

## **GI SPECIAL 4E13:**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR? BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Maria Gomez, mother of Sgt. Jose Gomez, with her husband Felix Jimenez, during his funeral service, May 10, 2006, in New York. Gomez died in Baghdad on April 28, 2006 when a roadside bomb detonated. The soldier was assigned to the 10th Cavalry, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

# ***Raising Hell Works!*** **Army Forced To Admit Tormenting Injured Ft. Still Soldiers**

"I am an inmate," one soldier, Pfc. Mathew Scarano of Eureka, Calif., wrote in a letter home in January two months before he died. "I sometimes ask those friends of mine with jailhouse tattoos if they'd rather be back in jail, or here. So far, they are unanimous: jail."

May 12, 2006 By RALPH BLUMENTHAL, The New York Times Company [Excerpts: Thanks to Alan Stolzer, who sent this in.]



**Pfc. Mathew Scarano, put to death by the criminal negligence of the Ft. Still command, and his mother, Christen. He said before his death “I am a casualty of a broken system”**

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**LAWTON, Okla.:** The Army has shaken up a program to heal recruits injured in basic training after soldiers and their parents said troops hurt at Fort Sill were punished with physical abuse and medical neglect.

The program, which treated more than 1,100 injured soldiers last year at five posts, normally returns three-fourths of its patients to active duty, according to Army statistics.

**But at Fort Sill, recruits said, injuries were often subject to derision, ignored or improperly treated.**

**Two soldiers in the program have died since 2004, one or possibly both of accidental overdoses of prescription drugs. The latest death, in March, remains under investigation, the Army said.**

**“I am an inmate,” one soldier, Pfc. Mathew Scarano of Eureka, Calif., wrote in a letter home in January two months before he died. “I sometimes ask those friends of mine with jailhouse tattoos if they'd rather be back in jail, or here. So far, they are unanimous — jail.”**

**A civilian spokesman at the fort, Jon Long, said an investigation had substantiated “misbehavior” by a drill sergeant who, soldiers say, kicked a trainee with stitches in his knee. Mr. Long said the sergeant had been suspended and reassigned, along with another drill sergeant who, soldiers complained, had**

**repeatedly awakened injured trainees throughout the night for uniform changes and formations.**

G.I.'s who fall prey to sprains and fractures and cannot complete the often grueling passage to "warrior" are sent to the Physical Training and Rehabilitation Program, where a motto reads "Heal and Ship."

Soldiers' blogs reflect dissatisfaction at some of the other programs, too, but Lt. Col. Michael Russell, command psychologist at the Training and Doctrine Command in Fort Monroe, Va., who was involved in the new therapy, said just Fort Sill had had a fatality or major complaints. The other sites are Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Knox, Ky.; and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

**In interviews, soldiers and parents said injured troops regularly suffered punitive treatment as malingerers, although many had joined specifically to serve in Iraq.**

A trainee with a broken finger who was described by fellow soldiers as frustrated by indifferent treatment, slashed himself with a razor, smeared himself with feces and walked around naked, the Army confirmed. Regarded as faking illness, he was returned to his unit to finish training.

Soldiers in the 40-member unit said their injuries often went unattended in stays that exceeded six months and worsened while they waited to see specialists in short supply because of medical needs in Iraq. **[Oh please. What lame bullshit. And the reporter just pukes up the lie like it's some kind of explanation. Simple question: Are specialists in "short supply" when one of the chairborne pieces of shit that infest the Pentagon needs one? You bet your ass General Suckup gets a specialist any time he wants. Duh.]**

**"I don't want to say cruel and unusual punishment, but that's what it was," said Tom Nugent of Candor, N.Y., near Ithaca.**

His son Pvt. Justin Nugent has had two operations since a shoulder "popped out" after push-ups in July.

Another parent, Steven Howell, an aide to Representative Mark Souder, Republican of Indiana, said he and his wife had complained about the treatment of their son Clayton, who has spent a year in the "limbo" of the program after a gallbladder attack. "My main concern as a parent is that medical issues are not being addressed properly," Mr. Howell said.

One mother critical of the war who had an injured son in the unit and another son serving in Iraq, appealed to Amnesty International and members of Congress for help.

**The mother, Patricia deVarennes, from outside Sarasota, Fla., brought to light the complaints about her son Pfc. Richard Thurman by posting them on her blog, along with Private Scarano's final e-mail messages.**

**They were then reported in a March issue of a biweekly left-wing newsletter, CounterPunch.**

“The supreme irony,” said Ms. deVarenes, a writer and computer specialist, “is that I was more worried about my son at Fort Sill than the one in Iraq.”

**Colonel Russell credited Ms. deVarenes with bringing the problems to his attention.**

In e-mail responses to questions, Mr. Long, the Fort Sill spokesman, confirmed that an investigation focused on accusations of physical and verbal abuse.

**He declined to discuss details because no one had been charged with a crime.** But Mr. Long said the initial findings did substantiate the reports of misbehavior by the drill sergeant, who was said to have kicked the soldier and who along with another drill sergeant received “administrative disciplinary action.” [Thanks for making it official. According to the U.S. Army, kicking an injured soldier is not a crime. This soldier that got kicked had a severely fucked up knee, and was kicked in the injured knee by the sadistic freak pretending to be a Sgt. But, hey, that’s not a crime. It’s only a crime if somebody had decided to take a weapon and kill the Sgt., which, under the circumstances, would have been perfectly understandable.]

The findings, Mr. Long said, also pointed to “command climate issues” that allowed cursing at injured soldiers. He said none of the physical or verbal abuse had been directed at Private Scarano or was involved with his death.

Mr. Long said it might be weeks before a toxicology report provided an official cause of death.

He said that in July 2004 a private in the program was found to have died from “acute methadone intoxication” after an accidental overdose.

[Let’s review that. Mr. Long surely must have video tapes of every minute Private Scarano spent in this hell hole. That’s the only way he could possibly know that Private Scarano had never been abused by anybody, ever, either verbally or physically. No doubt he will confirm this.

[Then, he smears Private Scarano by implying he’s a drug addict who overdosed. Why else mention some soldier that died in 2004 of an overdose of methadone, a medication used to treat heroin addiction? He didn’t just toss that in by accident, now did he? Why else tell the reporter about that when he’s talking about Private Scarano?

[Obviously Mr. Long needs some additional experience, so he can perform his duties without slandering injured soldiers. How about a one way ticket to Ramadi? He can do some point work. Then, when he’s dead, his corpse can be returned to the USA with a sign neatly hung around his neck for his relatives to see: Dead Drug Addict.]

*In letters home, Private Scarano, who severely injured his shoulder in a fall in training, said he was wearing a patch with the painkiller fentanyl, which he called “80 times stronger than heroin,” and also wrote: “The Army has me on Ambien, seroquel, tylox and oxycontin. I also get trazadone to take the edge off.” At that time, Mr. Long said, soldiers were not monitored while taking medication.*

**[Note well: no methadone.]**

Now, they are closely supervised. In another change, he said, a patient advocate has been assigned to monitor lengths of stay.

**Private Thurman, who has completed more than four months in the program and has been sent to his first duty station as a computer artilleryman, and other soldiers said morale plummeted around mid-January with the arrival of a new drill sergeant, Robert Langford.**

On the Martin Luther King's Birthday holiday weekend, with the rest of the post off duty, Sergeant Langford ordered the therapy unit to move out the bunk beds and lockers and hand scrape the wax off the floor tiles. When the results were not to his liking, the soldiers said, the sergeant had them redo it. While scraping, Private Scarano cracked his injured shoulder, he wrote home.

**The kicking episode occurred about that time, soldiers said, when Sergeant Langford ordered an injured private, Damien McMahon, 21, of Emporia, Kan, "to take a knee," or bow, after losing his temper in a formation.**

**Private McMahon, who had had knee surgery for a staph infection and was also in disciplinary trouble for sneaking to the PX on a tobacco run, said the investigators had asked him not to discuss the case.**

**But he confirmed accounts by fellow soldiers that he had protested that kneeling was painful and that the sergeant had kicked him in his bad knee, loosening one of nine stitches.**

**Sergeant Langford, reached by telephone at home at Fort Sill, refused to discuss the accusations *and denied that he had been suspended before hanging up.***

**[So, Long says the Sgt. has been suspended. The Sgt. says he has not been suspended. What does the reporter do with the fact that one of them is a liar? Nothing at all. More to the point, how is it that the sadistic freak Long is still walking around loose with all body parts intact?]**

**Also around January, soldiers said, another drill sergeant, Troy Bullock, suspected that a soldier in the unit had sneaked a cigarette and ordered the entire injury unit woken up every hour from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. for uniform changes and formations, even though some patients were on heavy sleep medications, the soldiers said.**

**Mr. Long said he could not comment, and no telephone listing for Sergeant Bullock could be found.**

**On March 7, in an e-mail note to Ms. deVarenes later put on her blog, Private Scarano said, "I am a casualty of a broken system; I fell through the cracks of the bureaucracy."**

If he could get out at least temporarily, Private Scarano said, he wanted to explore a more promising civilian procedure to repair his shoulder “instead of being a guinea pig to a medical system I have no faith in, whatever.”

## The Survivors



From left, Pfc. Richard Thurman, Pvt. Justin Nugent and Pvt. Damien McMahon in Lawton, Okla. Photo: Jim Wilson/The New York Times

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### 4 U.S. Marines Die In Karmah

May 12 MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION BAGHDAD 4th Infantry Division Press Release A060512a

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: Four Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died as a result of a motor vehicle accident in Al Anbar Province today.**

**The Marines were traveling in a U.S. M1A1 Main Battle Tank when it rolled off a bridge into a canal near Karmah, Iraq. All four Marines on board drowned.**

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
HOPELESS WAR:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



**U.S. Marine Cpl. Daniel Spall of Indianapolis, Indiana, right, and Lance Cpl. Shayne Phelps, of Maryville, Tennessee patrol in Karmah April 26, 2006. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)**

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## **Marine From Fort Wayne Killed In Tank Accident**

5.12.06 Associated Press

FORT WAYNE, Ind. A Fort Wayne Marine was among those killed when a tank rolled off a bridge and into an Iraqi canal.

David Sanchez, a 2003 graduate of Elmhurst High School, was the second member of his high school graduating class to die in Iraq.

School principal Barb Gentry says a memorial event is being planned for Sanchez.

Military officials say four Marines drowned when their tank rolled into the canal near Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad in Anbar province.

**Sanchez is the 60th member of the military from Indiana to have died after being sent to the Mideast since the buildup for the invasion of Iraq began in 2003.**

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# Slain Fort Hood Soldier Remembered

May 3, 2006 KWTX

LaNita Herlem says she couldn't have asked for a better husband.

Staff Sgt. Bryant A. Herlem, 37, of Copperas Cove died Friday in Baghdad when a bomb exploded during combat operations.

Sgt. Jose Gomez, 23, of Corona, N.Y. was also killed. Both were assigned to the 4th ID's 10th Cavalry, 4th Brigade.

Herlem loved to play childish practical jokes on his buddies, like throwing stink bombs into the bathroom. He liked video games and collected GI Joes.

He loved passing out soccer balls and stuffed animals to Iraqi children.

Herlem was a carpenter and kept up with repairs around the house and his neighborhood.

He was raised by his grandparents in Whittier, Calif.

He and his wife, who is from Bassett, Va., met when both were stationed at Fort Ord, Calif. She is no longer in the Army.

Herlem had been on active and reserve duty since 1986. He had been at Fort Hood since 1998, except for one stint at Fort Riley, Kan. and two trips to Korea.

From Iraq, he communicated with his wife twice a day through the Internet.

**Herlem was among ten 4th ID soldiers who died in roadside bombings during the last week of April in Iraq.**

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## Surviving Soldier Credits Dead Comrades For Living Through Attack

May 12, 2006 By KEITH EDWARDS, Blethen Maine News Service

Pvt. Chris Fraser told his mom he owes his life to two Maine Army National Guard soldiers killed when the truck all three were riding in was hit by a bomb in Iraq.

Fraser, 19, of Windsor suffered only burns and cuts in the Saturday attack and is being treated at a hospital in Germany.

Staff Sgt. David Michael Veverka, 25, a University of Maine student from Jamestown, Pa., and Staff Sgt. Dale James Kelly Jr., 48, of Richmond, were killed.



Fraser told his mother, Debra Gosselin of Gardiner, that Veverka pulled him down into their truck just as the bomb exploded, Gosselin said Thursday.

"(Veverka) saved Chris' life," Gosselin said. "He's a hero."

Kelly, a medic, had recently taught his fellow soldiers to administer their own intravenous medications. Nancy Kelly, Dale's wife, said he showed his fellow soldiers the skill because he was worried about helping them survive if something ever happened to him, their medic.

"One of the last things my husband taught his men - they were his guys and his mission was to bring these guys home whole - was how to administer their own IVs," Nancy Kelly said recently.

Fraser apparently put that life-saving lesson to use after the attack.

"He administered his own IV," Gosselin said. "Dale taught him how to do that. He's so grateful. I'm so grateful."

Gosselin said her son told her that he, Veverka and Kelly were in their truck at the front of a convoy when they came upon a man with two young children. The man apparently threw a bomb at the truck, Gosselin said.

Gosselin said she and her son were extremely sad for the families of Veverka and Kelly, both members of B Company, 3rd Battalion of the 172nd Mountain Infantry regiment based in Brewer. Fraser was a member of the 1136th Transportation Company and was attached to B Company.

Gosselin said her son was doing well Thursday and seemed to be in good spirits. He was recovering from surgery he had Wednesday to cut dead skin from his feet, which were burned in the attack. She said she expects him to be flown to a hospital in Texas soon to continue his recovery.

Gosselin and several other family members plan to travel to Texas to visit him.

Kelly's remains were flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Wednesday.

Funeral services for Kelly are scheduled to take place next week. Public viewing at Fortin Group Funeral Home and Crematory Service in Auburn will take place Thursday, May 18, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, May 19, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m.

A public funeral service will occur at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 20. The funeral procession will then go to Augusta to the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery for veteran's services.

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## **US Fuel Tankers Burned In North Baghdad Ambush**

May 12 (KUNA)

**Three US fuel transport tankers were set on fire Thursday in an attack by militants in North Baghdad, eyewitnesses said Friday.**

The witnesses told KUNA unknown militants attacked late last night a convoy of US army trucks near Al-Mshahda, North Baghdad. They added three fuel tankers were burned completely.

The witnesses also said US forces quickly returned fire and surrounded the scene while helicopters were seen hovering in the area in search for the perpetrators.

According to witnesses' accounts, civilians are still banned approach to the area and it is not possible to assess damage as yet.

The Multi-National Forces would not comment on the incident for the time being.

**The main road North Baghdad leading to Salahiddin Governorate frequently witnesses attacks near Al-Mshahda and Al-Dheloueiya areas.**

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## Japanese Occupation Troops' Supply Truck Blown Up



A damaged truck in Samawa May 12, 2006. A truck carrying supplies for the Japanese troops stationed in Samawa was burnt after a roadside bomb attack the previous night May 11, police said. REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen

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# Collaborator Troops Fight Each Other: Four Dead

5.12.06 AP

**Clashes erupted Friday between two Iraqi army units following a roadside bombing north of the capital.**

The U.S. military and Iraqi police provided differing accounts of the incident, which began with a roadside bombing near Duluiyah, about 45 miles north of Baghdad.

**The Americans said one soldier from the Iraqi army's 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 4th Division was killed and 12 were wounded in the attack.**

**But Iraqi police 1st Lt. Ali Ibrahim said four were killed and three others wounded. He identified the soldiers as Kurdish but did not specify their unit.**

**According to both accounts, the wounded were rushed to the U.S. military hospital in Balad. Police said that when the Kurdish soldiers drove up to the hospital, they began firing weapons to clear the way, and one Iraqi Shiite civilian was killed.**

When security rushed to the scene, the Kurds decided to take their wounded elsewhere, Iraqi police said. Iraqi troops from a separate Shiite unit tried to stop them and shots were fired, Iraqi police said.

The U.S. account said that an Iraqi soldier from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade was killed in a "confrontation" as the other Iraqi troops were trying to remove their wounded. Iraqi police identified the dead soldier as a Shiite. But the U.S. statement did not say what prompted the soldiers to try to take wounded comrades away from a hospital, the best equipped American medical facility in the country.

A third Iraqi army unit set up a roadblock in the area and stopped the soldiers who were leaving with their wounded, the U.S. statement said. American troops intervened at the roadblock and calmed the situation.

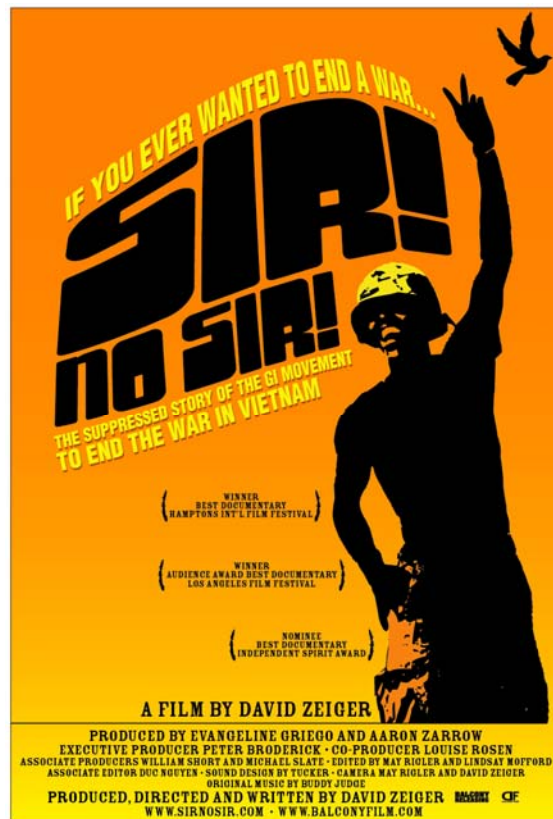
**["Never interfere with the enemy when he is in the process of destroying himself."  
– Napoleon]**

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**TROOP NEWS**

# “1,400 Active Duty Soldiers Signed A New York Times Antiwar Ad”

“Incidents Of Fragging, The Intentional Shooting Of Officers, Became Noticeable”



May 5, 2006 MOVIE REVIEW By Kenneth Turan, L.A. Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

“Sir! No Sir!” is a powerful documentary that uncovers half-forgotten history, history that is still relevant but not in ways you might be expecting.

Written and directed by David Zeiger, “Sir! No Sir!” brings back to public consciousness the nery and surprisingly pervasive GI antiwar movement that flourished during the Vietnam War, a movement that was more widespread than anyone wants to remember today.

Winner of the documentary audience award at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival and a Spirit Award nominee, "Sir! No Sir!" doesn't mention the current war in Iraq, or for that matter, John Kerry, who was a prominent antiwar soldier. But then and now comparisons are inevitable.

Though not a veteran, director Zeiger was an organizer in that movement, and he has sought out and interviewed an exceptional group of idealistic men and women, articulate and strong-minded individuals who had the courage to act on their beliefs.

Without having to say it, "Sir! No Sir!" underscores what an engaged, activist group the people of the 1960s were. Even those who were conventional and patriotic enough to enlist in the armed services were so a part of that rambunctious generation that they could not stand still when they felt wrongs were being committed.

**The first armed services members to speak out were inevitably true believers, people who had bought the myth of what we were supposedly doing in Vietnam and took it especially hard when the reality kicked in.**

Most notable of these was Donald Duncan, a decorated Green Beret who left the military in 1966, after more than a year in Vietnam, so early there was "no movement to join." Duncan loved being a Green Beret but came to feel that "the problem I had was realizing that what I was doing was not good. I was doing it right, but I wasn't doing right."

From Duncan on, the antiwar soldiers could not make their peace with the cynical use of torture and the elimination of women, children and civilians in accordance with what one of them called a "kill them all, sort it out later" philosophy.

Louis Font, who felt Vietnam was a war of aggression, became the first West Point graduate in history to refuse war service, and Dave Cline, wondering why a man he just killed was dead while Cline was alive, came to feel that continued silence was "part of keeping the lie going."

The soldiers' antiwar movement soon spawned off-base coffeehouses in military towns, such as the Oleo Strut outside Ft. Hood, Texas, as well as underground newspapers that soon numbered more than 200. It also spawned a cabaret tour called the FTA Show (for Free the Army or something more profane), a kind of anti-Bob Hope tour that starred Jane Fonda, whose son, actor Troy Garity, is this film's narrator.

**As "Sir! No Sir!" points out, the sheer statistics of soldier resistance are impressive.**

**The Pentagon reported 503,926 "incidents of desertion" between 1966 and 1971, 1,400 active duty soldiers signed a New York Times antiwar ad, and incidents of fragging, the intentional shooting of officers, became noticeable. All of this culminated in the Winter Soldier Investigation hearings and the sight of veterans throwing their medals onto the steps of the Capitol.**

One of "Sir! No Sir!'s" most interesting points is how the vital partnership between the peace movement and disgruntled soldiers has fallen from view, replaced in the popular imagination with the notion of peaceniks spitting on Vietnam veterans, something that sociologist Jerry Lembcke, author of "The Spitting Image," says likely never happened.

Despite his longtime interest, filmmaker Zeiger despaired of ever getting this story on film, until the post-Sept. 11 world made the conduct of American soldiers during wartime suddenly a hot topic.

We may never recapture the spirit of the 1960s, but watching “Sir! No Sir!” should get us away from the idea that opposing a war means any disrespect to the troops. It wasn't that way in Vietnam, and it's not that way now.

**Sir! No Sir!:**  
**At A Theatre Near You!**  
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

**MORE:**

## **The Life Of A Child**

### **“Vietnam Is With Us Always”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin.]

**By Mark S. Foley, U.S. Army (retired),  
Vietnam Service, 1970-71**

**Vietnam enters the life of a child  
when her father wakes up screaming in the night  
when her mother tries to calm him and can't.**

**Vietnam enters the life of a child  
when she sees her fathers thousand yard stare  
and knows he's somewhere else not here  
he's out somewhere stalking his prey his own soul.**

**Vietnam enters the life of a child  
when her father batters her mother  
in front of her eyes and she cries  
for him because he cannot cry.**

**The life of the child enters the father  
and he finally Becomes wise  
from seeing her now less innocent eyes.**

**Vietnam enters the life of a child  
like some passed down genetic fix from her father—  
an original sin latent with potentials  
of evil and good.**

Vietnam enters the life of a child  
when she asks her dad what did he do,  
and he says I thought I sinned for you, dear  
and all you meant to me.  
I thought I sinned for another child  
very much like you a child called democracy.

Vietnam enters the lifeblood of a young country.  
Vietnam enters the life of a child.  
Vietnam is with us always.

MORE:

## **SURVIVORS (Vietnam, 1971)**

**“It’s Only The Survivors That Can Plead With  
You Never To Go”**

By Mark S. Foley, U.S. Army (retired),  
Vietnam Service, 1970-71

In Cam Ranh Bay they re-opened a hospital one day.  
The place had been closed for Nixon's withdrawal,  
but they found a dis-ease that had smitten the ranks  
of the thousands of lucky ones about to go home.

The newspapers termed the proportions widespread;  
and we all laughed as we nodded-out on the bunkers.  
The headlines said it was twenty percent -  
about as low as the body counts were too high I suppose.

When we all did it the heroin sang a dirge in our veins -  
no more fear of death with so many dead.  
it was almost as though their spirits were calling  
and the closer we got the more peaceful we felt.

One time I once knelt before a statue of Buddha  
in a village long conquered, long lost to our bullets  
and I felt a peace the Vietnamese must surely have felt  
in their culture and hamlets and farms throughout time.

And I prayed to myself and the spirit within me  
(for I no longer believed in anything else)  
that the dead, the dying, the soul-burnouts of 'Nam  
will not have died in vain

will not have lived in vain  
will not live in vain.

Only the living, the survivors can tell you,  
not the judges or scholars or politicians  
it's only the survivors that correctly inform you  
it's only the survivors that can plead with you never to go.

**Sir! No Sir!:**  
**At A Theatre Near You!**  
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

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## **Iraq Troops' Supply Shortages Confirmed**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

**\$1.2 billion in Army supplies shipped to Iraq that couldn't be accounted for. As a result, military units ended up short on "tires, tank tracks, helicopter spare parts, radio batteries and other basic items."**

May. 11, 2006 By Drew Brown, Knight Ridder Newspapers

**WASHINGTON:** The Defense Department's accounting practices are in such disarray that defense officials can't track how much equipment the military owns, where it all is or exactly how they spend defense dollars every year, according to a report Thursday by a nongovernmental group.

The report by Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities called the Pentagon's financial-management practices "an embarrassment" that wouldn't pass muster in the private sector.

"Today, if the Defense Department were a private business it would be involved in a major scandal," said Kwai Chan, a former top official with the Government Accountability Office and the report's author.

In reports to Congress in recent years, the GAO found:

**-94 percent of Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers experienced pay problems in 2004.**

-\$100 million that could be collected annually from defense contractors who underpaid federal taxes. The federal government had collected less than 1 percent of that - less than \$700,000.



**-\$1.2 billion in Army supplies shipped to Iraq that couldn't be accounted for. As a result, military units ended up short on "tires, tank tracks, helicopter spare parts, radio batteries and other basic items."**

**-\$35 billion worth of excess supplies and equipment, plus an inability to track the movement of supplies.**

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# **WEST POINT GRADUATES AGAINST THE WAR "Duty, Honor, Country"**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

## **OUR PURPOSE: To Help Reclaim The Honor Of The United States Of America**

**Instilled by the Cadet Honor System with a fundamental, longstanding respect for truth, we graduates of the United States Military Academy believe that honor is a basic attribute of character.**

**That we are no longer cadets is irrelevant.**

**We stand appalled by the deceitful behavior of the government of the United States and, in particular, its widely known malefactors. Lying, cheating, stealing, delivering evasive statements and quibbling not only has demeaned these deceivers and the United States of America, but has placed vast numbers of innocent people in deadly peril. We will not serve the lies.**

**The war in Iraq was launched illegally. It has since killed tens of thousands of innocents, causing incalculable damage to Iraq and the Iraqi people, as well as the reputation of the United States of America.**

### **We Will Not Serve The Lies.**

**When we West Point graduates took our commissioning oath of office one past June morning, we swore to protect our nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic.**

**The deceitful connivances of the current administration have resulted in a war catastrophic to our nation's interests: politically, economically, militarily, and morally.**

**We now stand to protect our nation from these deceivers. We will not serve their lies.**

We seek justice for all victims of this illegal war, both servicemen and servicewomen, and the citizens of Iraq.

To our purpose we invoke the words of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence whereby we too “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, & our sacred Honor.”

<http://www.westpointgradsagainstthewar.org/index.htm>

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## **U.S. General In Iraq Goes Insane At Press Conference**

5.12.06 Los Angeles Times

The top U.S. military spokesman, Army Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch in Iraq acknowledged a recent increase in violence against civilians ***but said the country has made "magnificent" progress toward building stability, in large part because of its improved security forces.***

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## **Immigrant Haters Trying To Deport U.S. Army Veteran**

5.12.06 New York Times

Elected officials in Suffolk County on Long Island, N.Y., have taken a hard line on the growing number of illegal, mostly Hispanic, immigrants who have settled there.

But now some lawmakers have taken up the cause of one illegal immigrant, David DeJong, 30, a Canadian who served in the U.S. Army and worked in civilian jobs at bases in Germany and Hungary.

Because he failed to obtain the proper paperwork to re-enter the United States or to apply for United States citizenship, costing him his green card, he now faces deportation.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# Assorted Resistance Action

May 12 (KUNA) & THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

Bodies of four Iraqi soldiers killed by unknown militants were found in the Bani Saad district, 60 kilometers northeast of Baghdad.

An Iraqi Interior Ministry source told KUNA that local police found the bodies this afternoon, saying they were dressed in Iraqi Army uniform and were probably soldiers.

He noted that two of the dead had evidently been killed by slitting of their throats and the other two shot dead.

Furthermore, an Iraqi soldier was shot dead today in Al-Adel district, eastern Baghdad, after being attacked by militants.

One police officer was killed and two were wounded in two drive-by shootings by suspected insurgents in Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in Baladiyah district, eastern Baghdad, wounding one policeman, an interior ministry source said.

A car bomb also exploded near a U.S. convoy and an office of the Dawa [collaborator] Party of Prime Minister-designate Nouri al-Maliki, but little damage and no casualties were reported, police Capt. Ali Mahdi said.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry said Friday that armed men in police uniforms kidnapped a Lebanese businessman in Iraq on Wednesday.

The ministry identified the man as Carlos Michel Dakkash, 43. Dakkash worked for a Lebanese company with business in Baghdad, and had traveled to Iraq several times a year for work related visits, a relative was quoted as saying.

Two freedom fighters were killed and three Iraqi policemen were injured during armed clashes in Tel Afar in Northern Iraq Friday, the multi-national force (MNF) said.

It added that unknown militants attacked a police patrol in Tel Afar in Mosul causing injuries to three police officers and the killing of two of the attackers.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi police said three mortar shells fell inside the police academy in Eastern Mosul. The attack caused material damage but no human casualties were reported.

An Iraqi soldier was killed and five wounded in an attack on their patrol in Balad, north of Baghdad, police said.

Ahmed Midhat Mahmoud, the son of chief of Iraqi judicial council, and two of his guards were killed by gunmen in an ambush in Adhamiya, northern Baghdad, a defence ministry source said.

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed and seven civilians were wounded in clashes between the Iraqi army and insurgents in the town of Dhuluiya, 40 km (25 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**There Is No Way Out But Through:  
“Freedom From George Bush Is Not  
Free”**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 12, 2006  
Subject: There Is No Way Out But Through

**The war in Iraq will stop, when the American people stop hiding from demonstrations to stop the war. Freedom from George Bush is not free.**

**There are no lifeboats in what is happening in America.**

Pound for pound, the U.S. government is the most dangerous government in the world. Our flag is the most narcissistic symbol in the polluted air. And, that is such a tragedy, because America has produced so many great people.

The Bush Administration and the Democrats who support him, are holding all of us in prison. I feel like I'm in a slave ship for the elite corporations who run America.

The only way to stop the madness, is through non-stop demonstrations.

When I came back from Vietnam, I truly understood American Imperialism.

The U.S. government destroyed anything in Vietnam.

Nothing was off limits when it came to bombing and artillery. Johnson and Nixon were killing civilians as fast as they could kill them.

Those who choose not to demonstrate against the war in Iraq, have chosen to remain in a slave ship.

Bush will stop at nothing, if we choose to do nothing.

The anti-war movement desperately needs your help.

There is no way out but through.

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
May 12, 2006

Photo 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)

# ***Name Withheld Pending Notification: A Sad Mother's Day for Some***

[Although written last year, nothing better has been written since. T]

May 07, 2005, By Cindy Sheehan, Mother of Hero: Spc Casey Austin Sheehan KIA  
04/04/04

When I woke up this morning, the “official” death count in Iraq was 1576. The first thing I do in the morning after I boot up my computer is to check the DoD website to see if any more of our nation’s precious children were killed in this horror of a nonsensical war.

I was talking to another Gold Star Mom, Celeste Zappala, today and she sadly advised me that the count rose to 1579 (note: the official count is now 1594) while she was out to lunch.

**Celeste and I and too many other moms know what the significance of “Pending Notification” means: it means that there are people in our country going through their lives right now not even knowing that they are about to be ambushed with the most devastating news of their lives: “We regret to inform you....”**

**Somewhere in America, there is a mom (I always think of the moms first) shopping for groceries, driving home from a long week of work, or maybe even planning her soldier’s homecoming party. Somewhere, here in our country there is a mother who is hoping that she will receive a Mother’s Day card from her soldier, or perhaps, if she is extremely lucky, a rushed telephone call.**

**There is a mom out there who has been worried sick about her soldier since they arrived in the combat zone. Maybe the mom still supports George Bush and the occupation or maybe the mom is certain if her child is killed in this abomination that her sweet baby, her soldier will have died for lies and betrayals.**

**In the end, and at that moment, the mom is not going to care about politics or about reasons for invasion and occupation.**

**She won’t care if her child died for freedom and democracy, or to make some people wealthier and more powerful.**

**All she will see is the *Grim Reaper* in a uniform standing at her door before she collapses on the floor screaming for her child and pleading with the *Grim Reaper* to take her with him.**

**Somewhere there is a father in America who won’t know what hit him and who won’t know whom to hit back.**

**There are brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, spouses, and children who are about to step on the path of unbearable pain and seemingly endless grief.**

**Today there are the families and friends of three wonderful human beings who never, until now, knew that the human body could produce so many tears.**

**Somewhere in America live our fellow citizens who never even knew that a broken heart is not theoretical or symbolic. These most unfortunates are about to find out that a broken heart hurts far worse than a broken limb, and does not heal so readily, if ever at all.**

**The families of these soldiers are also departing on a long tour of banalities uttered by well-meaning, but let’s face it, uninformed people.**

I hear these phrases over and over again: “Time heals every thing”, “Casey’s in a better place”, (oh really, I didn’t know that home with his mom was such a bad place to be), “Casey wants you to be happy”, “Casey died doing what he loved doing”, (he did?), or, my favorite, “Casey died defending his country”.

Let me assure the reader, phrases like this do not help.

They are clichés for one thing, and for another, none of them are true.

None of them help a grieving family.

If you, the reader, is ever in the situation facing a mom who had her son brutally murdered, God forbid, I will give you hints on what does help: hugs (lots and lots), make sure she eats, make sure she drinks plenty of water (tears are dehydrating), make sure she hears wonderful things about her child, bring boxes of tissues and toilet paper, and bring yourself. Leave your tired and impotent clichés at the door.

Of course, the most tragic thing about the 1579 is that not even *one* should be dead. [*Nearly another thousand now in only a year.*]

Our “president” cheerfully rushed this country into a needlessly horrendous and devastating invasion. Our “president” thinks stolen elections confer a mandate.

**Our Congress cheerfully relinquished their Constitutional responsibility to declare war. If they had any courage or honor they would claim that right back and end this travesty.**

I have a feeling our mis-leaders will be having a nice day with their moms or their children on Mother's Day. As they are eating their brunches and giving and receiving bouquets of Mother's Day flowers, they probably never even think about the moms in this world that their insanely reckless policies have destroyed. It never enters their wicked brains that they have ruined Mother's Day for so many families. This is a tragedy.

Our media was, and still is, a willing shill for the Administration and has never told the American public the truth. Reporting about Iraq is *a/ways* trumped by such as child molesters, Martha Stewart, Terri Schiavo, Scott Peterson, the American Idol, or now, Runaway Brides! Another tragic thing about this illegal and disastrous invasion and occupation is that there are only 1579 families in this country who even have to think about Iraq. Most Americans probably don’t even know where to find Iraq on a map.

**The Halliburtons, Bechtels, KBRs, and the oil oligarchs of the world, who are laughing all the way to the bank, think of Iraq with greedy glee each day. Sorrowfully, there are 1579 families in this country who have “Iraq” carved on their hearts and souls for eternity.**

**We have sacrificed more than the \$1.99 it costs to buy a “Support the Troops” magnet for our cars. We have had a violent amputation. Even if our fellow citizens don’t realize it, by allowing this occupation to continue, they are also losing a very important part of themselves: their humanity.**

**My heart, my prayers, and my love go to the three families who are now embarking on this mournful, unnecessary journey. We at Gold Star Families for Peace are here for them. I hope they find comfort in what I know now seems like a comfortless world. Peace.**

Love and Peace!  
Cindy Sheehan  
Casey's Peace Page  
Mother of Hero: Spc Casey Austin Sheehan KIA 04/04/04  
Cofounder of Gold Star Families For Peace [www.GSFP.org](http://www.GSFP.org)

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [thomasfbarton@earthlink.net](mailto:thomasfbarton@earthlink.net). Name, I.D., address withheld unless publication requested. Replies confidential.**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **Big Surprise!**

THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer

**Fadhila, a small but important Shiite political party, said it would not participate in the formation of the Cabinet. It said the Cabinet selection process was being dictated by personal interests and pressure by the United States that ran counter to the spirit of national unity.**

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

### **Less Electricity Than Before Invasion**

May 12, 2006 By Gordon Trowbridge, Army Times staff writer [Excerpt]

Electric power, a key problem in Baghdad and other major cities, also continues to lag pre-war levels.

**April production was about 3,600 megawatts daily, or about 9 percent below pre-invasion levels.**

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **WORLD'S MOST DESPISED TERRORISTS INFEST WHITE HOUSE**



Bush, Rumsfeld, Cheney & Rice occupying the White House in Washington May 12.  
REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

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## **Murtha: “Do 3,000 Count? 30,000?”**

May 12, 2006 Eli Stephens, Left I on the News

From AP:

*“Rep. John Murtha, a Vietnam veteran first elected in the anti-war fever of 1974, says American troops will be brought home from Iraq by 2007.”*

Not just misleading, quadruply so.

First, the clear implication that Murtha was somehow part of the "anti-war fever of 1974" (like, say, John Kerry) is simply nonsense; Murtha has been a hawk his entire life and as far as I know has supported every war the U.S. has fought.

Second, what does "by 2007" mean? To me it means by the end of December, 2006: 7 1/2 months from now.

Murtha says "Either President Bush will bow to public opinion or Democrats will have won control of the House of Representatives and increased pressure on the White House."

**But the election isn't until November, so Murtha's theory would mean that within a month of the Democrats winning control of the House, they would have forced Bush to pull out troops; considering that they have already voted the money to keep the troops there past that time, that would be rather difficult to do.**

Third, because the implication that Democrats as a whole are somehow pushing for, or even support, withdrawal from Iraq, is simply untrue.

And finally, there's the subtle distinction between "American troops will be brought home" and "all American troops will be brought home," which even Murtha doesn't advocate.

Do 3,000 count? 30,000?

For sure neither of those numbers will make much difference to the Iraqi people, nor to the families of the American troops who continue to be killed and wounded.

Other than that, you can believe every word.

Murtha is a Vietnam vet, and was first elected to Congress in 1974. :-)

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**Capitalism At Work:**

# **“The Average American Family Is Walking A High Wire And Hoping There Won't Be A High Wind”**

[Thanks to Katherine GY, who sent this in.]

**In the past five years, the costs of medical care, housing, food, cars and household operations rose 11.2 percent, the study said. Many families are trying to make up the difference by borrowing, according to Christian E. Weller, author of the report and a senior economist at the center.**

May 12, 2006 By Kirstin Downey, Washington Post Staff Writer

**Why are Americans so deeply in debt? It's not because they are using credit cards to buy plasma TVs and premium coffee drinks at Starbucks. The real culprits, according to a new analysis, are the rising costs of housing, health care and education.**

The debt of the typical American family earning about \$45,000 a year rose 33.1 percent from 2001 to 2004, after adjusting for inflation, according to a study based on data compiled from the Federal Reserve Board's most recent Survey of Consumer Finances.

**Real wages, after adjusting for inflation, have been flat since 2001, according to the study, while the cost of big-ticket items for which families pay the most rose.**

**In the past five years, the costs of medical care, housing, food, cars and household operations rose 11.2 percent, the study said. Many families are trying to make up the difference by borrowing, according to Christian E. Weller, author of the report and a senior economist at the center.**

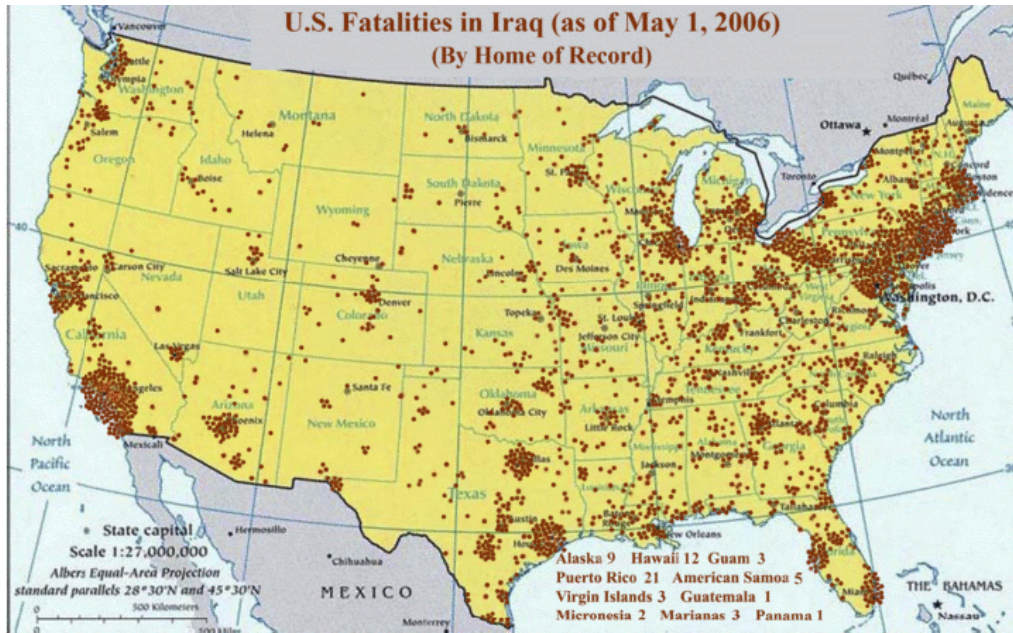
"Very little can be explained by frivolous consumer spending," Weller said. His views were echoed in a news conference by Elizabeth Warren, a law professor at Harvard University who analyzed the sources of debt that emerge in bankruptcy filings and reviewed the results of Weller's study.

**"The average American family is walking a high wire and hoping there won't be a high wind," Warren said. Education debt, meanwhile, rose 127 percent between 1992 and 2004, from \$3,427 to \$7,800. Health-care costs rose, too, because insurance has become more costly and employers are shifting more of the expense to workers.**

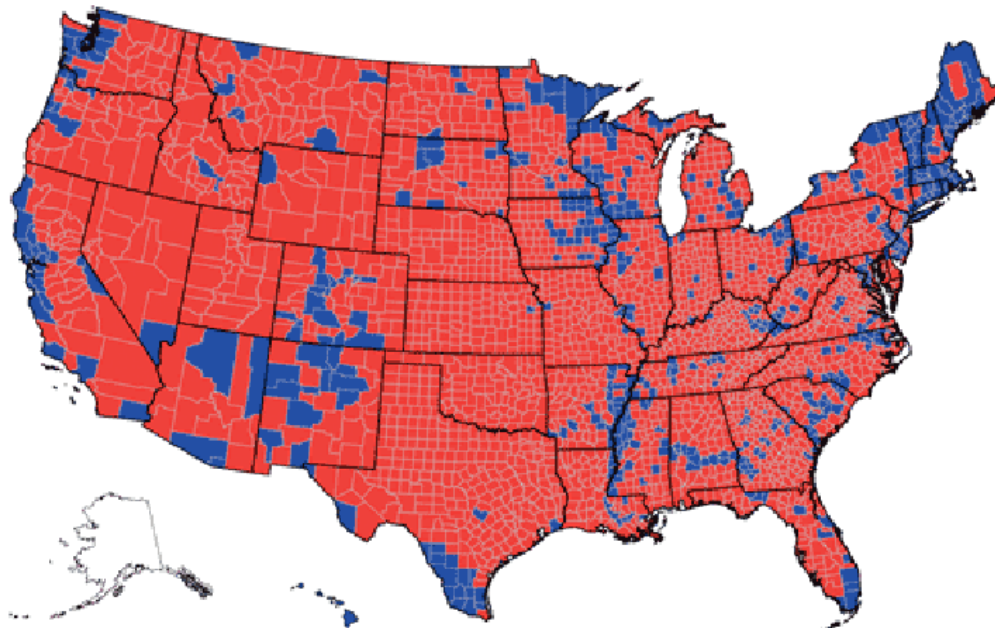
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**Received:**

# The Map



The Map: War Fatalities In Iraq



The Vote

From: JF  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 12, 2006  
Subject: The Map

I saw the regime's footprint of death on the map and compared it to the county-wise distribution of pro-regime red votes and anti-regime blue votes in 2004. I forward same for your inspection.

The West Coast, Chicago, Michigan, Ohio, DC, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida... looks to me like the families doing the dying are the families who saw through the regime, but showed up for work anyway.

When the regime has finally collapsed we MUST follow through this time with the Anglo-American War Crimes Tribunal. It's clear we learned nothing at all as a nation from Viet Nam. The Tribunal is apparently the price they have to pay to get of putting us through all these things twice.

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;  
[http://robinlea.com/GI\\_Special/](http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/); <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://gispecial.iraq-news.de>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);  
<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; <http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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