

## GI SPECIAL 4G21:



**“My Son Is A Marine In  
Fallujah”  
“There Is A Large  
Percentage Who Hate  
This War”**

[This is an excerpt from a longer email. The reply and all information that could identify anybody concerned are removed: OpSec. T]

To: GI Special  
Sent: July 20, 2006

**My son is a Marine in Fallujah.**

**He is fed up and hates it there. They are doing no good but protecting their own asses.**

**Of course, he can't leave his "buddies."**

**But there is a large percentage who hate this war, so we feel we need to reach them somehow.**

**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**

### **Massachusetts Marine Killed**



Marine Lance Cpl. Geoffrey Cayer, of Fitchburg, Mass. was killed in Iraq July 18, 2006.  
(AP Photo/Family photo)

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## **MARINE KILLED IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE**

7/20/2006 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
RELEASE Number: 06-07-02C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: A Marine assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division died due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province today.

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## **Pennsylvania Sgt. Killed In Iskandariyah**



Sgt. 1st Class Scott R. Smith, 34, of Punxsutawney, Pa., died July 17, 2006, in Iskandariyah. Smith was killed while trying to defuse an explosive device, military officials said. (AP Photo/Smith Family via U.S. Army)

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## **1st Armored Division Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb**

July 20, 2006 Stars and Stripes

A 1st Armored Division soldier was killed Tuesday in Iraq when a roadside bomb detonated near his mounted patrol, division officials said Wednesday.

Sgt. Mark Richard Vecchione was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, out of Friedberg, Germany. Vecchione, 25, was from Tucson, Ariz., and is survived by his mother and sister, in Eastham, Mass., officials said Wednesday.

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# **PATRULLA DEL VI CONTINGENTE DEL BATALLÓN CUSCATLÁN SUFRE INCIDENTE**

19 de Julio de 2006, Centro De Comunicaciones Y Protocolo

Producto de dicho incidente resultaron heridos el Subsargento José Miguel Perdomo de 41 años de edad, de alta en la Fuerza Naval en la Infantería de Marina como conductor militar, quien ingresó a la Fuerza Armada el 01 de febrero de 1985 y el Cabo José Alexander Herrera Díaz, de 30 años de edad, de alta en el Regimiento de Caballería, con especialidad de tirador de ametralladora .50mm, en la Fuerza Armada desde el 27 de junio de 1998.

Ambos elementos fueron evacuados de forma inmediata hacia el Hospital de Bagdad, para recibir atención médica, el Subsargento José Miguel Perdomo sufrió heridas en el costado izquierdo del tórax y falleció mientras era trasladado hacia este centro de atención.

Por su parte, el Cabo Herrera Díaz presentaba heridas de esquirlas en el oído izquierdo y la mandíbula, por lo que fue operado de inmediato para extraerle los fragmentos, según detalles médicos la operación fue exitosa quedando en observación.

A pesar de este incidente la moral de los efectivos militares continúa alta y con la disposición de continuar apoyando las labores humanitarias y de reconstrucción.

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## **Local Marine Fights For Life After Bomb Blast; Father In Coma Days Before Scheduled Return**

July 20, 2006 NBC San Diego

SAN DIEGO: Just days before his tour in Iraq was scheduled to end, Lance Cpl. Don Fowler's life was changed by a bomber.

Fowler was on his third deployment to Iraq when a suicide bomber detonated a bomb near a hospital Fowler was guarding.

Fowler, who had planned to surprise his family with an early homecoming Friday, is on his way to a military hospital in Maryland. He is in a drug-induced coma with serious injuries to both his arms and legs.

"The doctor's tell us he will sustain partial, if not total, hearing loss and will probably lose one of his legs," said Don Fowler Sr. "I wouldn't wish this on anyone. We're just taking it one day at a time."

Fowler is father to a three-week old daughter. Fowler's parents say anyone who would like to help can make a contribution to the Sempre Fi fund. The charity helps pay for the care of injured marines.

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## Bomb Injures Orfordville Man

Jul 19, 2006 By Jen Scherer, Daily News staff writer

A Naval Reserve officer from Orfordville was injured when a roadside bomb exploded in Iraq last week.

Troy DeVault, 40, is recovering from his injuries in Germany and is expected to be flown to California soon. A man who was working alongside him did not survive the blast.

Troy's wife Karry DeVault, the Town of Beloit clerk, said she was home at 6:15 a.m. July 12 when a doctor in Troy's unit phoned, giving her the news.

"Oh my God it was horrible," Karry said. "It was horrible."

Troy is in the Navy Reserve out of Madison, but was pulled into Naval Mobile Construction Battalion #25, or NMCB #25, out of Fort McCoy.

In January he was sent to port in California, where he remained until mid March. He was then shipped to Iraq and joined with a Marine Unit. Karry said Troy had been on convoys with the Marine Units.

**"He was - from what I gather and what I've been told - deactivating a roadside bomb," Karry said. "Apparently they missed one behind him and it detonated."**

**She has been told unofficially it was possibly a plastic explosive as opposed to what they normally use, which is how it was overlooked.**

The man who was with Troy did not survive, and Karry did not have any information about him. Troy, she said, is lucky to be alive.

"He's got a fracture in his L1 vertebrae and two ruptured eardrums and lots of lacerations and burns and open wounds on his back and arms," Karry said. "He can walk though, so we're lucky. He was unconscious for two and a half hours after it happened."

The doctor who phoned her called shortly after the incident happened to let her know what was going on and what was going to happen with Troy's treatment.

Karry said they do not at this point know what kind of permanent injuries Troy may suffer. It's possible he may suffer hearing loss.

The military told Karry that Troy will be shipped to a Naval Hospital in San Diego where he will go under the care of a neurosurgeon.

“As soon as he gets there, they're going to arrange for my kids and I to fly out there so we can find out what's going on, and we can see him and be with him,” Karry said.

Troy and Karry have a daughter, Kristi, 19 and a son, Scott, 16.

“You can't imagine,” she said of how hard it is not to be with Troy.

Karry and the children have had an opportunity to speak with Troy on the phone, and they have the number to where he is staying in Germany.

“It's not the same but it helps a lot,” Karry said. “I got my suitcases packed and arrangements made for the dog and all that kind of stuff,” Karry said. “I'm just waiting for the phone call.”

Troy is a mechanic for the Rock County Highway shop. When Karry first met him 20 years ago, he was on active duty for a four year stint.

He enlisted in the Navy Reserves several years ago. Karry said that it was something to do on the weekends, a way to make some extra money and he also missed the camaraderie with the military. Had he known September 11 was coming, he might not have done it.

Had Troy not been injured, he was scheduled to come home in mid September.

Karry does not know what will happen after Troy recovers, but she is just glad he'll be back in the U.S. soon. “(We're) planning for him to come home and all of a sudden you get that phone call, and it tears your world apart,” Karry said. “We'll be OK. We're tough. We'll get through it.”

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## **Iowa Soldier Injured In Roadside Bomb Attack**

July 20, 2006 KCCI

DES MOINES, Iowa: An Iowa soldier is recovering after a roadside bomb attack Sunday in Iraq.

Sgt. Justin Abernathy, 24, of Hazleton is receiving treatment at a German hospital.

Abernathy is part of the Iowa National Guard's 133rd Infantry B Company

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## **Polish Chopper Down Near Diwaniya**

July 20 (KUNA)

A Multi-National Forces (MNF) chopper crashed Wednesday in southern Iraq, according to eyewitness reports. Eyewitnesses told KUNA Thursday, a Polish chopper crashed near a MNF military base in Diwaniya, southern Iraq.

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**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO  
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS  
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS  
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A CROOKED  
POLITICIAN WHO LIVES IN THE WHITE  
HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE, SO HE WILL  
LOOK GOOD.**

**That is not a good enough reason.**



Marines looking for insurgents run through a street filled with smoke, which provides them with cover in Ramadi. Joao Silva for The New York Times 7.5.06

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Australian Troops Wounded June 17; Their Government Hides Details**

July 20, 2006 News Limited

**The Defence Department tonight confirmed Australian soldiers had been injured, but refused to give further details.**

**AAP understands three soldiers had to be evacuated for medical treatment after a firefight on July 17.**

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## **Foreign Occupation Soldier Wounded At Kandahar Base: Nationality Not Announced**

July 20, 2006 By Constant Brand, Associated Press

A coalition soldier was wounded in a rocket attack on a military base late Wednesday in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, spokesman Maj. Scott Lundy said. There was no material damage to the Kandahar Air Field.

A coalition helicopter also came under rocket-propelled grenade attack in Kandahar's Panjwayi district late Wednesday, but there were no casualties, Lundy said.

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## **Blast Hits Vehicle In Kabul As NATO Chief Visits**

20 July 2006 (Reuters) & 7/18/2006 AP

An Afghan man was killed on Thursday when an explosion hit a vehicle in Kabul, hours after NATO's secretary-general arrived to discuss an expansion of the alliance's peacekeeping mission to the violence-plagued south.

"A vehicle has been hit by a mine or bomb" said a spokesman for the NATO-led operation in Kabul.

District police chief Zalmay Oryakhail told Reuters a 16-year-old Afghan national had been killed and two other Afghans were hurt.



Suspected Taliban extremists killed two Afghan policemen Tuesday and wounded another in southeastern Ghazni province, police said.

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## “Four Months Before He Was Slaughtered With The Rest Of The British Contingent, The Government Envoy In Kabul Told London That The Situation Was ‘Perfectly Wonderful’”

08jul06 Ben Macintyre, The Times (UK)

**ON January 13, 1842, a lookout on the walls of Jalalabad fort spotted a lone horseman weaving towards the British outpost on a dying horse.**

**Part of the rider's skull had been removed by an Afghan sword; his life had been saved only by the copy of Blackwood's Magazine that he had stuffed into his hat to stave off the intense cold. The magazine blunted the blow.**

**This was William Brydon, the sole survivor of a 16,000-strong force that had left Kabul a week earlier, only to be massacred in the mountain passes by rebellious Afghan tribesmen.**

Brydon's dramatic escape was celebrated in Victorian print, verse and art. Lady Elizabeth Butler painted a tableau of the injured surgeon staggering towards salvation. The retreat from Kabul was the single worst disaster to befall the British Empire up to that point, but the adept Victorian propaganda machine managed to extract a tale of heroism from the calamity.

According to oral tradition in Afghanistan, however, Brydon was not a heroic survivor but a hostage to history: the tribesmen deliberately let him escape so that he might return to his own people and tell of the ferocity and bravery of the Afghan tribes.

**Battered Brydon was spared as a warning to the British: leave Afghanistan and never come back. The British paid no attention, of course. Two more Anglo-Afghan wars followed.**

Now that we are effectively involved in a fourth, with 3300 British troops fighting to hold down the province of Helmand, Brydon's ghost rides again.

On Wednesday, Taliban fighters in Helmand killed another British soldier, the sixth to die there in the past three weeks. The response of the deputy camp commander of Camp Bastion was both sad and wise: "We thought we would play the British, not American, card. But it hasn't been so easy. There's a lot of history here."

There is indeed a lot of history in Afghanistan. Britain also has a lot of history, but treats it differently.

In Afghanistan, history is not simply a story of past events but a living, continual experience to be carefully tended, its meanings, lessons and resentments preserved and nurtured.

**What happened in 1842 is as much a part of the present as the events of this week.**

**In Pashtun tradition, no guest may be left unprotected, no offence left unpunished: the result is a web of feud and counter-feud, alliances and vendettas, embedded in time and tribal memory.**

**That is the sense of history that Britain faces in Afghanistan; not a schoolbook past of dates and great men, but something far more organic and immediate.**

**In many parts of Afghanistan, people still refer to the British as the "English tribes".**

Britain is woven into Afghanistan's tribal past. Playing the "British, not American" card is an extraordinarily risky gambit.

**In 1839, subduing Afghanistan looked like a walkover, just as it did in 2001. The "war" was won with ease and modern explosives - cannon. The ousted warlord emir took to the hills and Britain installed a ruler more to its taste.**

Queen Victoria's government blandly announced: "In restoring the union and prosperity of the Afghan people, British influence will be sedulously employed to further every measure of general benefit, to reconcile differences ... and put an end to the distractions by which, for so many years, the welfare and happiness of the Afghans have been impaired."

**This did not happen. Under-manned, underfunded and with no clear mission, the British in Kabul blithely brought out their memsahibs, staged tea dances and played polo.**

**Their military intelligence was hopeless. Outside Kabul, resentment and resistance built steadily, despite large disbursements of cash to tribal chiefs.**

**Four months before he was slaughtered with the rest of the British contingent, the government envoy in Kabul told London that the situation was "perfectly wonderful".**

**That remark has an uncomfortable echo of John Reid's prediction, as British defence secretary last year, that Britain could subdue the southern areas "without a shot fired".**

Then, as now, the enemy could be identified only vaguely: a mixture of fanatics, tribesmen, bandits and mercenaries, united only by the desire to kill those in British uniforms.

**Some of the same mistakes are being played out today. A force of 3300, with only six Apache and six Chinook helicopters, seems wholly inadequate for the task of controlling an area four times the size of Wales.**

That task is itself not easy to discern: to subdue, to root out the Taliban, to stop poppy cultivation but at the same time to win hearts and minds, to pacify, to make friends.

More than two billion dollars in aid has been spent in Afghanistan but, as ever, an uncounted proportion has ended up in the pockets of the warlords, while the drug trade thrives.

**British commanders seem genuinely surprised by the level of resistance they are facing in Helmand. The Ministry of Defence described the Taliban attacks as "unexpected".**

**Unexpected? This is a country that has been battling foreign forces and their new-fangled weapons, almost as a way of life, ever since Alexander the Great arrived with his elephants.**

**The Soviets were still being "surprised" by the resistance when they finally pulled out in 1989, leaving 50,000 dead and a million dead Afghans.**

**The British never ceased to be baffled by Afghanistan, where their trained troops with expensive equipment struggled to contain shadowy insurgents behind rocks with cheap muskets.**

**The Afghans have a grim, semi-secret weapon: a wounded history, in which Britain played a central part that Britain has all but forgotten, but they have not.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Mother Of Iraq War Vet Who Committed Suicide Flies Flag Upside Down; Sneaking Coward Steals It**

**[Every town has its' cowards. This is not only the story of a grieving mother, it's the story of cowards who won't fight in Iraq in a war they claim to support, and can't face the mother of a soldier who died there. They do their sneak work**

**behind her back, or in the middle of the night. They are one of the reasons shotguns were invented. Perhaps some local veterans could hunt them down. T]**

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

**“We had a flag out the whole time Jason was in Iraq,” she says. “Once he died, my boyfriend Vince turned it upside down to protest everything that’s happening with our government, especially our soldiers being failed when they come home.”**

July 18, 2006 By Matthew Rothschild, The Progressive [Excerpts]

Terri Jones lost her son Jason Cooper just over a year ago.

He was an Army Reservist in the Iraq War.

On July 14, 2005, four months after returning home to Iowa, he hanged himself.

He was 23.

Since then, Jones has been flying her American flag upside down, though someone came on her property once and turned it right side up, and another person stole it.

**“We had a flag out the whole time Jason was in Iraq,” she says. “Once he died, my boyfriend Vince turned it upside down to protest everything that’s happening with our government, especially our soldiers being failed when they come home.”**

**Jones says Jason wasn’t the same when he got back from Iraq.**

**“He was a really upbeat, happy, funny kid” before he left, she says. “You could tell his smile was gone when he came home.”**

**He also had a hard time paying attention.**

**“We did notice right away that he’d space off while you were trying to talk to him,” she says. “His thoughts were floating off somewhere else.”**

**And the reaction of some of his friends caught him by surprise.**

**“He was excited to see them,” she says, “and he thought they would be, ‘Hey, Coop, good to see you.’ But instead, the first thing that would come out was, ‘Jas, you shoot anybody?’ He was so taken aback he didn’t know how to answer. He’d just say, ‘I don’t want to talk about it.’ ”**

Jones tells me her son was hit by enemy fire. “His flack jacket took 37 pieces of shrapnel,” she says. “He didn’t even get a bruise.”

Jones also told Jennifer Jacobs of the Des Moines Register of one haunting memory he had about an insurgent who executed an Iraqi child in full view of Cooper and other members of his unit.

Jason was having a lot of nightmares and flashbacks, his mother says. "His girlfriend said he'd wake up in night sweats, and she had to take him out for a walk at three in the morning."

Jones says she really got worried three days before her son died.

"He called me at work towards the end of the day," she says. "He was at the mall. He was crying. He was really disoriented. He didn't know what was happening. He was afraid. He told me a friend of his had just died. I asked what his name was. And he said Jeremy Ridlen, who had died a year before." (Ridlen, an Army National Guard Specialist, died in East Fallujah on May 23, 2004.)

**Jones says her son "knew he needed help, but he didn't want to go the VA." She says he'd gone there the month before, after he hurt his wrist in a motorcycle fall. "When he went to the VA, they didn't have room to treat him that day," she says.**

**Plus, she says, he was worried about the stigma he might get if he appeared to be weak.**

**"He was still active duty," she says, and "he knew he would have to go back" to Iraq.**

**Jones says the military isn't doing enough for soldiers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. "They are not being take care of," she says.**

**Now a member of Gold Star Families for Peace, Jones says she's "forming a subchapter support group to help with military families who've had a suicide" after their loved one returned home.**

**"So far we know of about 70" such tragedies, she says.**

Recently, Jones wrote a letter to Jason, which she posted on his memorial website.

"Jas, Mother's Day came and went, and it was so hard not to hear from you. You always had something that you were so proud to give me. I still have petals from the pink roses you sent while still in training or all the drawings you loved to make. I carried your military boots in a Mother's Day march in Washington, DC, to bring our troops home now. . . .

"I realized then that I did spend time with you on Mother's Day and even though it wasn't in a way that I would prefer, you will never be gone from me. You will always be in my mind and heart. . . . I hope you are in a sea of flowers now honey. No worries, no pain, just happy and enjoying the beauty of heaven.

"I miss you, buddy! I still wait for a phone call, I still long to hear 'love you, Mama.' . . . I am so grateful that you were my son to leave life-long memories. Love you the mostest, Mama."

**In that letter, she talked about the upside down flag. "I must admit that I never really liked the idea of the flag hanging upside down," she wrote, "but it did represent a signal of distress so I agreed to keep it that way."**

**One day early this March, Jones says someone turned their flag rightside up. “It happened between the time we went to the grocery store and came back. We were gone only half an hour,” she says. “I was kind of shocked. We live on a five-acre piece of land on a really long driveway, and the flag is on the house. They had to be watching us leave. That’s kind of weird, someone sitting out in a corner watching us somewhere.”**

About a week later, she got an unsigned letter, postmarked March 13.

“I’ve noticed for quite some time now that you fly your American flag upside down. . . . Please don’t disrespect those who have fought and died on our soil preserving your very freedom and mine. . . . Let’s rally behind our troops and if they don’t believe in what they’re doing, let them voice it. Every single person in the armed forces today signed on the dotted line. . . . I know your flag is sending out a message that you might not have though it was sending. So I felt compelled to tell you what I thought.”

It was signed, “An extremely sincere fellow American citizen and proud of it.”

And in the P.S., the person added: “If it truly is that you hate living in this country and are ashamed of our freedom, then by all means, sir, why do you live here?”

In response, Jones wrote a letter to the editor of her local newspaper, the Chariton Leader.

“To the Person Who Didn’t Sign Their Letter,” Jones began. She explained that “flying our flag upside down in no way shows disrespect for our country. Flying the flag upside down is a sign of distress as stated in the United States Code of Flag Rules and Regulation.” She told of how her son was proud to be an American soldier, and even wanted to go back to Iraq. “But somehow, in four short months after returning home, his belief, pride, and willingness was eroded away by the invisible wounds of war.”

She discussed his suicide: “On July 14, after weeks of flashbacks and nightmares and having no medical help (yes, the VA turns them away) he took off his dog tags, walked to the basement of his home and wrapped a rope around his neck. And at 5 pm my precious son and proud warrior stepped off the chair.”

She asked for some understanding.

“Try explaining to Jason’s 13-year-old brother who planned on following Jason’s footsteps what went wrong,” she wrote.

“Try explaining to the 8th Grade Confirmation Class who Jason had just personally thanked for their support during his deployment what went wrong. And most of all, try seeing the fear in Jason’s Brother in Arms eyes as their trembling hands pull the American flag from his coffin and neatly fold it and present it to his family. Fearing their own future.

**“So you ask why our flag is flying upside down. Because our soldiers are in distress and because of that very contract you talked about that they signed, they are not allowed to voice their opinion, so they rely on us to do so.”**

She went on to say that “our country is in distress” for the way it has failed its vets. And she concluded: “When you drive by my house and see my flag flying I challenge you to help me turn it right side up. Show me that you are willing to do what it takes to help those that protect our rights and freedoms. And when I see that no soldier has been left behind, then that will be a day of joy for me to fly her right side up.”

Shortly after her letter appeared in the paper, her flag was stolen in the middle of the night. “They took the whole flagpole and everything right out of the holder,” she says.

“I just went and got another one and put it back up.”

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## **THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The body of Sgt. Terry M. Lisk, who was killed in Iraq , in Lemont, Illinois, July 8, 2006.  
REUTERS/John Gress

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# **Government Has Endless Billions For Bush’s Corporate Buddies; But Not One Fucking Cent To Help A Wounded Soldier Heal**

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,459<sup>th</sup> time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

***Morton said doctors have urged family members to remain at Williams' bedside as much as possible to elevate his spirits, but being away from work is straining the family's finances.***

***"His mother and father don't have any more sick leave," Morton said. "So there's no money, other than the paychecks they had coming from before they left. His dad didn't want to have to choose between staying there and his job, so me and my son said we'd do a carwash."***

July 11, 2006 By STEVE FETBRANDT, The Press-Enterprise

**A U.S. Army private from Homeland who was critically wounded by a roadside bomb in Iraq last month will be the focus of a fundraiser in Moreno Valley this weekend.**

**Pvt. Christopher Williams, 21, a 2003 graduate of Paloma Valley High School in Menifee, is at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., with extensive shrapnel wounds, shattered bones and spinal injuries.**

Williams had been manning a gun atop a Humvee when it went over a bomb during patrol in Baghdad. Three GIs were killed in the incident, and he and another soldier were severely wounded.

A donation-based carwash is set for July 16 at the Brunswick Moreno Valley Bowl at 24666 Sunnymead Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets for two hours of bowling from 5 to 7 p.m. also will be available for \$10 per person, with the bowling alley contributing half of the proceeds to the family, event organizer Sheron Morton said.

**Morton, 47, a Moreno Valley resident who works at the Riverside County Office of Education with Williams' mother, said she got the fundraiser idea after hearing about the family's financial plight.**

Jonathan Williams, 18, said his brother enlisted in the Army in November 2003 and had been in Iraq for almost a year as an infantry sharpshooter.

"He had about four months left over there," Williams said.

Morton and Christopher Williams' mother, Starr Williams, were driving together to a doctor's appointment June 23 when she got a cell-phone call.

"She thought it was Chris calling, because he called every day -- sometimes twice a day," Morton said. "When they asked for Mrs. Williams, we knew something was wrong."



Morton said doctors told the family they aren't sure they can save his leg.

"He can't feel it from the knee to the thigh," she said.

Since June 22, he's been operated on multiple times, starting in Baghdad where they removed his spleen. He also has had arteries transplanted from his left to right leg.

After arriving at Walter Reed on June 29, doctors discovered one of his vertebrae missing and another one protruding.

"Two days ago, they put \$20,000 worth of metal in his back," Morton said. "He's in a lot of pain from all of the surgery and it's going to be a long recuperation. They're saying maybe six months to a year."

Williams' wife, Bobbie, 20, and mother, and father, Doug, a truck driver, flew to Washington July 1 to be with him. Morton, meanwhile, is house-sitting in Homeland and caring for the soldier's 9-month-old baby, Emily.

**Morton said doctors have urged family members to remain at Williams' bedside as much as possible to elevate his spirits, but being away from work is straining the family's finances.**

**"His mother and father don't have any more sick leave," Morton said. "So there's no money, other than the paychecks they had coming from before they left. His dad didn't want to have to choose between staying there and his job, so me and my son said we'd do a carwash."**

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## Body Armor Gets A Pass In Iraq Cauldron

July 20, 2006 The New York Daily News

Imagine sweltering in temperatures nearly 40 degrees hotter than yesterday.

Also imagine wearing body armor and carrying full combat gear in heat that leaves you sweat-soaked, chafing, itching, your head pounding.

Also imagine struggling to remain hyperalert as the thermometer nears a stupefying 120 degrees, your sweat-stung eyes searching for some tiny clue that will accord you the fraction of a second that can mean the difference between life and death in Iraq.

Imagine all this and you will not be surprised by what was inside the recycled ammo box that 24-year-old Marine Sgt. James Brower mailed home to Staten Island the other day.

Brower had told his mother to keep an eye out for a package, but he had not told her what was inside.

"He said he's sending stuff home," his mother, Elaine Brower, recalled yesterday. "I said, 'What stuff?' He said, 'Just stuff.'"

**When the box arrived, Elaine Brower opened it to discover the extra body armor she had bought online at considerable expense to supplement his standard-issue protection. She noted the gear was covered with bugs such as he had told her infest the combat zone.**

"They were dead, I think, but I put it outside," she recalled.

**Bugs or no, the gear was now thousands of miles from the mortal dangers she hoped it would protect her only son against. She was hardly the happiest of moms the next time he called her from Iraq.**

**"He said, 'I can't wear it. It's too hot. I can't maneuver,'" she recalled. "He said, 'If I can maneuver, maybe I can dodge the bullets better.'"**

**The mother suggested that if he did not successfully maneuver, the reduction in body armor might result in him getting killed by an undodged bullet.**

**"He says, 'Well, it's too hot,'" she remembered.**

She had acquired some insight into exactly how hot it is over there from the regular e-mails a first sergeant in his unit sent the families back home.

"We know exactly what one of the rotisserie chickens at KFC feels like," the first sergeant wrote in late June. "There is no doubt in my mind that the temperature here has to be the same as the one in one of those ovens. We continue to walk around so that we cook evenly."

Last week, the first sergeant wrote, "Well, we are creeping up on the middle of July. The sun continues to pick up in temperature here with no sight of letting up. I can imagine when we get home it will feel twice as cold as it actually is after our bodies have gotten so used to this heat.

"I was thinking after this place that after every time I get rained on back home I will take a shower as I have no doubt the rain clouds over there must be the sweat we are giving up into the atmosphere here. ... Okay, time to go in the shade and cool down to about 110..."

In one bit of good news from the battlefield, the unit managed to acquire a freezer. The families back home that had been sending air fresheners and boot insoles and Pop-Tarts and seemingly anything else the Marines might desire added one more item to the list. The unit became the envy of the combat zone as word spread it had ice pops.

"They were a big hit after the hot patrols," the first sergeant reported via e-mail.

Elaine Brower went to her local Pathmark and bought five boxes of ice pops such as she gave her son as a youngster. She mailed them to the realm that is close enough to hell even without the searing heat.

But her grownup Marine had been posted with a small detachment some distance from the unit's headquarters and therefore the freezer. Even if he allowed his fellow Marines to risk their lives bringing him an ice pop, the heat would melt it long before it reached him.

So the next time we are hit with what passes for a heat wave in New York, take a moment to consider Marine Sgt. James Brower in that distant place where it is quite literally as hot as hell, without his extra body armor or even those ice pops he loved as a youngster.

"He'd eat the cherry and his big lips would get all red," his mother said yesterday. "The things you think about."

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## NO MORE IRAQ: THEY ALL GOT BROUGHT HOME NOW



Japanese troops are greeted at the Tokyo International Airport. Japanese troops have returned home from Iraq. (AFP/Yoshikazu Tsuno)

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## 4000 From 1<sup>st</sup> ID Going Back To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse Again

July 20, 2006 By Jim Tice, Army Times Staff writer

The 1st Infantry Division's one remaining maneuver brigade in Germany has been alerted for deployment to Iraq.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Schweinfurt, is completing gunnery certification at Grafenwoehr, and will begin deploying to the Middle East within a few weeks, according to officials with U.S. Army Europe headquarters.

This same armor-heavy brigade of 4,000 soldiers was alerted for a possible May 2006 deployment last November, but the move was put on hold as the Defense Department and Central Command adjusted force levels in Iraq.

**This will be the second Iraq tour for the “Dagger Brigade.” In 2004 it deployed with other elements of the Big Red One.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **“Sunni And Shiite Muslims Unite!” To Denounce The Continued Israeli Bombing Of Lebanon**



Holding banners that read 'Sunni and Shiite Muslims unite!,' hundreds of protesters gather to denounce the continued Israeli bombing of Lebanon, July 20, 2006, in Samarra. (AP Photo/Hameed Rasheed)

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# Assorted Resistance Action

July 20 (Reuters) & KUNA

Five Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol near Kerbala, police said.

A policeman was killed five policemen wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas captured and killed a policeman in Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad and killed a police officer near a checkpoint in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad.

The body of a translator for U.S. forces was found near Tikrit with gunshot wounds, police said. He was captured on Tuesday.

Militants killed three engineers working in the oil refinery in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

An Iraqi army officer was wounded when a roadside bomb went off near a joint Iraqi and Polish patrol in the southern city of Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, the Iraqi army said.

Six policemen were injured in Iraq Thursday due to the explosion of a booby-trapped car in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

Brigadier Muhammad Ali, the police chief of the town of Baghdadi in Iraq's western al-Anbar province, said he had escaped a roadside bomb attack on his convoy but four of his guards were killed and two wounded.

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# WHAT WOMAN WOULD WANT A MAN

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 20, 2006 10:09 AM

## **WHAT WOMAN WOULD WANT A MAN**

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, VFP, VVAW, UAW GM Retiree, Perry, Michigan

**Stan scribbled and typed, scribbled and typed, scribbled and typed,  
putting all these clawed emotions on paper,  
his masterpiece to be published,  
the definitive Vietnam book, filled with hapless war stories  
written by a jackass jerk in the night  
squeezing thought felt tears from his fingertips.  
The insanity rages on  
as the wind and the rain swirling hurricane  
if God made man, he made a mistake,  
man is just a more sophisticated killer ape.  
The abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz is just better cave art  
than the bison with the spear in it's side.  
In his old-age-home like urine smelling apartment,  
his anger raged like an atomic bomb, leaving him,  
the mushroom floating in the air somewhere  
between hell and nothingness.  
With the wildness of a stereotypical Vietnam veteran deformed self,  
his lonesome eyes stared down the long war.  
But then, "The world's finally going to hear the truth,"  
he shouted aloud at the Walls  
with black typewriter ribbon coiled  
like a Texas rattlesnake in his lap  
where his penis and testicles used to be.  
His new white page  
had black thumb and fingerprints on it as a criminal.  
With a nervous disorder,  
he pushed his wheelchair back away from the table  
and vowed never to write again.  
The bombing of Bagdad  
was screaming from his tv  
like a cartoon.**

**Endless Peace,  
Dennis**

<p><b>What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to <a href="mailto:contact@militaryproject.org">contact@militaryproject.org</a>. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.</b></p>
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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **“An American Withdrawal Might Not Make Any Difference”**

July 20, 2006 By Sabrina Tavernise, The New York Times [Excerpt]

*Iraqis have begun to say that an American withdrawal, which they previously feared would result in a bloodbath, might not make any difference.*

"Their main task, their whole reason for being here, is to prevent exactly this, but they do nothing," said an Iraqi mother who lives near Sadr City. "They just let it go, my God, so easily."

American visits "are like show business," [Aaraji] said. "When they come, they try to protect themselves, not us."

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **“You Are Not Getting The Entire Picture Of What Has Been Happening Here In The Galilee”**

**Israeli Jews have always taken the view, and happily tell any outsiders as much, that the "Arabs" lost the right to their homes in the war of 1948 because they "fled" (in fact many were forcibly expelled, but let that drop for the moment). So how exactly should we regard those Israeli Jews now fleeing from Nahariya and Haifa? Should they lose their homes, their land, and their bank accounts just as the Palestinians did in 1948?**

July 19, 2006 by Jonathan Cook, Antiwar.com [Excerpt]

**To remind you, I, like other residents of northern Israel, am under martial law.**

**As are the foreign journalists, and in addition they are required to submit their copy to the military censor.**

**So all I can tell you, without breaking the law, is that you are not getting the entire picture of what has been happening here in the Galilee.**

Certainly, a piece of news that I doubt you will hear from the foreign media, although bravely the liberal Hebrew media has been drawing attention to the matter, is that the "only democracy in the Middle East" has all but silenced al-Jazeera from reporting inside Israel.

The reason is clear: until recently al-Jazeera had been running rings around the local and foreign press.

Al-Jazeera is the Arab world's most serious and popular news gatherer, and essential viewing for anyone who wants to get a realistic idea of the news from both sides of the border. When I heard the missile strike close by Nazareth on Sunday night, al-Jazeera told me what had happened a full half hour before the Israeli media, and a day before my colleague Matthew Price.

How do they do it? Because most of their staff in Israel are Israeli citizens, as well as being Palestinian Arabs. Their journalists belong to the forgotten fifth of the Israeli population whose citizenship is Israeli but whose nationality is Palestinian.

A final footnote, one to ponder in the quieter moments after the worst of the suffering is over.

**Those Israeli Jews fleeing for their lives as they head south to the quiet, so far at least, of Tel Aviv and beyond offer a small echo of events nearly six decades ago when 750,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their homes by the Israeli army.**

**Israeli Jews have always taken the view, and happily tell any outsiders as much, that the "Arabs" lost the right to their homes in the war of 1948 because they "fled" (in fact many were forcibly expelled, but let that drop for the moment).**

The Israeli government has adopted much the same view, even refusing to allow the 250,000 of its own Arab citizens who are classified as internal refugees – their ancestors fled the fighting in 1948 but have citizenship because they stayed inside what is today Israel – to return to their original homes and land.

**So how exactly should we regard those Israeli Jews now fleeing from Nahariya and Haifa? Should they lose their homes, their land, and their bank accounts just as the Palestinians did in 1948?**

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## **Zionist Forces Invading Lebanon Hit Heavy Resistance**

20 July 2006 By Hussein Dakroub, The Associated Press

**A large fight between Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas broke out Thursday evening on the Lebanese side of the border, the Israeli army said, adding that its troops suffered casualties but did not elaborate.**



**Hezbollah's Al-Manar television said three Israeli soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in fighting.**

The guerrillas have been fighting back hard on the ground, wounding three Israeli soldiers. An Israeli unit sent in to ambush Hezbollah guerrillas also had a fierce gunbattle with a cell of militants.

In another clash, just across the border from the Israeli town of Avivim, guerrillas fired a missile at an Israeli tank, seriously wounding a soldier.

**Hezbollah said its guerrillas destroyed two tanks trying to enter the Lebanese border village of Maroun al-Ras, across from Avivim.**

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## **Women's Brigade Formed In Gaza: "The Brigade Will Fight To Defend The Honor Of The Nation In Spite Of The Weakness Of Its Men"**



**7.18.06 An armed Palestinian woman from the Popular Resistance Committees during a demonstration in Gaza City to protest against daily Israeli incursions in the Gaza Strip. (AFP/Thomas Coex)**

The An Nasser Salah Addin Brigades, the military wing affiliated with the Popular Resistance Committees, declared the formation of a women's brigade to defend the Palestinian territories in the face of the ongoing Israeli aggression.

**Around one hundred armed woman, carrying homemade projectiles and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, marched from the Al Yarmouk playground in Gaza City to the headquarters of the Palestinian Legislative Council in a female military presentation that was the first of its kind.**

The mother of Yousif Abu Al Qouqa, the Commander of the Popular Resistance Committees, was at the head of the women carrying RPGs on their shoulder.

The spokeswoman for the brigade confirmed that "they were organized and trained in various types of weapons, and the brigade will fight to defend the honor of the nation in spite of the weakness of its men."

The women, wearing the veil and concealing their faces, burned Israeli, American, British and European Union flags. They also marked out the Arab League flag with an X and burned it.

The spokesman for An Nasser Salah Addin Brigades, Abu Abeer, said: "The aim of the march was for the women to forcefully bring their message denouncing the Arab and Islamic positions, especially the position of the Arab League, towards the issues of Palestine and Lebanon."

"The participating women sent a message of solidarity from the Palestinian people and the brigades to the Lebanese people and Hezbollah, promising a courageous stand together at the time when the Arab and Islamic nations have turned their backs on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples," according to Abu Abeer.

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## **1500 New Yorkers Demand End To Israel's Attacks On Lebanon And Palestine**

[Thanks to Simon Assaf, who sent this in.]

July 18, 2006 Relief Center, Sanayeh, media group. Media Contact: Issa Mikel: 917-446-8032, issamikel@gmail.com

**1500 New Yorkers packed the city block opposite the Israeli Consulate in Manhattan today, chanting and waving Lebanese and Palestinian flags. This was the third in a series of growing protests in New York City over the last two weeks.**

The protests have been organized by an ad hoc New York coalition against Israeli aggression. Protesters demanded, "Stop bombing Lebanon." "Free, free Palestine," and "End the occupation now." They chanted, "No justice, no peace, US out of the Middle

East." Speakers called for an end to the US and Israeli wars in the Middle East. They criticized the US' one-sided support for Israel, and the lack of media coverage of Lebanese and Palestinian civilian deaths.

The demonstration concluded with a spirited march past Grand Central Station and into Times Square.

Israeli bombing has killed over 230 Lebanese people, including entire families, and many children, and destroyed Lebanese ports, roads, bridges, power plants, apartment buildings, and Beirut's International Airport.

In Gaza, Israel has killed more than 90 Palestinians in two weeks, bombed Ministry buildings, roads, and homes, and jailed Palestinian Cabinet Ministers. This has plunged Gaza's 1.4 million residents into a humanitarian crisis, with little access to electricity, water, medical supplies and food. Israel's actions have been widely criticized by human rights groups and the UN.

Issa Mikel, a spokesperson for the ad hoc coalition against Israeli aggression, said, "Israel must be held accountable for its grave violations of international law, reminiscent of those of the South African apartheid regime."

"For peace, based on justice, we call on international civil society organizations and people of conscience around the world to carry out broad boycotts, implement divestment initiatives against Israel, and demand their governments impose sanctions on Israel until it ends its apartheid system, respects the sovereignty of its Arab neighbors and the right of refugees to return to their homes and lands, and fully complies with international law."

The protest organizers vowed to maintain the pressure with continued New York demonstrations.

Endorsers of today's demonstration included: The National Council of Arab-Americans – New York, International Solidarity Movement – NYC, the New York Campaign for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, ANSWER Coalition, Campus Anti-War Network, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee – ADC NY, International Socialist Organization, United for Peace and Justice - NYC, International Action Center, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, The Party for Socialism and Liberation, Women in Black Union Square, Jews Against the Occupation – NYC, West Queens Greens, and Sunnyside Woodside Peace.

**[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]**

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Traitors Set Agent To Work Spying On '05 Rallies Against Military Recruitment; Assholes Tracked California Citizens As "Foreign Terrorists"**

July 19, 2006 Demian Bulwa, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer [Excerpts]

**A federal Department of Homeland Security agent passed along information about student protests against military recruiters at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz, landing the demonstrations on a database tracking foreign terrorism, according to government documents released Tuesday.**

The documents were released by the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a Freedom of Information Act request on behalf of student groups that protested against recruiters who visited their campuses in April 2005.

**In the Santa Cruz and Berkeley reports, the source of information was listed as an agent for Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service.**

**The reports were filed by the 902nd Military Intelligence Group, the Army's largest counterespionage unit.**

"This raises questions about whether the Department of Homeland Security tasked somebody to gather information about anti-war activities," said Mark Schlosberg, police practices policy director for the ACLU's Northern California office.

**The reports say the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in San Francisco had been briefed on the protests.**

The report on the Berkeley protest said the Homeland Security agent received an e-mail on April 18, 2005, announcing a "counter-recruitment" and civil disobedience action three days later, when recruiters would be at a career fair.

In a section titled "Agent Notes," the report states, "There is a strong potential for a confrontation at this protest given the strong support for anti-war protests and movements in the past."

## **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))

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

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The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

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