

## **GI SPECIAL 3C87:**

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



Marines from Head Quarters Platoon, Weapons Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion search a cave for a weapon cache In Barwana, Oct. 4, 2005. (AP Photo/ Lance Cpl. Shane S. Keller, US Army HO)

# **“Prisoners Against The War” A First In The USA**

[These are excerpts from handwritten letters from an inmate in an American prison to the Military Project. For obvious reasons, neither the name nor location is given. If you are in contact with someone incarcerated who is against the war, let them know. For background about the Military Project, see below. T]

To: The Military Project Organizing Committee 8.25.05

**After talking with a lot of the guys, I discovered that 99.9% of all prisoners behind these Government Warehouse walls are totally against the war for one reason or another, and most are willing to show some kind of solidarity with those opposing the war.**

**With that in mind, along with the Military Project, I formed a committee here called "Prisoners Against the War" to show our opposition to the war and our support for the Military Project.**

We discussed the many ways to express our feelings: fasting or a hunger strike or sit in (where we just stay in our cells for a number of days-no chow, yard, gym, etc.). The committee is looking for volunteers to join Prisoners Against the War, and they are just about willing to do anything-but I don't want to do anything that will certainly bring down the wrath of the prison officials down on the guys.

**Yes, there's much we can do, but for now I asked all of the committee members and others to write letters (one typed page) expressing how they feel about the war. We will decide later on our next move.**

Reading your letter about how you're networking with others, along with all of the attention Cindy Sheehan has put on the issue, it does appear that support for the war is dying off just like Vietnam.

**The tide is turning on Bush and all those that support him, and scaring the people into thinking that it's a fight against terrorism isn't going to work again.**

Many politicians are now hearing the drumbeat to Bring them Home NOW, and are aware of the fact that the American people now realize that it was all a lie. And with elections coming soon, many of them are singing a different tune in an effort to stay on the beat by separating themselves from the lie and the revised reasons to stay in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**I believe nobody should be invested with the power to send men, women, and children onto battlefields to shed each other's blood, regardless of the reasons -- esp. a patriotic one when the whole earth belongs to all of us. I fully support bringing the troops home now to stop this senseless killing and madness.**

**I'm 100% in agreement with you-there is nothing more important than building links, giving aid and comfort to the troops turning against the war -- they have the power and the voice to rally the American people against these bloody warmongers.**

**Yes, times are changing for the best-and after 30 more years-things will be a lot better and not so much in terms of "two nations: one white and one Black" because the truth about racism is being revealed and its ignorance rejected.**

**...please know that I'm in good health and still fighting.**

[Transcribed by Katherine G.]

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## THE MILITARY PROJECT

Contact@militaryproject.org

# MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY PROJECT

1. Do not “support the troops” in the abstract. We focus on support for Armed Forces resistance, giving aid and comfort to those who are against the war.
2. Are for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
3. Believe that oppressed peoples and nations have the right to self-determination and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation.
4. Do not require others to be in complete agreement to work together with them towards common objectives.
5. Reject the idea that organizations working together on a common project must not debate differences about the best way forward for the movement. On the contrary, we encourage debate and discussion as the most useful method to arrive at the best course of action.
6. May choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to bringing our troops home now.
7. Are committed to organizational democracy. This means control of our organization by the membership, through freely elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Any member in good standing may run for any position, with or without a slate. Coordinating bodies must report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them for approval or rejection.
8. Are committed to putting in time taking action in an organized way to reach out to members of the armed forces, including local community Reserve and National Guard units.
9. Are not present or former commissioned officers in the armed forces, members of the military police, or any law enforcement agency.

I understand and am in agreement with the above statement, and pledge to defend my brothers and sisters against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

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(Signed)

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(Date)

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **TWO MARINES KILLED NEAR AR RUTBAH**

October 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
RELEASE Number: 05-10-19C

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by small-arms fire while conducting combat operations against the enemy in the vicinity of Ar Rutbah Oct. 17.**

The engagement resulted in four enemy killed and the seizure of small arms.

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### **SOLDIER KILLED IN MOSUL**

October 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
RELEASE Number: 05-10-21C

**BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Task Force Freedom Soldier was killed early morning Oct. 18 in Mosul by small-arms fire.**

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### **Soldier Injured In Iraq To Be Flown To U.S.**

October 18, 2005 Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc.

TURNER, Maine -- A 19-year-old Marine from Turner injured by a bomber in Iraq could be flown to an Army hospital in Texas as early as Tuesday.

The "Sun-Journal" reported that Pfc. Thomas Lilley suffered burns to his face, a cut to his eye and shrapnel wounds when the bomber struck near Fallujah last Wednesday. He has been undergoing treatment in Germany.

Lilley graduated from Leavitt Area high School in 2004.

His family plans to join him in Texas.

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# Fort Riley Soldiers Killed In Traffic Accident In Iraq

Oct. 14, 2005 Associated Press

FORT RILEY, Kan. - Two Fort Riley soldiers were killed Wednesday when their military vehicle collided with a civilian vehicle and overturned, the Pentagon said Friday.

Killed were Sgt. Donald D. Furman, 30, of Burton, S.C., and Sgt. Lorenzo Ponce Ruiz, 26, of El Paso, Texas. The accident occurred in Balad, Iraq.

Both soldiers were assigned to the 24th Transportation Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion.

Irene Furman, who had raised her grandson, Donald Furman, since he was 10 months old, told The Beaufort Gazette she was set to go to the beauty shop and run other errands when a bad feeling kept her at home.

It wasn't long before authorities arrived at her door to tell her that her grandson had died.

Donald Furman was on his second tour of Iraq and loved being in the Army. "He really liked the people," Irene Furman told the newspaper. "He said, 'I like what I'm doing and I like my soldiers.'"

Donald Furman's funeral will be 11 a.m. next Friday at Bethel Word and Worship Deliverance Temple in Beaufort. He leaves behind two children, ages 12 and 10, his grandmother said.

**The deaths bring the total number of Fort Riley soldiers killed in Iraq to 58.**

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**“You Hear The Alarm, ‘Incoming!  
Incoming!’”  
“You Just Freeze”**

10/18/2005 By Matthew D. LaPlante, The Salt Lake Tribune

**BALAD, Iraq - Through last Tuesday afternoon, Beth Hampton had stroked 21 marks under the brim of her camouflage hat, one for each time, since arriving in Iraq one month earlier, that her base had come under attack.**

Sitting in one of Camp Anaconda's five mess halls that evening, waiting for the alternating high and low sirens that indicate troops are free to resume their duties after a rocket or mortar assault, the airman, normally stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, marked off No. 22.

**Though roadside bombs and small-arms fire claim more lives, rockets and mortars are a constant - and sometimes deadly - threat for troops in Iraq.**

There is, however, no uniform standard for keeping service members and civilian contractors safe from indirect fire - with some lesser-struck bases maintaining stricter rules than those more commonly under attack. And resources to warn of incoming are used to varied degrees.

**At Anaconda, troops are sent scurrying on a nearly daily basis in response to alarms that sometimes provide a precious few seconds of warning that incoming rounds have been detected by the base's radars. Not every service member appreciates the advance notice, however. Some note that there is little they can do in those few seconds to protect themselves against explosive projectiles that rain randomly upon this base.**

**"You hear the alarm, 'Incoming! Incoming!' and it just freaks you out," says Travis Linker, a native of Wyoming who was eating at Hampton's table when the alarm sounded. "You just freeze."**

At Anaconda, where members of several units from Hill Air Force Base are stationed, troops are ordered to walk everywhere with flak vest and helmets "within arm's reach."

Those who run or jog for exercise have three choices: the added weight of a flak vest and helmet, the gymnasium's treadmills or the track, where they can run in circles after leaving their vests in the center of the infield.

In contrast, at the also oft-attacked Camp Ramadi, where two service members were killed in a mortar attack last month and wounds from such attacks are relatively common, troops are free to move about without flak vest or helmets to weigh them down, though the option is always available.

While troops in Ramadi tell stories about locations on base that are "mortar magnets," maps dotted with the point of impact of incoming rounds show little pattern. Indeed, officials believe that the insurgent fighters who fire the projectiles have little to no ability to accurately aim.

It is, perhaps, because of the randomness of the attacks that extremely few troops in Ramadi choose to wear their flaks and helmets.

"You could be lying in your bunk, taking a shower, sitting in a car, or whatever, and the possibility of being hit is no greater," said Lt. Col. Rich Miller, commanding officer of the Utah-based 222nd Field Artillery, headquartered in Ramadi.

**Waving toward a newly installed section of wall in the mess hall, he points to finger-size holes that dot the wall where shrapnel tore its way out of the building.**

**"Right there is where the rocket hit," he said.**

**The strike came in the early afternoon, between lunch and dinner, and no one was injured.**

**"If we'd been sitting right here, right then," Miller said, taking a bite of salad, "we'd all be dead."**

No alarms sound in Ramadi when mortars are detected.

**And troops at nearby Camp Taqaddum say they get no early warning either - though alarms often sound after the base has come under attack, signaling a "Code Red" accountability check-in process that sometimes takes an hour or longer to complete.**

Soldiers are not supposed to leave their Code Red station - for the Utah-based 146th Transportation Company, the base chapel - until the process is complete. Those from the 146th use the opportunity to play cards, sing and some try their hand at stand-up comedy behind the plywood pulpit.

Taqaddum troops do not have to wear or carry flaks and helmets with them unless they are driving on base roads. So when the alarm sounds, they must first track down their gear before they can get to their shelter.

Though some service members take extra precautions -the 222nd has one officer who sleeps on the bottom rack of a bunk bed with the upper bunk layered in sandbags - most appear to stick to the minimum ordered at their command. And some don't even do that.

Shortly after the incoming alarm sounded Tuesday evening in Balad, Staff Sgt. Cliff Millette dressed down a junior airman who removed his flak jacket before the all clear signal.

The airman, indignant, noted that many others in the mess hall were also sans protection.

"That doesn't make it right," Millette chided.

The Pennsylvania man figures the rules at Anaconda, though different from those elsewhere in Iraq, are helping to keep him safe.

"And since I told my kids I'm coming home, I want to make sure of that," he said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**“Once We Think We’re Good To Go ...  
They Have Better-Hidden, Better-Placed  
Devices”**

October 18, 2005 By KEVIN DARST, The Fort Collins Coloradoan

For the first time in 17 days, Marine Lance Cpl. Jeff Dugan got out of bed Monday.

It was painful as the blood rushed to his left leg, which was broken in multiple places Sept. 30 by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

**The blast, which detonated under the Humvee he and three other Marines were riding in on a narrow mountain road, blew the 19-year-old out of the vehicle. He landed by the right rear tire, his broken left leg hanging over a cliff.**

His first victory was surviving the blast. His second was the news that five surgeries to clean the wound saved his leg from amputation. Another victory came Monday.

"It was painful at first, of course," Dugan said from his bed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. "I didn't really get too far. I had all the blood rushing around my body. It was pretty painful, but I stood up, so that was a pretty good accomplishment."

Dugan, who graduated in 2004 from Rocky Mountain High School and wrestled for the Lobos, joined the Marines and reported to basic training in San Diego in June 2004. He had been stationed at Camp Blessing in Nangalam, Afghanistan, since June 2005 with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

**Locals tipped off Dugan's convoy that there was a remote-controlled incendiary explosive device, or IED, along the road, Dugan said. Troops spotted one as they approached the area and called an explosives ordinance disposal team, which gave the convoy the OK to proceed.**

**Dugan's Humvee was the last in the line, and as they rolled over the area, a second, unseen IED exploded beneath the vehicle.**

**"That's one of the strategies these guys use," Dugan said, referring to the decoy bomb. "Once we think we're good to go ... they have better-hidden, better-placed" devices.**

Dugan knows he's lucky. So does his father, Jim Dugan, who called the 24 hours between hearing about the attack and hearing from his son the longest of his life.

"We thought the worst," the 57-year-old Dugan said.

He's encouraged by what he's seen and heard in the past two-plus weeks. Jim and Colleen Dugan visited their son a week ago. "It looks like things are going to be a lot better than we could have hoped for," Jim Dugan, 57, said.

It could be two to six weeks before Jeff Dugan is released from the Bethesda hospital. His parents hope he can rehabilitate the leg at Veteran's Administration hospital in Cheyenne or Denver.

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# Insurgents Kill 2 Collaborator Religious Leaders

October 18, 2005 International Herald Tribune

Suspected Taliban militants in Afghanistan shot and killed two pro-government religious leaders, officials said, days after a bomb killed another leading mullah in a mosque.

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## TROOP NEWS

### ***Louisiana Guard Unit Gets It Right*** **“We Haven’t Seen Our Orders, But It Doesn’t Matter”** **“It’s Called The National Guard, Not The International Guard”**

October 10, 2005 By Andrew Scutro, Army Times staff writer. [Excerpt]

Staff Sgt. Richard Hill of Lufkin, Texas, from C Battery, 133rd Field Artillery Battalion, said the storm came right at his hometown. He needed to know if anyone was helping his family.

**He went to a noncommissioned officer who he thought could tell him.**

**“He could care less,” Hill said. “He said, ‘That’s not our sector.’ I said, ‘Well, that’s the sector I live in.’ If I know something is being done, my peace of mind will be a whole lot better and I’ll be able to continue my mission.”**

Lt. Andy Bauml took Hill’s concerns to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Beaumont, seeking news on the soldiers’ families or a way to connect with them.

**“They seem kind of frustrated because they don’t know what’s going on,” he said after finding FEMA at the fairgrounds. “They weren’t able to provide any information.”**

**“We haven’t seen our orders, but it doesn’t matter,” said Sgt. Robert Bousquet. “Because we’re here to help.”**

**“This is what the Guard was made for,” said Spc. Sam Scott. “It’s called the National Guard, not the International Guard.”**

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# **Anti-War Views & Combat Refusals Spreading Among British Troops: “The Mood Among Soldiers Is At Its Gloomiest Since The Invasion”**

[Thanks to Z who sent this in. He writes: Little wonder the British soldiers have had enough: soon it will be 1783 all over again for these hapless descendants of the Redcoats... They deserve to get out now, as do all the other foreign troops. Solidarity, Z]

Another NCO added: "Mr Blair keeps on saying that everything is getting better here. Perhaps he would care to come and see for himself. He is pretty good at sending other peoples' sons to Iraq."

18 October 2005 By Ian Herbert, Independent News & Media (UK)

Army sources are warning that the mood among soldiers of all ranks is at its gloomiest since the invasion in March 2003. The outlook has become darker as the war proves increasingly intractable and much more dangerous than troops had expected.

A string of incidents in the past week has contributed to the sense of crisis:

\* The Ministry of Defence has launched an inquiry into the apparent suicide of Captain Ken Masters, a military police investigator who was found hanged at his barracks in Basra.

\* A decision by Private Troy Samuels, who was awarded a Military Cross seven months ago for his bravery under fire in Iraq, to abandon the military rather than return for another tour of duty.

\* Seventy soldiers from Private Samuels' battalion, the Princess of Wales Regiment (1PWRR), have also decided to leave the Army during the past year rather than return to Iraq

\* An RAF officer, Flt-Lt Malcolm Kendall-Smith, said he was prepared to face jail rather than serve in Iraq, in a war he considers to be illegal. He is to be court-martialled for "refusing to obey a lawful command" and is the first British officer to face criminal charges for challenging the legality of the war.

**The increasingly desperate position of British troops in southern Iraq was highlighted last night by the former cabinet minister Clare Short. "The Government are putting the armed forces into an impossible position," she said. "It is obviously affecting morale."**

**She added: "An army officer stopped me in the street in Whitehall and said his job was talking to parents of those who had been killed in Iraq. He said he supported what I was doing. He said that his job was unbearable. I think the time has come to get a negotiated timetable for an end to the occupation."**

Such a move seems unlikely, however. Recent comments by the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, that British forces might have to stay in an increasingly volatile conflict for up to 10 more years have exacerbated fears among British forces that the conflict in which they are engaged is open-ended and lacking a credible exit strategy. There are currently 8,500 British troops in Iraq, most serving a six-month tour of duty.

**Claims have been made that many of those being sent out feel they do not have the experience to cope with the pressures.**

**According to Combat Stress, the military charity dedicated to helping soldiers suffering psychological problems, the seemingly indefinite struggle has created the greatest crisis of morale among British troops for decades.**

Commodore Toby Elliott, the chief executive of Combat Stress, told The Independent that many soldiers were leaving the Army early in the hope that its psychological effects - flashbacks, nightmares and guilt that they had survived while colleagues had not - would abate.

The incidents are symptomatic of a general malaise. One corporal said: "This has been a hard, hard tour. I would be glad not to be back in Iraq for a while."

**Another NCO added: "Mr Blair keeps on saying that everything is getting better here. Perhaps he would care to come and see for himself. He is pretty good at sending other peoples' sons to Iraq."**

Pte Samuels' decision to leave the Army may be a particularly significant landmark. A war hero, he was decorated for saving lives during the ambush which earned his comrade Pte Johnson Beharry a Victoria Cross. But he told The Independent yesterday that he decided to leave the moment he was told his unit would be returning to Iraq.

"I couldn't do that," he said, "Not straight away like that. It would be different if they were sending me to somewhere like Afghanistan - but not Iraq, right now. The stress for the guys out there is immense. They are seeing so much bad stuff. I owed it to my family to call it a day."

***The current intensity of day-to-day combat is evident in the recent incident logs for Pte Samuel's regiment which show that soldiers have faced 109 individual attacks in a single day.***

Capt Masters, 40, with 24 years' experience, had been involved in investigations of alleged mistreatment of detainees by British soldiers. Army sources have reported that the stress of investigating colleagues may have contributed to his death.

Pte Samuel's decision to leave showed that "psychological injuries" could affect the bravest of officers, said a spokesman for Combat Stress, which is helping 57 soldiers from the conflict.

**Paul Beaver, a defence analyst with close links to senior staff, said: "There's obviously a disappointment that things have not gone better. But the main difference between army morale now and 12 months ago is that there is a resignation among the soldiers that they are in it for the long haul. There is also recognition that some of the elements (the Iraqi police) that they trusted can no longer be trusted and that they must fall back on their own resources."**



**Britain's Rose Gentle, whose son Gordon was killed whilst serving with British forces in Iraq, demonstrates outside Downing Street in central London October 18, 2005. Gentle, joined by four other families of soldiers killed in Iraq, held a protest at the political decision to deny the families legal aid in their campaign for a public inquiry into the legality of the war. REUTERS/Paul Hackett**

**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.**

## **Marine Defends The Dixie Chicks**

By Joe Heim, Rolling Stone Magazine [Sent in without date of issue, just marked 2005]

The Dixie Chicks may have apologized, but they aren't backing down. At least that's the impression the superstar country trio is making well into the second month of its sixty date U.S. tour.

'Well, whaddya know, Washington D.C., hmm,' lead singer Natalie Maines said with a coy smile during a June 25th performance at the MCI Center. "If I'm not mistaken, I believe the president of the United States lives here."

**Lance Cpl. Adam Benton, a nineteen-year-old stationed at Fort Mead, Maryland, who attended the show with his Marine buddies, defended Maines: "Sir, I'm a huge G.W. fan, but she's entitled to her opinion. Just because I disagree doesn't mean I'm going to stop liking her music. We're here to defend her right to say that."**

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## **Recruiters Hide From Anti-War Grannies Arrested In NY For Trying To Join The Army**



Member of Grandmothers For Peace, Betty Brassell, 75, takes part in an anti-Iraq war rally in Times Square, New York . (Bebeto Matthews, AP)

**"We tried to ring the bell at the booth, but no one answered," Wile said. "I saw a head poke up from behind the counter every once in a while and then duck back down. I don't know what they were afraid of. Maybe they don't know how to deal with a bunch of grannies."**

18/10/2005 (SA)

**New York - Eighteen antiwar grandmothers were arrested and face disorderly conduct charges after they showed up at a military recruiting centre in Times Square and said they wanted to enlist, a protest group said.**

**Police arrested the women, ranging in age from 49 to 90, after they sat down on Monday in front of the recruiting station to protest the war in Iraq, police said.**

**When the women, including Marie Runyon, who is 90 and blind, tried to enter the station, they found it locked, said Joan Wile, 74, director of Grandmothers against the War.**

**"We tried to ring the bell at the booth, but no one answered," Wile said. "I saw a head poke up from behind the counter every once in a while and then duck back down. I don't know what they were afraid of. Maybe they don't know how to deal with a bunch of grannies."**

Grandmothers against the War joined the New York City Raging Grannies and the Gray Panthers to form a coalition called the Anti-War Grandmothers, which organised the protest. The group said about 100 people attended.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

10/18/2005 (AP) & FOCUS News Agency & Reuters & Aljazeera

**An aide to one of Iraq's top Sunni Arab officials is dead, the apparent victim of a drive-by shooting in Baghdad. Police say it happened as he was driving to work. They believe insurgents either drove up beside his vehicle and opened fire or first stopped his car by blocking it.**

**The man was an adviser to Iraq's industry minister.**

**3 people, including 1 Iraqi soldier got injured in a car bomb attack against an Iraqi Army patrol in downtown Baghdad today, AFP reported, citing police sources. Today's bomb attempt is the first since the Iraqi Referendum on October 15th, AFP added.**

**KIRKUK - One Iraqi Army soldier was killed and another three wounded when armed fighters ambushed them in the downtown al- Wasiti district of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police colonel Yadikar Mohammed said.**

**RAMADI - The deputy governor of Anbar province Talib al- Dulaimi was shot dead by armed fighters in the town of Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad. Doctor Hamdi al-Rawi from Ramadi hospital said his bodyguard was also killed in the attack.**

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## GUESS WHICH SIDE HE'S ON



An Iraqi soldier, sporting pictures of anti-occupation Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on his machinegun, in Baghdad Oct. 18, 2005. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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## Insurgents Seize Korean Aid Worth US\$3.5 Million

Oct.18, 2005 The Chosun Ilbo

**Some 14 trucks belonging to the Korea International Cooperation Agency loaded with aid and supplies were hijacked by a group of armed insurgents in Iraq last month, it was belatedly revealed on Tuesday.**

**A source in the Foreign Ministry said eight KOICA trucks were seized on Sept. 19 and another six on Sept. 21. The trucks carrying computers and Internet equipment worth around US\$3.5 million for Iraq's 18 national colleges from Jordan to Baghdad were seized 150 km west of Baghdad. "There were no Koreans among the transport crews and the one local who was captured was promptly released," the source said.**

Asked why the government only released the information now, the official said, "We felt that if an account of the incident were published, the militants would have demanded

more money for the return of the seized materials. We know who perpetrated the robbery, but revealing their identity is likely to make it harder to settle the situation.”

**While the government entrusted a local Korean company to transport the materials, it neglected to insure the cargo.** A Foreign Ministry official said, “We are calling on Iraq to settle the situation. We think the (Korean) government’s direct involvement in settlement attempts could aggravate the situation, so we are trying to proceed as quietly as possible.”

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **Two Views Of The Resistance**

**[#1. From the Chief Of Staff, U.S. Army:**

**“Never Underestimate Your  
Enemy”**

**“Never Disrespect Them”**

**The “enemy is a thinking, adaptive people. Some of them are better than others, but you should never underestimate and you should never disrespect them and we have to take them seriously and you’ve got to get ahead of them.”**

***“There are a lot of people who will live on their knees forever but there are other people who won’t — who will die on their feet,” Schoomaker said.***

October 10, 2005 By Matthew Cox and Greg Grant, Army Times staff writers

**The Army’s top soldier says it is a mistake to underestimate the insurgents operating in Iraq or write off suicide bombers as “a bunch of crazies.”**

**Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff, instead portrayed them as a considerable enemy force.**

“Never underestimate your enemy,” Schoomaker said Sept. 27 during an hourlong interview with Army Times.



**The “enemy is a thinking, adaptive people. Some of them are better than others, but you should never underestimate and you should never disrespect them and we have to take them seriously and you’ve got to get ahead of them.”**

Schoomaker, a former Special Operations leader who came out of retirement Aug. 1, 2003, to take the job as chief of staff, emphasized that Army troops are fully aware of the insurgents’ capabilities.

“I think some people have underestimated the enemy but not the professional soldiers. They never underestimate the enemy,” he said. “People who do haven’t been in it.”

**“My view is, we’ve finally got some people’s attention on how powerful this type of warfare is. Just because it doesn’t look like conventional, symmetrical warfare, don’t underestimate its power.”**

**He said even the suicide bombers were driven by cultural ideals, though that may not be widely understood.**

**“There are a lot of people who like to discount what’s going on or say they’re a bunch of crazies. I don’t see it that way and I don’t think our soldiers do. In their culture, suicide bombing is not crazy.”**

**Schoomaker noted that belief in a cause greater than oneself helped him and his fellow commandos face the likelihood of death in their top-secret mission to rescue 53 Americans held hostage by militants in Iran in 1980.**

**“We were a very small number of people going into a very crowded place and there was certainly no guarantee we were going to come back,” he said. “I don’t see anything irrational about it at all.”**

The mission was aborted after two aircraft collided on a runway during night staging in the desert outside Tehran, killing eight U.S. troops and leaving too few helicopters to continue.

**“In many people’s lives, there are a lot worse things than dying,” Schoomaker said. “These things like ‘death before dishonor’ didn’t come up by accident.**

***“There are a lot of people who will live on their knees forever but there are other people who won’t — who will die on their feet,” Schoomaker said.***

**“In Islamic culture, honor means a lot and it goes back a long way and people will go a long way to settle scores. And they’ll sacrifice a lot when they feel they’ve been dishonored or degraded or they feel hopeless and they see (suicide bombing) as an honorable way to do business.**

“In times in the past, we’ve seen it with our American Indians, with the Japanese culture in World War II. It’s rather arrogant for Americans to think because somebody doesn’t fit our paradigm, then they’re crazy.

**“There are a lot more of them than there are us.** We need to pay a lot more attention on what’s going on out there in the world because we’re going to live with this for a very long time,” Schoomaker said. “It has been building for a long time and we have a long time to go.”

**[#2. From the Iraqi Resistance:**

## **“The American Soldiers Will Keep Dying In Iraq For No Valid Reason”**

**Most of the American people are turning against the war but the President who believes in “Democracy” goes against the will of the majority and keeps sending the American young men and women to the slaughterhouse of Iraq. Interestingly he does not send any member of his family.**

October 15, 2005 By Ibrahim Ebeid, via Anti-Allawi Group

**The American soldiers will keep dying in Iraq for no valid reason but for the satisfaction of a president’s ego that is following the illusion of power.**

His speech at the “National Endowment for Democracy” speaks for itself. It is a repetition of the previous pretences that are unfounded. Iraq was never engaged in terrorism and it was not behind the tragic events of September 11 at all. Iraq had no links to Al-Qaida or to Bin Laden or to his family.

**This President told the world many excuses about his war of aggression, many scenarios were presented and none of them made sense, they were all outright lies and deception.**

The weapons of mass destruction were never found in Iraq. They are in the arsenal of the United States and they are being used immensely in Iraq. The Iraqis and the American soldiers were hit by them indiscriminately, just watch <http://www.militaryproject.org/> and you will learn a lot about the death of young soldiers and innocent Iraqis. You will learn a lot about the victims of this senseless war

**The real reason behind the invasion of Iraq was oil that Bush cannot get and secure. The Iraqi National Resistance, not the Zarqawis, will not let him enjoy the wealth of Iraq’s natural resources.**

**The US soldiers are dying for his greed and for Corporate America. This war interrupted the flow of oil causing the American people and the rest of the world to pay dearly for it.**

**The Americans are paying from their pockets and above all they are sacrificing the lives of their youth who are unfortunate. The President and the members of his Administration and those who support the war have no children in the military. Their children are safe and sound away from the hell that the President created.**

His "Democracy" is a sham. It brought death and destruction to Iraq and it is spreading terror among the Iraqis. The "government" that he brought with his invading army are thugs and thieves.

One of the members of this government was behind the collapse of Bank Petra, a Jordanian Bank. All of them are behind the collapse of the Iraqi economy. Billions of dollars disappeared and went to their pockets. It is interesting to know that many members of the so called "National Assembly" speak Arabic with a very heavy foreign accent; most likely they came from Qum, Iran.

**All the members that rule Iraq nowadays are reactionary fundamentalists. They were engaged in terrorism and they are practicing terror against the Iraqi people in large scale. A new Iran is in the making, mini states in Iraq are being created. The identity of the Cradle of Civilization is being defaced and yet George W. Bush says that Iraq is "better off".**

The reactionary militias that were created in Iran form the backbone of the army that Bush created. They were trained as terrorists and they are paid and supported by The Islamic Tehran regime.

Many of the members of these terrorist organizations are from Iranian background; their allegiance is to Iran, not to Iraq.

**They are the best allies of the invaders. They are kidnapping innocent people and killing them. They kill educators, scientists, men and women who dare not to adhere to their "Islamic" codes. Women who were treated equally under the Baathist regime are not free or equal anymore. They live in constant fear; their status is demised under Bush and under his reactionary fundamentalist regime.**

If Bush stops his aggression and withdraws his troops from Iraq, freedom and democracy will triumph and will bring peace, stability and progress to Iraq.

**The little dictators of the "Middle East" will disintegrate and disappear; all the policies that Bush imposed upon these rulers will be reversed and replaced by progressive and real democracy.**

When the Arabs achieve "Democracy" the "Middle East" will stop to exist and a unified Arab Homeland will replace it, this is the hope of the Arab People.

Mr. Bush finds no interest in a unified Arab Homeland because Unity would bring real Democracy, Freedom and stability not to the area exclusively but to the entire World.

**It would put an end to racism, Zionism, Imperialism and to the arrogance of the ignorant "mighty" who claim to have a mandate from God to launch wars of aggression against other nations.**

**The Resistance will achieve these hopes and the exported "Democracy" of Bush will fade away and also the traitors who came with it.**

There are no Zarqawis in Iraq as the respected Shia Imam of Baghdad's al-Kazimeya mosque, Jawad al-Khalesi said, that "al-Zarqawi is dead but Washington continues to use him as a bogeyman to justify a prolonged military occupation. He's simply an invention by the occupiers to divide the people. Al-Zarqawi was killed in the beginning of the war in the Kurdish north and that "His family in Jordan even held a ceremony after his death." (Agence France Press)

The deception and tricks of the US Administration are well known to the American people.

**Most of the American people are turning against the war but the President who believes in "Democracy" goes against the will of the majority and keeps sending the American young men and women to the slaughterhouse of Iraq. Interestingly he does not send any member of his family.**

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

**“You Never Forget A Rape....Never!”**

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 18, 2005

## **The Last Act of Betrayal**

**The last thing I felt before I left Vietnam, was Dick Nixon's dick withdrawing from my ass. Any American who thinks this statement is vulgar, has never been raped by their own government. As Tim O'Brien stated in his book: The Things They Carried, "Send guys to war, they come home talking dirty."**

**The war in Iraq, is another dirty war that is going to take a tremendous toll on the American conscience. Fasten your seat belts, the corporate rich have plenty of body bags stacked up in warehouses in Iraq.**

**The rich never go to war, they just make the aluminum caskets that bring soldiers home.**

**And, when the rich fly them to Dover, it's done in the dark, so the pro-war people won't get their hands dirty. There's that word again, "Dirty."**

**When you see an American soldier take his or her last breath, it is very final.**

**Sometimes the only thing you feel, is your own rage.**

**The best bumper sticker I ever saw said, "Don't trust a veteran who isn't angry."**

What's behind the anger, is always the truth.

I returned from Vietnam 34 years ago, and that experience remains in my memory like it happened yesterday.

You never forget a rape....never!

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
I R A Q  
I Remember Another Quagmire

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

# **Good News!**

## **No Charge For The Body Bags**

October 17, 2005 AL MARTINEZ, Los Angeles Times

*NEWS item:*

*WASHINGTON — Under pressure from Congress, the Pentagon on Wednesday issued overdue regulations for reimbursing troops in Iraq and Afghanistan for body armor and other gear they bought to protect themselves. The program, effective immediately, allows reimbursement for helmets, ballistic eye protection, hydration systems and tactical vests, including body armor inserts to protect areas such as the throat and groin.*

**I'm sure that electrifying flash of generosity has our warriors dancing in the streets of Baghdad and Kabul. Well, maybe not dancing but filled with a sense of well-being, which they no doubt discuss during quiet conversations with one another when they are not busy trying to stay alive.**

**Buying your own combat implements is not like running down to the 7-Eleven for a six-pack of Bud. Helmets, for instance, run as high as \$545 on one military website, although a lightweight version, normally \$375, is on sale for \$335 if you act fast.**

**Body armor is even more costly, with a full-body blast suit going for about \$9,000.**

**But for those unable to afford serious protection, a set of dog tags can be purchased for a mere \$10, to assure that otherwise disconnected human remains are properly identified. Silver chains are included.**

**You were probably under the impression that our men and women overseas were issued as much protection as possible in their effort to save the Middle East, and its oil, from exploitation and destruction by the forces of evil that President George Bush identified in his speech the other night.**

**But apparently that isn't so.**

**Even under the Pentagon's new policy of generosity, the cost of each item intended to keep a soldier or Marine alive cannot exceed \$1,100, and the items become government property once their use is no longer required. That is unless they're, you know, destroyed or somehow no longer usable.**

**The directive follows a perk added two years ago when the House of Representatives approved a bill allowing free meals for hospitalized troops wounded in combat. It not only eliminated the \$8.10 a day they were paying for their hospital food, but also doubled survivor benefits to \$12,000, tax free, should they die.**

**All of this, of course, is an effort to stimulate enlistments by making the war in Iraq seem somehow safer, and perhaps even desirable. Weapons of various kinds and their ammunition are, as I understand it, free, as are the bombs and missiles we drop enthusiastically on whoever happens to be in the way.**

**One would assume that the \$200 billion we're spending on the war to democratize the people of Iraq, whether they want it or not, would include helmets and body armor, but the military doesn't always think in logical terms when it gets down to the nitty-gritty. A modest example of this is the Great Pillow Incident of 1953.**

For those in the MTV generation who may have not heard of it, there was a skirmish following the more popular Second World War in a place called Korea. Those were in the days before body armor but not before pillows. Having fought in the war, I returned more or less whole and was being mustered out at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego where, a few years earlier, I had suffered the indignation and humiliation of boot camp.

I recall quite clearly that after standing in line for a while, I reached the mustering-out clerk — who, although he might have known nothing of war, kept careful track of the equipment. I could keep my uniform, he said, including my underwear, shoes and socks, but I had to return my pillow.

Our conversation went something like this:

**"You were issued a 'pillow, one, individual, bunk bed, each' during your initial training period and it was never returned."**

**"You're telling me I can't get out of this bloody outfit after fighting in a war because your records show I have one of your pillows?"**

**"That is correct."**

"You feel that I took this pillow as my own possession or possibly sold it on the street for a vast profit, thereby cheating the United States Marine Corps?"

"I am not authorized to issue you departure orders until all government material is returned to the agency from which it was removed."

"The pillow."

"The pillow."

What I did was cross the parade field to the sleeping quarters of new recruits, grab a pillow from a cot and return it to the mustering-out clerk. It wasn't exactly the right pillow, probably Model 2-dash-47 instead of Model 1A-dash-22, but he accepted it and I left whistling "Colonel Bogey's March."

I suppose the man whose pillow I stole had to steal another to get out of the Corps and that man had to steal another and so on probably to this very day.

**It's the way the military is, and the reluctant Pentagon generosity reflects a condition that one might think about before enlisting. You'd better be able to afford the gear before you sign the papers to go to war.**

**At least the body bags are free.**

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## Peaceful Day in Iraq?

**Secondly, I hate to spoil CNN's euphoria over the vote on the referendum, but 5 soldiers and a Marine were killed by IEDs on Saturday. I wonder if the families of those tragically slain on the "peaceful" day are celebrating the turn-out on Saturday?**

17 October 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Truthout Perspective

**I keep hearing on the news that this past Saturday was a relatively "peaceful" day in Iraq.**

Despite many reports already of alleged election fraud (shades of Ohio and Florida), George and his cronies are cautiously optimistic that the referendum for the constitution will pass. George Bush says that it looks like Iraq is heading for "peace."

I have two points to make about the referendum vote in Iraq on Saturday. First of all, George told us in his headlong rush to disaster in Iraq that Saddam had WMDs and that Iraq was culpable for 9/11. George and his band of war monsters still despicably say "9/11" in every major speech in defense of the invasion and continued occupation. He never said "regime change" or spreading "freedom and democracy."

**If the constitution passes, what will be the next devious justification for the occupation?**

**Secondly, I hate to spoil CNN's euphoria over the vote on the referendum, but 5 soldiers and a Marine were killed by IEDs on Saturday. I wonder if the families of those tragically slain on the "peaceful" day are celebrating the turn-out on Saturday? I know I don't think that it was worth Casey dying so the people of Iraq can vote in a theocracy.**

**The soldiers and the Marine were all killed by IEDs. There exists such a thing as an IED jammer. For \$47,000/vehicle, our children can be saved from most of the IED attacks.**

**The Pentagon has decided that \$47,000 is too much to spend to keep our children alive!!!**

**Halliburton steals that much from the Pentagon before the CEO's first cup of morning coffee.**

**For the two vehicles that were destroyed and the 6 of our children killed, it comes to a little over \$15,000 per person.**

**Not to be crass, but the government will be handing each family a check for \$100,000 soon (the deaths are still "pending") and \$400,000 in insurance death benefits. I know each family would mortgage their homes, or sell their souls, if they knew it would have cost \$15,000 to keep their precious family member alive.**

**We can't let these criminals in power to come up with another sham reason to keep our troops in Iraq. Iraq does not now and never has needed our military presence there.**

**Our young men and women have done everything they have been asked to do so far. It is time to reward them by not asking any more of them and bringing them home alive.**

**We know that the "counted" dead Iraqis have been 3663 in the previous 6 months. How many more have not been counted? How many of them even have names to us?**

**It is time for us to stop the serial abusers in power. Each day we delay means more flag-draped coffins and more shattered lives.**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**



# Mosul Fraud Changes “No” On Occupation Constitution To “Yes”

Aljazeera 17 October 2005

Iraq's independent [translation: occupation controlled] electoral commission has said it is verifying the ballot count from the country's constitutional referendum and will have to delay the announcement of a final result.

**Iraq's draft constitution requires a simple majority to pass, but could be rejected if two-thirds of voters in three or more governorates vote no.**

While sources close to the electoral commission were quoted as saying that 55% of voters in Nineveh governorate had said no to the constitution, the secretary-general for the Iraqi Independent Front, Abd al-Razaq al-Jiburi, said more than 75% of voters had voted no.

Al-Jiburi told Aljazeera: "I have been informed by an employee of the electoral high commission in Mosul that the voting for the constitution has been no.

"Figures from many polling stations suggest the percentage of those who have voted no to the constitution ranges from 75% to 80%.

"Observers and employees at the electoral commission provided these figures," al-Jiburi added.

Asked why most observers expect Mosul to be crucial to the referendum's outcome, al-Jiburi said: "It is true that Mosul is a decisive factor given that two governorates, Salaheddin and Anbar, have rejected the constitution - there is no room for controversy over their results. As for Mosul, if there is no fraud in the counting of the city's votes, the final outcome will be a no for the constitution."

The tally from western Anbar and northern Nineveh, which includes the mixed city of Mosul, were not yet known. [Who cares? The “sources close to the commission” [translation: traitors working for Bush] already said the vote from Mosul means the occupation Constitution has passed. See their command above.]

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# Bush's Job Rating Continues To Drop

October 18, 2005 (CNN)

President Bush's job approval rating continues to plummet, with 39 percent of Americans surveyed in the latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll supporting his performance, compared to 58 percent expressing disapproval.

The approval rating was the lowest the poll has recorded during Bush's presidency, down from 45 percent in a survey taken September 26-28, and the disapproval rating was up from 50 percent.



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# Atlanta Resettling Evacuees, But FEMA Won't Pay Up

Oct 14,2005 CNN

**The federal government has not yet delivered promised financial aid to some cities that welcomed, fed and resettled Hurricane Katrina evacuees, leaving those cities struggling to pay the bills on their own.**

CNN anchor Miles O'Brien on Friday spoke about the challenges facing one city with Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. Atlanta took in 42,000 families fleeing the disaster.

FRANKLIN: The Congress and the president have allocated \$62 billion. Our estimates are that a family needs assistance for about six months in order to stabilize themselves and that would cost about \$11,000 per family. The city of Atlanta can't absorb that cost, but we can certainly work with FEMA, if they were willing, to help families get resettled in the city and the metropolitan area.

**O'BRIEN: So 11,000 times 42,000. I can't do that kind of math on the fly here. But how much of that money have you seen?**

**FRANKLIN: Well, we haven't seen any of that money.**

**O'BRIEN: Oh -- zero. It's just like the mayor of Baton Rouge yesterday, a big doughnut.**

**FRANKLIN: Big doughnut.**

**O'BRIEN: Why?**

**FRANKLIN: We don't have any idea. I mean, I'm pretty much on record saying that we've been talking to FEMA since the storm, offering to assist, and I mean, it's like talking to a brick wall.**

**It doesn't make any sense. It's baffling to all of us. We're really discouraged. Most of us are trying to find other ways to help these families.**

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**Received:**

## **Encouragement From Canada**

From: SB  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 18, 2005 8:02 AM  
Subject: Thanks you so much.

Hi,

I just wanted to say thanks for the work that you are doing in putting together "GI Special".

I Stumbled upon it some months ago and now pretty much have to read it every day or feel like I'm disconnected from some vital energy.

You make that happen for me, and it means a lot. I'm a Canadian and I've been so terrified by whats been happening in the US since GWB first rose to power in 2000 and your publication has rekindled the flame of hope in my heart.

**Frankly, I think a lot of Canadians feel some kinship with the Iraqi citizenry. I think that when water becomes more precious than oil, its Canada that the US imperialists will look to plunder. We have almost the same population as Iraq too and we already supply a great deal of oil to the US. It is commonly held up here that if we were to start to limit energy exports to the US (say, to meet our own needs) that we would see a US retaliation in short order, perhaps a military one.**

You give me hope for the future.

I read lots of other blogs.

**But the REAL story can only come from the soldiers and civilians on the ground, the US and Iraqi citizens actually paying the price of empire building people suffering.**

And you are the person putting those stories together, helping us readers to see the bigger picture. Your photo and political cartoon inclusions are always spot on.

Anyway, hope you have a great day. Thanks for all your work.

**I am a graphic artist/ animator and hope to contribute to the anti-imperialist cause soon myself. I deal with omni-present depression and anxiety on a daily basis, and find that seeking out like minded people helps me to feel a lot less anxious.**

Thanks  
S

**REPLY: GI Special can report what goes on, but it's the anti-war troops, Veterans, military family members, and activists who make things happen on the ground, where it counts. The front page story tonight, about prisoners starting their own anti-war group, is a classic example. GI Special reports it, but it took their vision and courage in an imposable situation to make it happen, and change reality. T**

**GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**  
All GI Special issues achieved at website <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .  
The following have also posted issues; there may be others:

<http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,  
[www.williambowles.info/gispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial),  
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