak the truth anymore; and who obviously have a lot to contribute as far as facts are concerned.

I'm really impressed by some of the writings of some of the peace soldiers too.

They are showing excellent command over their arguments and exceptional discipline in their writing skills.

They have become a true force to be reckoned with.

And I have to say that your contributions to the Special have also become razor sharp in clarity, as well. Thanks for your efforts and I hope we can both share the fruits of them sooner than later.

Received:

**“Bush Will Continue To Shortchange Our
Combat Troops”**

From: Tommy"
To: GI Special
Sent: October 17, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3C85: The Enemy Attacks Iraq Vets

Take money from our disabled vets and apply it to the war effort, I doubt it.

Bush will continue to shortchange our combat troops. But never mention the tax breaks for the wealthy and big corporations.

He will continue to preach his trickle down message, but veterans know better than anyone what goes downhill, and it isn't money.

I love to hear him tell me how a rising tide lifts all boats, when I know most Americans can barely afford gas for a car, much less a boat. When you are treading water you are lucky to keep your head out of the ocean no matter how high the tide.

Tommy
Sent wirelessly via BlackBerry from T-Mobile.

Received:

Correction Of News Story

A story with comment carried in GI Special 3C74 from the Fayetteville Citizen said:

"Sgt. Coffield was based at FOB MacKenzie in an unknown section of Iraq, because the base's location was classified, his sister said. He was stationed in Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga." [She was lied to. FOB MacKenzie is at Samarra East AB. There's nothing secret about it.]

The assumption leading to the comment was that his sister told the truth, and was telling the reporter what the army had told her. Therefore, assuming his sister was reporting what she had been told, it was important to point out she had been deceived, and that the location of FOB MacKenzie was common knowledge, and there was nothing classified about it.

The following correction has been received from Sgt. Coffield's mother:

From: D. Coffield
To: GI Special
Sent: October 17, 2005

The reporter took part of the conversation and printed it in his words. He twisted what she was saying.

I am the mother of SGT Coffield and I knew where he was from the day he left. It was when he went on missions that he couldn't talk about.

You and I know reporters will do anything to sell papers. I asked my daughter what she said and it was nothing about be classified.

She told the Fayette citizen that she was not sure where FOB Mackenzie was located.

Cornered Rat:



Oct. 17, 2005. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-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. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice** Go to: 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.