

## GI SPECIAL 3D16:

**ENOUGH.  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. Army soldier wounded in Iraq walks through the Army's hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, Nov. 15, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

**“How Can We Know Who  
Is Our Enemy When We  
Don't Even Know Why  
We're Here?”**

# **“I Guess They Hate Us Because We Done Blown Up Half Their Country”**

**Who is responsible for the near daily bombings? "I don't know," she says. "I suppose insurgents. Trying to get rid of us, I guess. I guess they hate us because we done blown up half their country."**

11/14/2005 By Matthew D. LaPlante, The Salt Lake Tribune [Excerpts]

At a sparse Marine Corps base south of Lake Habbaniyah, in the volatile Al Anbar Province, a cluster of military truck drivers huddles around a red-freckled staff sergeant giving instructions for the upcoming evening's mission.

He takes roll, ticks through the latest intelligence report - another set of roadside bombs has been discovered on the night's route - and looks down at his clipboard to see what is left to be covered.

**"OK, OK," he says, "What's next? Enemy description - well, you know, they look like every other Middle Eastern guy out here."**

**"Except they shoot at you," shouts a stout, young specialist standing in the back of the group.**

The brusque reply draws a hearty laugh from the muster of drivers, but also a few anxious expressions.

**Truth is it's impossible for soldiers to know whether those they pass on the roads are friend or foe.**

**Indeed, the enemy described by most - religious extremists from foreign nations, including elements of al-Qaida - makes up only a small percentage of the fighters in Iraq, Judith Yaphe, a former Iraq analyst with the CIA and a senior fellow at the National Defense University. says.**

**"Ninety percent of this is an Iraqi event," she says.**

In nearby Ramadi, Sunni stronghold and center of much insurgent action, soldiers make something of a game out of pegging the men who stand on the roadside, staring coldly at passing U.S. convoys.

"That guy's Moojh, right there," one Army officer says, as he catches the scowl of a young man leaning, cross-armed, in the doorway of a rundown cinder-block home.

The officer's guess - that the teenager was a trained Islamic warrior, known as mujahedeen - will remain unproven.

**The armored Humvee rumbles past without further ado. In these parts, it is unwise to halt a convoy for anything less than battle.**

**The roads near Najaf are routinely clear of hidden explosives and suicide car bombers, but small arms fire continues to be a hazard. That doesn't mean, however, those responsible for the gunfire are aligned, even peripherally, with Sunni extremists, like bin Laden and Abu Musab Zarqawi, more commonly associated with the insurgency.**

**"I've never met a single person who supports bin Laden or Zarqawi," says Will Van Wagenen, a Salt Lake City native and member of the nonprofit Christian Peacemaker Teams, who recently met with members of the al-Mahdi militia at Najaf's Wadi al-Salem cemetery, where they had clashed with U.S. troops for three weeks in August 2004.**

**"But," Van Wagenen says, "a lot of people support continued attacks against the Americans."**

Yaphe, the former CIA analyst, says it does seem clear that most insurgent groups want to see the current Iraqi government fail. But she says it would be a mistake to assume any of those groups are of one mind on what they'd like to see in the aftermath.

And she believes the oft-stated notion that insurgents are the enemies of freedom around the world is incorrect.

**"That's one of George Bush's favorites, but in my heart of hearts, I really don't think they care if we live in a democracy or we have freedom or that we live on the moon," Yaphe says. "They don't like what we do. We represent incarnate evil to many. Some are glad Saddam is gone and don't like us. Others regret Saddam is gone and don't like us."**

A bone-chilling wind has picked up at Camp Striker in Baghdad. Pvt. Patrice Gittens is slouched on a bench, shivering in her Army warm-ups as she watches other soldiers play basketball under a set of makeshift spotlights.

**Gittens fights the urge to retreat to her tent, worried that she'll wake up tomorrow to the sound of mortar explosions, as is routine these days.**

"If those mortars didn't go off in the morning, every morning, I'd be late for work," she says.

**Who is responsible for the near daily bombings?**

**"I don't know," she says. "I suppose insurgents. Trying to get rid of us, I guess. I guess they hate us because we done blown up half their country."**

Standing nearby, Spc. William Clark playfully tugs at Gitten's leg to lighten the mood, but he himself doesn't stay jovial for long.

"You know, the president and all these people say it's al-Qaida, but no one knows who al-Qaida is," says Clark, a Virginia farm boy who just began his second tour in Iraq.

The first time around, with Saddam Hussein still on the lam and with the hunt still on for the dictator's alleged stash of weapons of mass destruction, Clark figured he knew who the enemy was.

This time around, after leaving an infant daughter back home, he's no longer so certain.

"How can we know who is our enemy," he says, "when we don't even know why we're here?"

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **THREE U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED BY ROADSIDE BOMB NEAR BAGHDAD**

November 15, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-11-24C

**BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Three Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed when their patrol struck an improvised explosive device northwest of Baghdad Nov. 15.**

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### **MARINE DIES FOLLOWING NEW UBAYDI IED ATTACK**

November 15, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-11-23C

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died Nov. 15 of wounds received from an improvised explosive device attack while conducting combat operations against the enemy in New Ubaydi, during Operation Steel Curtain, Nov. 14.**

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### **MARINE DIES FROM NEW UBAYDI SMALL-ARMS FIRE**

November 15, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-11-22C

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died of wounds received from small arms fire while conducting combat operations against the enemy in New Ubaydi, during Operation Steel Curtain, Nov. 14.**

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## **“He Was Ready To Leave. He Had Done His Commitment. He Should Have Been Allowed To Leave” Stop-Lossed Alaska Soldier Loses Legs**



Courtesy Photo

November 14, 2005 by Jason Moore, KTUU-TV

**Anchorage, Alaska - She wasn't at a protest held today outside of Elmendorf Air Force Base, but she wasn't cheering President Bush either. Former Alaska gubernatorial candidate Diane Benson had her thoughts on her son, who suffered terrible injuries yesterday in Iraq.**

Diane Benson cherishes her box of photographs of her son's military service even more so today.

“All I know is I was abruptly woken at 8:20 in the morning Sunday morning, that something bad had happened to my son,” Benson said.

Benson's son, Latseen, a U.S. Army specialist, became the victim of a roadside bomb in Iraq. He lost his legs and still has not regained consciousness. Latseen Benson was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

**Benson says after her son's first tour, Latseen tried to get out of the Army after his four-year commitment ended Oct. 31, but the military's stop-loss order kept him in and sent him back to Iraq. "So for 13 damn days my son's life is ruined," said Benson.**

"We will stay on the offensive. We will not wait to be attacked again and we will press on until this war is won," President Bush said today during a speech on Elmendorf Air Force Base.

**Bush rallied support for the war in Iraq at Elmendorf today. There is a different tone in Chugiak, where the quote "Before one more mother's child is lost," from anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan hangs on Diane Benson's door.**

"There is no Bush signed up for the service, no Bush standing there ready to be deployed.

**"Instead my son gets to do it a second time when he didn't want to. He was ready to leave. He had done his commitment. He should have been allowed to leave. I would say all those things and more to Bush. My son's life is ruined today," said Benson.**

**Latseen Benson now clings to life at a hospital in Germany, facing a long road to recovery that will never make him whole.**

Benson says her son will be transported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She says she plans to travel there in the next couple of days to be with him.



Scott Jensen/KTUU-TV

# Iraq Bomb Kills Georgia Marine: “Her Husband Told Her The Violence Appeared To Have Increased”

11/03/05 By BRENDEN SAGER, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Joel Preston Dameron was a stoic "Marine's Marine" on duty and a prankster around friends and family, his widow, Logyn Butler Dameron, said Wednesday from the family home in South Georgia.

Staff Sgt. Dameron, 27, of Ellabell, Ga., was killed Sunday by an improvised bomb that exploded while he was on patrol near Al Amiriyah, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

He was assigned to the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**Dameron is the 61st Georgian killed in military operations during the Iraq war, according to statistics on the Web site [icasualty.org](http://icasualty.org).**

Joel and Logyn Dameron were sweethearts at Bryan County High School and married two years ago, said Logyn.

Joel Dameron's parents, who are separated, live in Claxton and Woodstock. He has two brothers, in Savannah and North Carolina respectively, and two half-brothers in Woodstock.

Logyn Dameron, who has a four-year-old son, Riley, and is now seven months pregnant, recalled Wednesday how his warm attitude around family belied the battle-hardened Marine underneath.

"Around people he knows he's got a really outrageous, fun-loving attitude. He's always doing crazy stuff, getting his nephews into trouble — and my son," she said from her home in Pembroke, near Fort Stewart.

"As a Marine, he was a very brave person, not very emotional but stoic and reserved.

"When he got over there, he realized how bad it was.

It was his duty to be a Marine and had no patience for people who weren't doing their job."

Logyn Dameron said her husband was also a huge Florida Gators football fan, who revelled in the team's most recent victory against the Georgia Bulldogs, the team she roots for.

"The last time I talked to him was Saturday night after the Georgia-Florida game," she said. "He had to call and rub that in my face."

Dameron left Sept. 3 for his second tour in Iraq, his wife said. His first tour lasted from Aug. 2004 to March 2005.

**She said her husband told her the violence appeared to have increased during his second term.**

**"He said it was either really quiet and boring or nonstop — that it was never in between," she said. "Especially during Ramadan . . . he said it was a lot worse."**

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## **Soldier From Galesburg Dies**

Nov. 04, 2005 Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - A 28-year-old Army National Guard soldier from Galesburg died in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded near his armored vehicle, military officials announced Friday.

Staff Sgt. Kyle Wehrly, a soldier with the Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery of Macomb, was killed Nov. 3 in Ashraf, Iraq, the Illinois Army and Air National Guard said.

Wehrly's father, the Rev. Peter Wehrly of the United Methodist Church's Northside Ministries in Springfield, said his son, who was married and had a 6-year-old daughter, decided while serving in Iraq that he wanted to make the military a career.

"He just loved the military. He really liked the regimen," Peter Wehrly said.

Kyle Wehrly enlisted in the National Guard in September 1995 and graduated from Galesburg High School in 1996. His unit left for Iraq on Oct. 27, 2004.

Peter Wehrly said when his son arrived in Iraq, he asked his family to send items he could give to Iraqi children.

"All he wanted was stuff for kids. Candy, flip-flops. ... We had five boxes of stuff. He didn't want anything for himself," Wehrly said.

Kyle Wehrly also adored his daughter, Kylee, and was like "a fish to water" when she was born, Peter Wehrly said.

"She was daddy's girl, and she was very upset when he was leaving," Peter Wehrly said about his son's daughter.

**The elder Wehrly said he knows God will help him through his son's death, though he said he has thought about why it was not someone else's son.**

**"I said, wait a minute Peter, there have been a lot of fathers who have had to bury their sons - Israelis, Palestinians, Iraqis, Iranians. ... I'm the one who's dealing with it now," he said.**



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# Resistance Killing U.S. Brass

November 15, 2005 New York Daily News

The last three weeks have been the cruelest for U.S. officers in Iraq as their casualty rate more than doubled. Thirteen of the 58 U.S. troops killed since Oct. 25, or about 22 percent, have been officers ranging from the rank of 2nd lieutenant to colonel. The names and ranks of eight others killed this month have yet to be released.

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## Notes From A Lost War:

### Pissing In The Wind

November 13, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle

Last month, 1,000 U.S. Marines swept through the Iraqi insurgent stronghold of Karabila in a three-pronged, three-day offensive, meticulously searching every house on their way and leaving behind a town completely devoid of enemy fighters.

But by last week, guerrillas were running Karabila again, and Marines conducting another offensive were once more fighting their way through Karabila's dusty streets as insurgents greeted them with small-arms fire, roadside bombs and houses rigged with explosives.

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### Bomb Blast Kills Soldier

November 15, 2005 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb exploded Tuesday near U.S. and Afghan troops as they patrolled in volatile eastern Afghanistan, killing a U.S. soldier and wounding another, the military said.

Two Afghan soldiers and an Afghan civilian were also wounded in the blast in Paktika province, the military said in a statement.

The troops were traveling in an armored vehicle on an offensive operation when the bomb exploded, it said.

The wounded were evacuated by air to a nearby base and all are in stable condition.

**The death brought to 204 the number of U.S. troops killed in and around Afghanistan since the ouster of the Taliban in late 2001.**

**It comes amid an upsurge in rebel activity this year that has left almost 1,500 people dead.**

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## **BRITISH VEHICLE HIT**



British soldiers near their damaged vehicle following an attack, in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. (AFP/File/Shoib Najafizada)

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## **“More Fighting Now Than At Any Point Since The Taliban Regime Fell”**

Carl Robichaud, The Century Foundation, 11/9/2005 [Excerpt]

The Newsweek report confirms a trend that many suspected: elements of Afghanistan's insurgency are drawing their lessons—directly and indirectly—from Iraq.

**In the past six months, Afghanistan has seen combat of increased scope and brutality, with more fighting now than at any point since the Taliban regime fell. The daily attacks against coalition troops and Afghan security forces by Taliban insurgents have recently been accompanied by a wave of suicide tactics—once rare in Afghanistan—which authorities attribute to foreign jihadists.**

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## TROOP NEWS

# “A Public Relations Disaster For The US Military”

[Thanks to Z, who sent this in. He writes: Hitler would have trouble understanding what the fuss over using white phosphorus in a city is all about. Same goes for Pentagon. Solidarity, Z]

15 November 2005 BBC

The Pentagon has confirmed that US troops used white phosphorus during last year's offensive in the northern Iraqi city of Falluja.

"It was used as an incendiary weapon against enemy combatants," spokesman Lt Col Barry Venable told the BBC - though not against civilians, he said.

The US earlier denied it had been used in Falluja at all.

Col Venable denied that the substance - which can cause burning of the flesh - constituted a banned chemical weapon.

**Col Venable said a statement by the US state department that white phosphorus had not been used was based on "poor information".**

**The BBC's defence correspondent Paul Wood says having to retract its denial has been a public relations disaster for the US military.**

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## Traitor Rumsfeld Welcomes Iranian Spy To Pentagon

November 15, 2005 Washington Post

Rumsfeld met with Ahmed Chalabi, onetime Pentagon favorite and now a deputy prime minister of Iraq who is considered a likely candidate for prime minister.

**Last year, U.S. forces raided Chalabi's Baghdad office after he was accused of giving U.S. intelligence information to Iran. He is still under investigation regarding those allegations.**

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# **“It Is Remarkable For A Former Field Commander To Deliver Such A Public Condemnation Of His Commander-In-Chief”**

**Collins is expressing the view held by many in the British military who realise that Iraq has been a disaster and that things are going to get worse. His demand for an explanation of what we are doing there is thinly disguised code for saying that we shouldn't be there at all.**

Sep 21, 2005 IAIN MACWHIRTER; The Herald [Excerpt]

**As Colonel Tim Collins put it at the weekend: "One cannot help but wonder what it was all about." This is the same Colonel Tim "Nails" Collins, commander of the First Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, who sent his men into battle in March 2003 with those stirring words about going to Iraq "to liberate, not to conquer".**

About being "ferocious in battle, but magnanimous in victory".

About zipping up British dead "in their sleeping bags" and sending them back home.

**He now believes he was duped by the politicians: "I made certain assumptions that my goodwill and altruistic motivations went to the top. Clearly, I was naive." He goes on to demand and explanation of "where we are going, and why".**

**Collins is expressing the view held by many in the British military who realise that Iraq has been a disaster and that things are going to get worse. His demand for an explanation of what we are doing there is thinly disguised code for saying that we shouldn't be there at all.**

**It is remarkable for a former field commander to deliver such a public condemnation of his commander-in-chief effectively, (if not constitutionally), Tony Blair.**

But it is more all the more extraordinary when the soldiers he sent into battle are still in there fighting and dying.

**These are the people everyone seems to forget about - the poor bloody infantry. Eying their sleeping bags with some apprehension as Iraq goes up in flames.**

**The idea that in some way the Brits had "sorted" the south is no longer sustainable. We cannot strike poses as the helmet-less liberators, patrolling the streets with cockades high, when we are having to resort to heavy armour.**

There was always a dose of mythology about the conduct of the war in the British theatre. As we saw at Camp Breadbasket, we were almost as bad as the Americans

when it came to mistreating the locals. However, it was generally thought that Britain had gone further towards winning the "hearts and minds" (that awful phrase from the Vietnam era) than in the north where the Americans' idea of enlisting popular support is to raze towns like Falluja and kill everything in it that moves.

When Sir Menzies Campbell, the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats calls for a "strategy for withdrawal", and the Tory leader Michael Howard calls for "an honest assessment of the difficulties", they both insist they don't want to "cut and run".

But sometimes cutting and running is all you have left.

As the Labour ex-spin doctor, Lance Price, makes clear in his memoirs, the prime minister rather likes the idea of being a war leader.

**He would take withdrawal as a personal defeat. Which of course it would be. However, British soldiers should not be required to give their lives in order to feed the vanity of an arrogant politician.**

**This is Blair's Vietnam, not theirs.**

**Face it. It's time we got our army out of Blair's Vietnam**

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## **Iraq Veterans Unemployment Three Times National Average**

November 14, 2005 Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON - The return to civilian life for U.S. Soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan is full of pitfalls, with an unemployment rate three times the national average.

**The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says that for the first three quarters of 2005, nearly 15 percent of veterans aged 20-24 are jobless -- three times the national average.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **“No To America, No To Britain!”**

November 15, 2005 By Robert H. Reid, Associated Press

Hundreds of Sunni Arabs marched Monday through the streets of Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, to protest Iraqi security raids in the surrounding province over the weekend. More than 300 people, mostly Sunni Arabs, were arrested, officials said.

Members of the crowd carried banners denouncing the arrests of Sunni Arabs and chanted, "No to America, no to Britain!"

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## Woman In Jordan Bombing Had Three Brothers Killed By U.S. Occupation

November 15, 2005 New York Times

One day after Jordanian authorities presented to the world an Iraqi woman they said had taken part in the deadly Amman hotel terror attacks, investigators there said that she had volunteered to become a suicide bomber because three of her brothers had been killed during "operations" in Iraq.

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## Assorted Resistance Action



An Iraqi policeman inspects a police vehicle that was destroyed by a road side bomb in Kirkuk, November 15, 2005. (Slahaldeen Rasheed/Reuters)

15 November 2005 BBC & AFP News & (KUNA) & By Robert H. Reid, Associated Press

**Four policemen were shot dead in an ambush east of Kirkuk, while three others were killed and three wounded by a roadside bomb in the centre.**

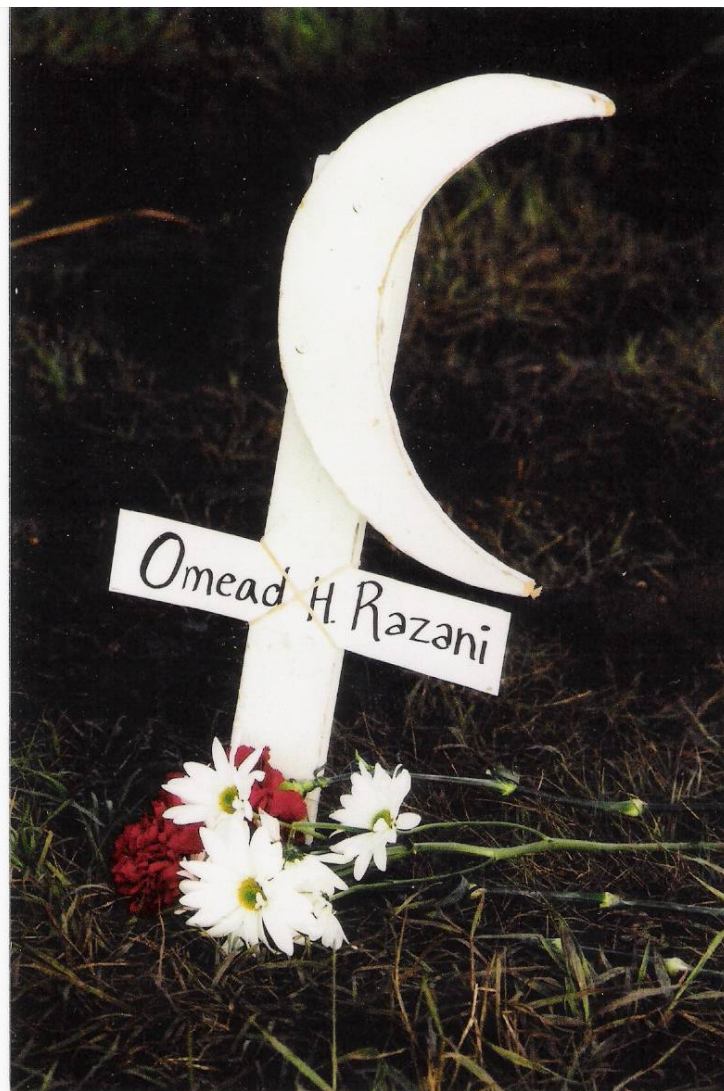
**In eastern Baghdad, two policemen were killed and at least six injured by a car bomb planted near a restaurant while a group of police gathered for a meeting.**

**Another policeman was shot dead and seven wounded in clashes with rebels in the northern city of Mosul, local sources said.**

In the town of Mahmodeya, three soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded when a bomber blew up a booby-trapped car he was driving near an Iraqi army checkpoint, Spokesman for the Babylon Governorate police told KUNA.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**One of the many crosses at Camp Casey**

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](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

## “Jarhead” A Head Of Its Time.

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 15, 2005  
Subject: "Jarhead" a head of its time.

**I saw the film, " Jarhead."**

**As a Vietnam veteran, two words came to me when I was leaving the theater:  
Hypnotic and Psychotic.**

The only thing that was missing was the heroin I saw in Vietnam.

I think every mother should see this movie, who thinks her son would benefit from going into the Marine Corps. Whatever wonderful loving nurturing you gave your son growing up, the Marine Corps will toss in the Dumpster. Your son will never come home to you the same. Never.

**Men keep secrets from people, but the one's they keep from their mother are sometimes top secret. It does not take the military long to sever this relationship. I do not think most men are ever consciously aware of it. It just happens.**

The power of shame is lethal. And, after the mother is gone, there are a whole lot of other women who follow.

I will try to be polite when I say this: The military can destroy your intimacy potential for the rest of your life. The collateral damage can set off a domino effect, that could cause you to do and say things, you will regret the rest of your life. It can happen so quickly, like an unexpected rear-end collision. Gone, and all of your dreams with it.

**So, here is basic training and the road that follows: FEAR, FEAR, FEAR. SHAME, SHAME, SHAME. SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM. KILL, KILL, KILL. JODIE IS FUCKING YOUR GIRL, JODIE IS FUCKING YOUR GIRL, JODIE IS FUCKING YOUR GIRL. ANGER, ANGER, ANGER. DRINKING, DRINKING, DRINKING.**

**WAR, WAR, WAR. DEATH, DEATH, DEATH. Now, go home, get out of the military, get married, have children, and live happily ever after.**

**I went through this horse shit and gun smoke over thirty-five years ago, and nothing has changed. But, I do want to make one thing very clear: Jodie never fucked my girl.**

**But, the rest of the lies I will carry for the rest of my life.**



**You unzip a body bag, take a dead soldier off of a chopper, have blood on your hands and brains in your lap, and as Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the memories."**

**See " Jarhead:" it may change your life, or put a lot of puzzle pieces together.**

**Anthony Swofford is a gifted writer, bearing witness to the insanity.**

**The screenwriter is William Broyles Jr. He is a Vietnam veteran who knows the long-term effects of being betrayed.**

I do believe this movie will be hard to see for most Iraq War I, and Iraq War II veterans. The truth is all there.

Do not see this film alone. If you are fragile, don't see it for awhile.

In my opinion, this film is more potent than " Platoon," was for Vietnam veterans. "Jarhead," is political.

At times, it was a bear trap, especially with what is going on in this country now.

**Twelve years after the Vietnam War was over, we did not have to go back for Vietnam War II. And, that is why this film is so emotionally touchy.**

**The Christian Right should see this film, because it will scare the shit out of a lot of people. Especially mothers, and maybe that is where it should begin.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
November 15, 2005**

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## **“Wonder Who It Is They Are So Desperately Trying To Reach With That Message?”**

From: Alycia A. Barr  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 14, 2005  
Subject: Methodist Bishops Repent Iraq War Complicity

There's a follow up article to the "bush church" report sent to you last week. **..[Methodist Bishops Repent Iraq War 'Complicity']** that reported the church Bush and Cheney belong to had adopted a statement opposing the war in Iraq.]

Interesting the United Methodist Church felt it necessary to REPEAT it's statement that the push for war was "without any justification according to the teachings of Christ."

Wonder who it is they are so desperately trying to reach with that message? The general "Christian" public or Mr. bush?

In Peace and Humanity,  
Alycia A. Barr

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## **“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”**

*[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]*

**In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.**

**The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.**

**Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.**

**Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.**

**Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.**

**During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.**

**To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.**

**The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.**

The Military Project  
Contact@militaryproject.org



[Graphic by D]

**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.**

## **Killing Two Bogus Parties With One Legal Stone!**

From: Alycia A. Barr  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 15, 2005

**This one is a "can't help myself" comment to the "Earlier Today..." Clinton justification for striking Iraq in 1988.**

Did anyone bother to check his intel sources before or after he used this line? Didn't we end up finding out the target hit was some "other" kind of production plant? Who consulted, Russia, France, Germany or the rest of the international community to find out if they were on board with these assertions of Iraq's WMD capability?

Finally, wasn't this guy, Clinton, proven to be a liar via the whole Starr charade?

**The only difference I can glean between Mr. bush and Mr. Clinton is that the latter is a known liar by trial, and the former hasn't yet been brought to trial for his lies.**

**Having read Clinton's statement on the very same issue and information that is now putting bush's integrity into question, wouldn't it stand to reason someone would use that as a starting point to prosecute bush, and add his friend Bill to the charges as an accomplice or co-conspirator?**

**That's killing two bogus Parties with one legal stone!**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS.**



Iraqi children watch a U.S. Army soldier from the 101st Airborne Division during a raid on their house, in a Shiite village near Balad, Nov. 4, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign" and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any changes being filed against them, or any trial.]**

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to occupy their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?]

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

## **How A Polish Shoe Salesman And His Thieving Accomplices Stole \$600 Million: Armored Trucks With Tiny Mazda Engines And Ancient Copters Among The Corrupt Deals**

"Before, I sold water, flowers, shoes, cars — but not weapons," said Cattan, who signed most of the 89 military contracts worth nearly \$1.3 billion to equip Iraqi security forces, according to the documents. "We didn't know anything about weapons."

Nov 6 By Solomon Moore and T. Christian Miller, L.A. Times Staff Writers

**BAGHDAD — Ziad Cattan was a Polish Iraqi used-car dealer with no weapons-dealing experience until U.S. authorities turned him into one of the most powerful men in Iraq last year — the chief of procurement for the Defense Ministry, responsible for equipping the fledgling Iraqi army.**

As U.S. advisors looked on, Cattan embarked on a massive spending spree, paying hundreds of millions of dollars in Iraqi funds for secret, no-bid contracts, according to interviews with more than a dozen senior American, coalition and Iraqi officials, and documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

**The money flowed, often in bricks of cash, through the hands of middlemen who were friends of Cattan and took a percentage of the proceeds.**

Cattan, now facing corruption charges leveled by the Iraqi Justice Ministry, insists that he is innocent of any wrongdoing and the victim of a smear campaign. In interviews in Poland, where he now lives, Cattan said he had worked under pressure from U.S. and Iraqi officials to arm the Iraqi forces as quickly as possible.

**"Before, I sold water, flowers, shoes, cars — but not weapons," said Cattan, who signed most of the 89 military contracts worth nearly \$1.3 billion to equip Iraqi security forces, according to the documents. "We didn't know anything about weapons."**

**The portrait that emerges from interviews and documents is a Defense Ministry whose members were picked with the care of choosing a pickup basketball team.** U.S.-appointed military advisors often selected inexperienced Iraqis and watched as they cut pell-mell weapons deals that eventually totaled one-third of the entire procurement budget.

**Cattan's ascent began two days before the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, when he returned from Poland after 26 years in an attempt to bring his elderly father out of Iraq to safety.**

His father refused to leave, however, so Cattan decided to stay as the war raged on. A broad, garrulous man with boundless confidence, Cattan figured he could help rebuild the country, drawing on a past that included an economics doctorate and business ventures including used cars and a pizza parlor.

Cattan was elected to one of the local advisory councils the U.S. set up after the initial combat phase of the war. He soon became close with the U.S. troops that occupied his neighborhood, filled with military officers who served under President Saddam Hussein, who had just been toppled.

By early 2004, as the U.S. moved toward handing sovereignty to the Iraqis, Cattan had caught the eye of American officials who were scrambling to build a new Defense Ministry. The U.S. was starting from scratch. Coalition advisors decided that civilians should lead the new ministry, but under Hussein, the Defense Ministry was run by military officers, meaning there was no pool of experienced Iraqis from which to draw.

In desperation, Americans cast a wide net, sending interested Iraqis to the United States for a three-week crash course on Defense Ministry management. Cattan was one of the first to go.

**Upon his return, he rose quickly through the new ministry's ranks, becoming the director of military procurement after the first director's assassination. Cattan was chosen partly because he had done a good job obtaining furniture for the ministry building, one source said.**

**All of sudden, Cattan had \$600 million to spend, with a mandate to spend it by the end of December under Iraqi budgeting rules.**

In September, Cattan said, he signed the first of 38 contracts with Bumar, Poland's state arms dealer, which would total more than \$400 million. Bumar is supposed to supply Iraq with 36 Russian and Polish transport helicopters and 600 Polish armored personnel trucks.

The Iraqis later objected to the helicopters as well, declaring them too old to fly. A delegation of Iraqi test pilots who visited Bumar's production facility in St. Petersburg,

Russia, declined to sign papers to finalize the sale. The current Iraqi government has since rebuffed Bumar's offers to ship the helicopters.

**Cattan and Bumar officials acknowledged that some helicopters were 25 years old, but defended the purchase.**

**Bumar President Roman Baczynski arranged for a Times reporter to tour a production plant outside Warsaw where the armored personnel trucks were being prepared. The factory will produce about 20 vehicles a month, mostly by hand, at an average cost of \$167,000 each. The boxy, beige trucks have metal-reinforced tires, space for 10 soldiers and armor sufficient to stop an AK-47 round.**

**But during a test drive, the reporter could not manage to propel the heavy truck up a 45-degree, 8-foot-high incline from a standing start; a test driver had to back the vehicle up to build momentum. Bumar officials said the truck only had a 150-horsepower engine — about the same as a Mazda Miata.**

**The Polish contracts, like others signed by Cattan, were paid in cash, up front — both violations of Iraqi contracting regulations, according to a confidential audit by the Iraqi Supreme Board of Audit obtained by The Times.**

Many of the contracts signed by Cattan passed through companies run by Iraqi businessman Naer Mohammed Jumaili, whom Cattan had gotten to know while on the advisory council, according to Cattan and the audit. Cattan said he worked closely with Jumaili and other businessmen who owned cash-transfer companies, which exchange currency and move it outside the country. Cattan said he awarded them reconstruction contracts as they provided information on insurgent money flowing into Iraq.

**"They supported me to become a big man in Iraq," Cattan said of Jumaili and the other businessmen, whom he referred to as "my friends."**

**He said he turned to Jumaili during the weapons deals because Jumaili was Bumar's sole registered agent in Iraq — a claim Bumar denied.**

Cattan also said he used Jumaili's services because it was the only way to move money out of Iraq. In a complicated series of transactions, the Defense Ministry would issue a check to Jumaili's firm, which would cash the check at an Iraqi bank. Jumaili or Cattan would then coordinate the physical movement of sacks of cash to banks in Jordan, according to interviews and documents.

All told, nearly \$1 billion worth of contracts were signed with Jumaili's companies, according to the audit. Cattan said Jumaili charged 1% for his services. If true, Jumaili could have earned up to \$10 million in fees. Jumaili could not be reached for comment.

**Another contract called into question by the auditors and U.S. officials involved Wye Oak Technology, a Pennsylvania firm run by Dale Stoffel, an American arms broker. Stoffel, who was killed in a roadside attack after reporting his concerns about corruption at the Defense Ministry, was the subject of previous Times stories.**

**Stoffel had an agreement worth up to \$283 million to refurbish Iraqi tanks and sell scrap metal abroad, according to interviews and documents. When Cattan was slow to pay invoices, Stoffel complained to the Pentagon that the Iraqis were demanding kickbacks by insisting that only certain contractors be hired, according to letters obtained by The Times.**

Cattan said he was reluctant to pay the contract because he received only a "vague invoice." He said U.S. officials regularly pressured him to pay Wye Oak.

Army Col. David Styles, the Petraeus deputy who was in charge of the tank project, acknowledged pressuring Cattan, but only because he wanted the project to progress, he says.

**Styles also said Cattan used money from the project to buy tens of thousands of bulletproof vests that fell apart and helmets "which were no better than the helmets I got as a kid from (the) toy store."**

One U.S. military official said some of Iraq's battalions could have improved their combat readiness had the Iraqis focused more on buying critically needed items instead of equipment such as helicopters.

"There clearly was some impact from Ziad's practices," the military official said. "However, it was not clear that it was all that substantial." The Americans said they did all they could, but that the Iraqis made final decisions.

**Such assertions puzzle Iraqis. How is it, they say, that the U.S. could have allowed such slipshod execution of such an important task?**

"We have American experts in the Defense Ministry," said Radhi, the official investigating the corruption. "When they saw such violations, why didn't they do something? They are experts." [Check the bank accounts of the "American experts" and the generals around them. Duh.]

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Senate Republicans Pissing Their Pants Over War**

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Nov 15 By Vicki Allen, Reuters

**Showing mounting discontent among Republicans over progress in the Iraq war, the U.S. Senate resolved on Tuesday that Iraqis should start taking the lead in their own security next year to allow a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops.**



But the Republican-led Senate rejected Democrats' demand for Republican President George W. Bush to submit a plan and an estimated timetable to withdraw U.S. forces, a step Bush has vehemently opposed.

**The Senate demand, and with it the stirrings of Republican revolt, was another blow to Bush**, who is reeling over a string of setbacks including his administration's response to Hurricane Katrina, controversy over Supreme Court nominees and high gas prices.

**The Iraq war brought hecklers to a speech in Knoxville, Tennessee, by Vice President Dick Cheney. He did not acknowledge their shouts.**

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## THEY GOT THAT RIGHT



Protestors carry banners in protest of US President George W. Bush's visit to Japan, in Kyoto. (AFP/Yoshikazu Tsuno)

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## “Sending American Troops Into Battle For A Cause That Did Not Exist”

**By the way, while accusing his critics of falsifying history, Bush never conceded that he launched the war on a false premise-that Saddam Hussein was up to his**

neck in WMDs-and, thus, as he paid tribute to veterans of this war and others, he did not accept responsibility for sending American troops into battle for a cause that did not exist. 14 November 2005, David Corn, The Nation

**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.**

## **Received:**

Veterans Day Parade In NYC

From: Alycia A. Barr  
To: [thomasfbarton@earthlink.net](mailto:thomasfbarton@earthlink.net)  
Sent: November 15, 2005  
Subject: Veterans Day Parade in NYC

After hearing Celeste Zappala's letter read at Saturday's Speak Out, I felt some kind of response was necessary to perhaps lessen the pain this event created for her.

During the period of time when groups like IVAW, GSFP, VFP and MFSO were waiting in the bitter cold to take their previously assigned position in the parade, a disturbing series of loud comments were going on. This issue seems to be continuously overlooked, or ignored, and should, for the future's sake, be at least mentioned.

Prior to any aggressive moves on the NYPD's part, there was a small element, within the groups present, spewing snide remarks, hurling insults, and political accusations, in the direction of policemen.

It's one thing to raise your voice to "bring them home now," it's an entirely different matter to yell hate filled slurs to officers and others who are just doing their job.

Whatever the reasons were for those uncontrolled outbursts, which were done by a minority not a majority, it accomplished one certainty...to relegate us all to the back of the parade. Bad behavior rarely goes unpunished!

The sad truth of it is that, along with the deserving rabble-rousers, those brave Iraq Veterans, who's place is at the front of any line because of their service to country, and the mothers of fallen soldiers, who's now lifelong burden is to carry is the unjustifiable sacrifice of their treasured children's lives, and Veterans of previous wars who were supposed to be recognized as the central focus of the parade, were also FORCED to bring up the rear.

Maybe the initial decision to "rearrange" our position in the parade line-up was made in advance by those in control of the event. Maybe "orders" came down even before the parade's start. No matter the reason for the repositioning, one thing is clear. The unbelievably rude behavior of some in our movement justified, in the minds of those

opposed to our cause, their belief that the "peace" crowd is a bunch of left-wing loonies, and was solidified through the actions displayed by a few, to their delight, right in front of a watching New York public.

These individuals are well aware of what they did, as it was repeated several times during the course of pre-parade waiting.

Since none have had the courage to take responsibility for their part in this tragedy, in the form of an apology, please, allow me to extend my sincerest apologies to ALL.

The fine IVAW, who conducted themselves with the dignity that makes them the credible force needed in this effort, most being far younger than the childish adults who were yelling. To the much admired VFP members, many who are Vietnam Vets and have suffered indignity before at the hands of those claiming to be peace activists. And, last but certainly not least, to the GSFP Mothers, like Celeste and Sue, who needn't feel slighted by being put in the rear just ahead of the trash brigade, because as everyone knows...you always save the BEST for last.

Instead of bemoaning what occurred, as so many have done, perhaps someone should write, in a letter to the editor of the NY Times, the organizers of the parade, to thank them for the opportunity that enabled these fine organizations to have a well deserved spotlight of their very own in this Veterans Day Parade.

By the response given from the crowd left along the parade route, who were cheering, whistling, and applauding as we passed, some even joining us in the street, we can take with us the pride and hope that marching that day, first or last, was well worth the effort and appreciated despite any attempts to discredit our groups.

When we allow ourselves to compromise what we know to be the morally right way to handle situations, we then become what we detest most in others who have no moral compass to guide their behavior.

In Peace and Humanity,  
Alycia A. Barr

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## **“Professional Politicians Get Squeamish Around ‘Overzealous’ Vets”**

From: AH  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 15, 2005  
Subject: Front and Center

**Response is below this article that was run in the Special.**

*Iraq Vets Front And Center:  
A Proposal  
From: JML*

To: GI Special  
Sent: November 13, 2005

Subject: Re: GI Special 3D11: Iraq Vets Front And Center

*In response to the ignoring of Iraq Veterans Against the War, I would encourage them to consider the idea of running as candidates for US Senate and US Congress as Independents, Greens, Peace and Freedom, or any other non-corporate party that is willing to run against the Democratic and Republican parties of war.*

*They will get plenty of attention in their own right and they will help galvanize the antiwar movement, build participation by soldiers, and put intense pressure on mainstream politicians. If they take on high profile senate races in 2006, all the better.*

**Response: These "third" parties rarely have the money to publicize much of anything. That's part of the reason why they rarely win. They all have agendas that would also keep vets away from what lime-light they do have; and keep them pretty much relegated to behind-the-scenes volunteer work.**

**Backing by a "political party" might give anti-war vets some closed forum time, to share some highly censored facts but, who needs that - when there's plenty of opportunity already for vets to disclose the real truth among supporters?**

**Professional politicians get squeamish around "overzealous" vets because, the ugly truth can really fuck up a sellable image.**

I didn't think this was a bad idea but, much more should be done.

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