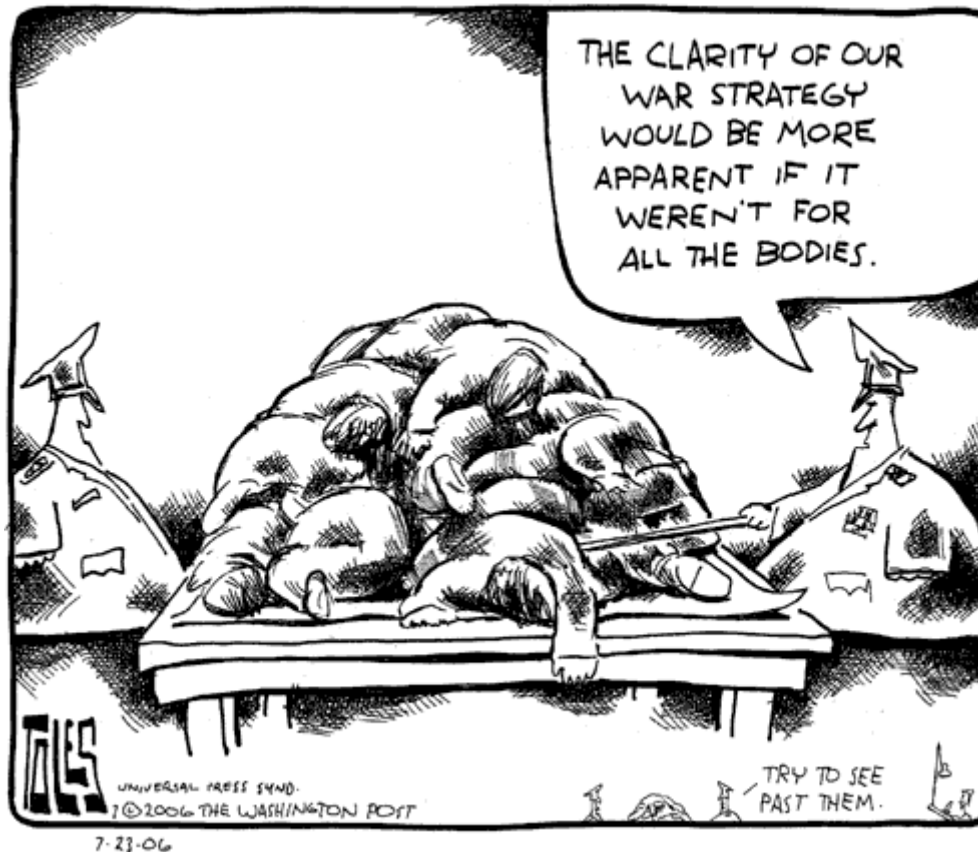


## GI SPECIAL 4G30:



# ***The Slow Fuse Is Lit:*** **Pentagon Forcing 4,000 Troops Who Thought They Were Going Home To Stay In Iraq**

July 30, 2006 By EDWARD WONG, The New York Times Company

The tours of 4,000 American soldiers who had been scheduled to leave Iraq in the coming weeks have been extended for up to four months, signaling that there would almost certainly be no significant troop pullout before the year's end, military officials and analysts said Saturday.

The extension is part of the new security plan that President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki announced last week in Washington.

**Of the 4,000 troops ordered to stay beyond their standard one-year tour, 3,500 are from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, currently based in the northern city of Mosul, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a military spokesman. The other 500 come from other units.**

The new security plan allows almost no room for significant troop withdrawals by the end of 2006, Anthony H. Cordesman, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said in an interview on Saturday.

If any troop pullout takes place in the coming months, "it would be so cosmetic that it would be meaningless," he said. "It would be statistical gamesmanship."

**"People are now talking about 2009 as the goal for achieving really serious security," he added.**

**The 172nd Stryker Brigade was deployed to Mosul in August 2005. The brigade had been preparing to return to its home base, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, when the Pentagon ordered a tour extension.**

**Many military officials have said that asking soldiers to serve more than a year at a time in Iraq grinds away at morale and motivation.**

**That effect is one of the reasons the Marines usually do six- or seven-month tours here rather than a full year, which the Army prefers. In the spring of 2004, morale plummeted among soldiers of the First Armored Division when they were asked to stay beyond their yearlong tour in order to quell a Shiite uprising.**

The new Baghdad security plan calls for adding at least 4,000 American troops and 4,000 Iraqi security officers in the capital. There are now 9,000 American troops, 8,500 Iraqi soldiers and 34,500 Iraqi police officers in Baghdad.

**The military said Saturday in a written statement that "the duration of the temporary deployment of these Iraqi and coalition forces in Baghdad will be determined by conditions on the ground."**

**[Wrong. The duration of the deployment will be determined by the decision of the troops concerning how long they do or do not chose to be slaughtered to make Bush and the politicians look good in the coming elections, and after. This lights the fuse. No lie can live forever. When the history of the armed forces rebellion that stopped this war is written, this day, and this idiotic move, will have a chapter all of it's own.]**

**MORE:**

# **Families Joining Anti-War Group At Word Of Tour Extension; “There Has Never Before Been A Group Of Military Families Breaking The Code Of Silence Like This”**

July 28, 2006 By Karen Jowers, Army Times staff writer [Excerpts]

**For some families of soldiers in the 172nd Stryker Brigade, the July 27 announcement of the extension of their tour in Iraq was just too much.**

**Some of them are joining the ranks of the anti-war group Military Families Speak Out. “We’ve had a whole group of people who have joined since the announcement,” said Nancy Lessin, co-founder of the group. She was working to get an exact count at press time, and said e-mails are still coming in to the organization.**

“They are having meetings at families’ homes,” she said. “Many family members hold their breath until their loved one gets home,” and then speak out, she said.

“But something like this puts them over the edge.

“There has never before been a group of military families breaking the code of silence like this,” she said. “It speaks to the horrific nature of the invasion and now occupation of Iraq.”

**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**

### **Sgt. Michael Dickinson Felled By Sniper:**

# “I Never Thought My Son Would Not Come Home”

July 19, 2006 BY NAOMI R. PATTON, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Army Staff Sgt. Michael Dickinson was scheduled to come home from Iraq by the end of July.

But the 26-year-old Battle Creek native, who was on patrol with a Marine Corps unit in Iraq, was killed Monday by sniper fire.

His mother, Vicki Dickinson of Battle Creek, said she chatted with him by e-mail almost every day. But she didn't think it was a big deal when she hadn't received a message from him Monday afternoon.

When his wife, Glorygrace Dickinson, called her later that day in tears from their home in Ft. Bragg, N.C., she knew it wasn't good news.

An Army chaplain was in their home. "I knew what that meant," his mother said. "My baby's gone."

**Sgt. Dickinson belonged to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and was in Iraq on his third tour of duty.**

**He served two tours in Afghanistan before that.**

Vicki Dickinson said her son, the youngest of five children, "always tried to make light of some things so I would not worry."

But she said he did tell her Iraq was a "dangerous and ugly place."

A 1998 Harper Creek High School graduate, Sgt. Dickinson played percussion in band, and was an athlete, playing football, basketball and tennis, his mother said.

Vicki Dickinson added that he was quite popular with the girls. "He was a cutie pie," she said while laughing.

Sgt. Dickinson, who had begun studying to be a physician's assistant, was the father of a 2-year-old daughter, Abigail.

He also was planning to adopt his four stepchildren when he returned home from Iraq, his mother said.

He called home for Abigail's birthday July 2 and sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

Vicki Dickinson said she was eager to see her son, who was planning to visit Battle Creek in August.

"I feel that he still accomplished his very last mission -- his men are still alive," she said.

"He believed in his country, believed in his family."

A memorial service is scheduled for Thursday at Ft. Bragg, she said.

She plans a memorial service for him in Battle Creek if he is not buried there.

"I never thought my son would not come home," she said.

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## Pendleton Marine Dies In Anbar Province



**Geoffrey R. Cayer**

July 20, 2006 By: MARK WALKER, Staff Writer, North County Times

**CAMP PENDLETON:** Twenty-year-old Geoffrey R. Cayer was known for his sense of humor, his love of a good cigar and his love of books.

The lance corporal, a field radio operator who joined the Marine Corps in January 2005 shortly after high school, died Tuesday from what the Pentagon said Thursday was a "non-hostile incident" in the Anbar province of Iraq.

The circumstances of his death remain under investigation, but foul play is not suspected, authorities said.

"He was a fantastic young man, very introspective and quiet but fun and funny at the same time," said Chris LeBlanc, a family friend who knew Cayer all of his life. "He was very proud to be a Marine, and he knew he had a job to do."

A lifelong native of Fitchburg, Mass., a town of about 39,000 people 50 miles from Boston, Cayer hosted his family, LeBlanc and LeBlanc's parents during a Christmas holiday visit to North County last year.

That gathering took place shortly before he left for Iraq with the I Marine Expeditionary Force as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division based at Camp Pendleton.

"He really enjoyed showing us San Diego and his barracks and telling us about his life as a Marine," LeBlanc said Thursday during a telephone interview. "Geoffrey felt very comfortable at Camp Pendleton and seemed to be having a great time."

Growing up, Cayer was active in sports and played baseball, tennis and soccer.

"He loved those things, just like he loved to read," said LeBlanc, who was acting as the Cayer family's spokesman. "He also had developed a fondness for a good cigar, and during a family trip to Ireland, he also developed quite a fondness for Guinness."

Arrangements are being made to have a memorial service for Cayer at his alma mater, Fitchburg High School.

He leaves behind his parents, Robert and Joan Cayer; two brothers, Charles and Alexander; and a sister, Abigail.

Cayer's death is at least the 299th of a locally based Marine.

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## **On Foot Patrol In Fallujah; “Walking Past Traffic Stopped Because Of You, The Drivers Glaring As You Pass”**

June 22, 2006 By JESSE HAMILTON, The Hartford Courant

FALLUJAH, Iraq: So you want to know what a foot patrol is like?

Most days, the men from Plainville-based Charlie Company walk Fallujah. No armored Humvees. Nothing between them and the city. Maybe a dozen Marines counting on nobody but each other.

No, there's no way to replicate it, but here's how you can give it a shot:

Wait for the hottest day of summer, when the heat is pounding the earth, stealing the air from your lungs and sweat from your skin.

Put on 82 pounds of gear. Heavy boots. A helmet, if you've got it. And a backpack jammed with stuff to make up the balance.

Get three hours of sleep the night before. (You probably were on post or ran out to a roadside bomb attack just a few hours before dawn.)

Find a place where it's hunting season, and stalk around the woods. (Though, unless the woods run with open sewers and are strewn with rotting garbage, it would be hard to get the smell right.)

If you don't get hit after a few hours, walk back home, shoulders cramping, stomach tight from the weight and the heat and the tension.

**When you walk through the door, sweat running in tiny streams down your body, turn the air conditioner off, and the lights, too. (The generator got hit by a mortar today.)**

**As you lie there, recovering in the dark, think about what it would have been like to have walked under a thousand black windows where snipers might hide, in narrow alleys where you brush against the people, walking past traffic stopped because of you, the drivers glaring as you pass.**

**But if you want an even better idea what it's like for the Marines, do it all over again tomorrow.**

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



July 6, 2006: U.S. Army soldiers leave Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul in a Stryker to conduct a cordon and knock patrol July 1, 2006. The soldiers are from 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team based out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska. (AP Photo/Department of Defense, Jeremy T. Lock)

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### **“A Lot Of Different Forces Are Coalescing To Drive The Coalition Out”**

July 28, 2006 By Matthew Pennington, Associated Press [Excerpt from a longer article filled with idiotic bullshit. For instance, the writer says Afghanistan has a “western style democracy.” Obviously, not all the opium is being exported. T]

Southern Afghanistan, homeland of the Taliban and hub of the global heroin trade, is spinning out of control. [Out of whose control? The occupation? Yes. The resistance? Well, actually it’s spinning into their control. Just depends on whether you’re a hack propagandist for George Bush or not, which is a mild way to describe somebody silly enough to write that Afghanistan has a “western style democracy.”]

“A lot of different forces are coalescing to drive the coalition out,” said Joanna Nathan, an analyst with the International Crisis Group. “It’s not just Taliban.”

Over the past year, Taliban-led militants regained effective control over large tracts of their southern heartland.

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## TROOP NEWS

### **Army Maj. John Morgan, One Stupid Lying Sack Of Shit**

July 28, 2006 By John Diamond, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

Iraqi insurgents are teaching recruits sophisticated sniper techniques for targeting U.S. troops.

The threat of sniper fire is greatest in urban areas because shooters have more hiding places. That’s a concern for U.S. forces as more troops enter Baghdad to combat escalating violence.

**Combat troops don’t always report sniper deaths as such to prevent insurgents from learning that an attack succeeded, says Army Maj. John Morgan, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Baghdad. [“Combat troops” don’t report? This idiot must think he can get away with unbelievably silly lies, being a Maj. and a big,**



important press spokesman and all. Troops report faithfully, or it's their ass. It's lying rats like Morgan that cover up the truth of what's going on. See below.]

Through November 2005, *when the Pentagon last reported a sniper fatality*, the Army had attributed 28 of 2,100 U.S. deaths to snipers.

This year, snipers have killed at least 16 U.S. troops, according to news accounts or information posted on blogs by troops' family members. None of these fatalities was blamed on sniper fire in official reports; the deaths were attributed to "small arms fire" or "combat operations."

The insurgent manual says snipers should target U.S. officers because they are hard to replace, tank drivers because their death could immobilize a tank crew, and communications officers because their death could delay calls for reinforcements.

Translated into English by U.S. intelligence, the manual advises snipers to avoid large groups of soldiers "unless you are sure of your ability to kill them and escape." It ranks Iraqi government forces as lower-priority targets who can be attacked by less well-trained combat brigades.

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



The casket of Marine Cpl. Julian A. Ramon at Long Island National cemetery, July 29, 2006 in Farmingdale, N.Y. Cpl Ramon died July 20, 2006 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

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# **Ft. Carson Iraq Combat Soldiers Report Superiors Physically And Verbally Torment Them Because Of Their PTSD: “One Soldier Says He Was Beaten By A Sergeant And Shot With A Pellet Gun After Seeking Psych Care” Scumbags In Command Rush To Kick Out Troops With PTSD And Deny Them All Benefits**



Pvts. Corey Davis and Tyler Jennings. Photo By [www.caytonphotography.com](http://www.caytonphotography.com)

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: From the Fort Carson area newspaper, The Colorado Springs Independent.]

Jennings is among eight active-duty and recently discharged soldiers interviewed by the Independent who allege that Fort Carson hindered or outright denied PTSD treatment. They say the Army is pursuing or has pursued disciplinary action to purge them from the ranks. Because of the nature of their discharges, some stand to lose benefits, such as the Montgomery GI Bill, which provides money for college.

July 13-19, 2006 by Michael de Yoanna, The Colorado Springs Independent [Excerpts]

Pvt. Tyler Jennings returned to Fort Carson last August after one year in Iraq. Today, the 23-year-old active-duty infantryman is sitting in his Colorado Springs living room with the shades drawn. He takes a drag of his Marlboro cigarette before describing what life has been like since his return.

**Two months ago, Jennings was intent on killing himself, getting as far as tying a noose of rope. "The stress of being back home crept up on me," he says. "I just couldn't take it anymore."**

**But the Rochester, N.Y., native, a newlywed, says he was too drunk to carry out the deed.**

**Jennings is what other soldiers in his 2nd Brigade Combat Team platoon frequently call a "shitbag."**

"A shitbag is what the Army calls someone who can't do anything right," he explains.

**Less than a year ago, Jennings was a hero, a Purple Heart recipient who'd re-enlisted for six years.**

**But stationed on a remote highway outpost near Ramadi, he faced a daily onslaught of insurgents' roadside explosions. He saw a sergeant he knew "folded in three like an accordion" behind the wheel of a Humvee, alongside a soldier literally split in half and decapitated. He watched in horror as Pfc. Samuel Lee, a 19-year-old from Anaheim, Calif., committed suicide, shooting himself in front of his platoon.**

**Once back at Fort Carson, Jennings says he suffered panic attacks, jitters, sleeplessness and flashbacks. He turned to drugs, alcohol and sleeping pills to ease his afflictions. When urine analysis tests came back positive, the Army began to process his discharge for "patterns of misconduct."**

But the therapist he obtained off base says Jennings resorted to drugs as a way to cope with the horrifying memories of war, the people and places that trigger those memories, and his sense that an attack may be imminent, even in Colorado Springs.

"It makes sense one would turn to substances to treat the stress that goes with all the bad memories," says Gerald Sandeford, Jennings' licensed counselor.

**Sandeford has diagnosed Jennings with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, which is among the mental health conditions affecting one in three troops returning from war.**

**"They're trying to throw me out of the Army because of this," Jennings says.**

**Jennings is among eight active-duty and recently discharged soldiers interviewed by the Independent who allege that Fort Carson hindered or outright denied PTSD treatment.**

**They say the Army is pursuing or has pursued disciplinary action to purge them from the ranks.**

**Because of the nature of their discharges, some stand to lose benefits, such as the Montgomery GI Bill, which provides money for college.**

**Some soldiers also allege their immediate superiors physically or verbally intimidated them because of their PTSD. One soldier says he was beaten by a sergeant and shot with a pellet gun after seeking psychiatric care.**

Dee McNutt, a spokeswoman for the base, won't comment on specific cases, but defends Fort Carson's mental health care system.

When soldiers return from combat, they are asked to fill out standardized questionnaires meant to screen for PTSD. Using the questionnaires and interviews, health care workers determine which soldiers need to be referred for further mental evaluation. A reassessment questionnaire is given several months later to identify potentially overlooked cases.

Beyond those steps, however, catching a soldier with PTSD is primarily left up to his or her immediate superiors, often, the same people charged with preparing a soldier for combat. Chaplains and soldiers also are entrusted with identifying PTSD symptoms.

Yet most of the soldiers interviewed by the Independent say the system is failing them. And some have filed for federal whistleblower protection through Sen. Ken Salazar's office.

**Ryan Lockwood, a former 2nd Brigade Combat Team private, returned from Ramadi in August 2005 after a yearlong tour. The 22-year-old says an Army captain issued an ultimatum after he displayed symptoms of PTSD.**

**"He threatened that if I tried to get a medical disability for my PTSD, he would make my life a living hell," Lockwood says from his home in McHenry, Ill.**

In Iraq, Lockwood served as a medical evacuation worker, helping to get injured soldiers airlifted out of Ramadi. He received a Combat Infantryman Badge, an honor for soldiers who experience the worst kinds of warfare.

"Some soldiers had bones sticking out and were crying bloody murder," he says. "Some had died. This is what I dealt with every day."

**Lockwood's return to Fort Carson was bittersweet. He was alive, but still tingling from what he saw in combat, unnerved and worn down from sleepless nights. When he did sleep, he had nightmares about Iraq. He resorted to drinking, and eventually, a few months after returning home, was arrested for drunk driving on base.**

**He was referred to a substance abuse program, but was required to attend just one class for less than two hours, he says.**

**By February, he was facing a discharge for patterns of misconduct. His drunk driving episode and other issues, such as failure to wear a helmet while on guard duty, were used in the case to discharge him.**

***Yet in the mental health evaluation completed as part of the discharge process, Lockwood screened positive for PTSD.***

*"Looking back, they cast me out," he says. "I was having problems with day-to-day duties, so they just decided to get rid of me, despite my service to this country."*

**Lockwood says he was facing too much mental turmoil to fight the Army. As a result of his discharge, he has lost up to \$36,000 in Montgomery GI Bill money and will have to explain his "patterns of misconduct" every time he applies for a job.**

**Had his discharge gone through purely medical channels that caught his PTSD, he might have been declared permanently or temporarily disabled, receiving full benefits, including monthly pay.**

"At the time, I was going through a lot, and I got to the point where I just didn't care anymore," he says. He is currently being treated for PTSD through limited Veterans Affairs benefits at his home in Illinois.

**Former Pvt. Alex Orum, who received a Certificate of Achievement for "phenomenal" service as a gunner in Ramadi, also says the Army forced him out.**

By the time he returned to base last August, Orum was mourning the loss of several friends and grappling with having witnessed or participated in several combat deaths. After his wife threatened divorce, he sought psychological assistance from Fort Carson for his violent outbursts, nightmares, alcohol abuse and other problems.

**Orum, a corporal at the time, alleges that he was harassed by a sergeant, who allowed word to circulate that Orum had visited the mental health ward at Evans U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Carson. Fellow soldiers began referring to Orum as "Psycho," and a "shitbag."**

**The 20-year-old says his sergeant shot him repeatedly with a pellet gun, a story corroborated by a still-active Fort Carson soldier interviewed by the Independent.**

**The same sergeant and other direct superiors began to find fault with Orum for things like failing to carry a pen and notebook, according to his Army records. [Name these sneaking cowards please. Perhaps some veterans would care to have a world with them.]**

**He says he had trouble keeping himself together because he lacked sleep. Sometimes, he'd tremble in fear. Loud noises still remind him of bombs in Ramadi and can leave him crouching in a defensive posture, even crying.**

**"It's coming back that sucks," he says. "I can handle war. Handling this is hard."**

**Though his medical records indicate "chronic" PTSD among his problems, Orum was discharged in May for patterns of misconduct.**

**His numerous offenses included missing a rent payment, not showing up in formation and failing to write an acceptable essay about being a "decent soldier," according to various Army documents.**

"They never really addressed the situation with my PTSD," says Orum, now a cook in a Colorado Springs restaurant. He has not sought professional care for his condition.

Lt. Brandon Anderson, a former 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander who served a year in Ramadi, says mental health services are widely available to Fort Carson soldiers who work with their superiors. He says he scored high for PTSD when he returned to Fort Carson, but has coped with his stress by bonding with fellow soldiers and reading an inspirational book.

**But Pvt. Corey Davis, an active-duty soldier in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, tells a different story. He says he scheduled an appointment at Evans several weeks ago because of grinding, recurrent nightmares of his service in Ramadi. He is still waiting to be seen there.**

**With doubts nagging him, he recently left base to see a therapist. A licensed professional counselor concluded Davis is suffering from PTSD and is in need of treatment.**

**"It feels sad that it took that long for me to find out what was going on with me," Davis says. "I had to go out and do it myself, without the Army. The Army didn't step in when I was having other problems and identify this issue for me."**

Davis, 26, returned to Fort Carson in August 2005 after serving a year as a machine gunner in Ramadi.

"There were explosions every day," he says.

He fell in with a group of soldiers who used drugs. Cocaine's effects felt like the adrenaline rush he became addicted to in Ramadi. At the same time, it made his nightmares fade and the days whiz by.

**Finally, Davis got busted, testing positive in one urine analysis in December, then another in June. He's been demoted from specialist and is facing an "other than honorable" discharge ; among the least desirable types of discharge; for patterns of misconduct.**

**"No one really talks to me at all now," he says. "I'm lucky to get a head nod from the people I served with in Iraq. ... They call me a shitbag. As far as they're concerned, I'm on my way out, whatever my issues are."**

Davis now wonders whether his problems could have been avoided if Fort Carson had done a better job in identifying his PTSD.

**The week he returned from Iraq, Fort Carson gave Davis and other soldiers in his platoon the standard mental health questionnaire. The form inquired whether they'd had experiences that were so frightening, horrible or upsetting that they led to nightmares or unwanted thoughts about the experience, avoidance of situations, a feeling of constant vigilance and/or numbness or detachment from others.**

**Davis says he answered yes to such questions. He believes he should have been detained and referred immediately to mental health counselors for assessment.**

In a report issued two months ago, congressional investigators for the Government Accountability Office found that 77 percent of Army soldiers wrestling with combat stress upon returning from Iraq or Afghanistan never received a referral for mental help.

**The report states that the military "cannot reasonably assure that service members who need referrals receive them."**

A mental health worker at Fort Carson estimates that three soldiers a day are placed on watch at various psychiatric clinics in Colorado Springs because they threaten suicide or violence to others.

**But one woman, who asked that her identity be withheld to protect her son, who fought in Ramadi last year, says the base's mental health program is failing.**

**Last month, she says her son called home agitated, depressed and lonely, talking about the war. The conversation was so incoherent that she encouraged him to visit Evans Hospital for help.**

**"The only thing they did was verify his medications and tell him to attend group therapy beginning the next week," she says. "He needed more than that. He doesn't respond to group sessions. He wants show he is macho. He doesn't talk openly about his issues. When he needed immediate help, they shoved him aside."**

Just two weeks earlier, following a suicide threat, her son had been transported from Fort Carson to Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, a private hospital that contracts with the base. A doctor there wrote that the soldier appeared to have acted impulsively, but "wonders sometimes if it would just be OK if he did not wake up."

***His mother thinks the base should begin the process to determine whether her son is disabled with PTSD, which could have resulted from a rollover accident, or guilt over surviving deadly combat when other soldiers did not.***

***Instead, she says, the base is pursuing a personality-disorder discharge against her son.***

**"I'm concerned about that, because this will be on his permanent records," she says. "He's going to be branded."**

**Involuntary discharges, those prematurely initiated by the Army, for personality disorder at Fort Carson have risen roughly threefold since the war began in March 2003, according to data obtained by the Independent via a Freedom of Information request.**

The 170-plus discharges at Fort Carson for personality disorder since the war's start represent about 18 percent of all early discharges.

Col. Knorr won't comment on the data because he hasn't seen it.

**But Kaye Baron, a licensed professional counselor who treats local soldiers with PTSD, fears Fort Carson may be misdiagnosing soldiers. Scarcely has she diagnosed personality disorder in her soldier and civilian patients, she says.**

**"It's considered a very rare condition," Baron adds.**

***A discharge for personality disorder can happen much faster than a medical board discharge, and disqualifies a soldier from receiving a declaration of disability and permanent benefits, because the Army considers the condition pre-existing.***

***Yet Army regulations also state that no soldier should be discharged with a personality disorder as a result of "combat exhaustion."***

Fort Carson was unable by deadline to provide data on the number of soldiers who have been granted medical retirement as a result of PTSD.

**Tyler Jennings wonders why Fort Carson officials have mentioned PTSD to him and offered him group counseling, but haven't officially diagnosed the disorder or offered treatment similar to what he is receiving off base.**

His medical records indicate that in December he was referred for PTSD group therapy when he "reported some symptoms of PTSD" following a positive urine analysis test for cocaine. He was referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program for treatment, but there is nothing in his records indicating Fort Carson took further steps to determine whether he was suffering from PTSD.

Sandeford, Jennings' therapist, says his patient should have received a diagnosis for PTSD.

He is currently preparing Jennings for eye movement desensitization and reprocessing, or EMDR, treatment. The therapy, accepted by the Defense Department, helps the brain reprocess trauma and can significantly reduce or eliminate PTSD. But because the treatment is intense, Jennings needs to be in a secure environment before he can begin, Sandeford says.

As of late last week, the Army had sought to send Jennings with the rest of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team to the Army National Training Center in California. The brigade is currently training to return to Iraq, perhaps as early as October.

Georg-Andreas "Andrew" Pogany, a former Fort Carson Special Forces soldier who leads Operation Just One, a group that helps Iraq war veterans obtain confidential, free counseling, says he intervened on Jennings' behalf, informing superiors that Jennings has received an outside diagnosis for PTSD.

**"What happened right there shows there are big problems identifying PTSD at Fort Carson," says Pogany. "They were ready to send this guy into a situation that would do him more harm than good. What about all the guys like him that we don't know about? Are they going to send them back to Iraq next?"**



"The nature of trauma is that he will be re-triggered in an atmosphere that is like combat," Sandeford says. "He'd lose the support he has (in his wife)."

Jennings says he wouldn't be useful to the Army in his condition. The idea of being discharged for patterns of misconduct is looking more attractive, he adds.

**"I will do what I have to to make sure that I don't go back to combat, including saying whatever they want or doing whatever they ask," he says.**

**"I know it will follow me around, but if I have to take a discharge that I don't agree with, I will, even though they never really admitted I have PTSD."**

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# **Eyes Wide Open Coming To Staten Island, New York**

**From: ELAINE BROWER [Mother of a Marine serving in Iraq]**  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 28, 2006 12:31 PM  
Subject: Eyes Wide Open Exhibit comes to Staten Island

TO ALL:

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PEACE ACTION GROUP OF STATEN ISLAND AND AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, WE ARE BRINGING THE NYS EXHIBIT TO STATEN ISLAND ON AUGUST 1st, 3 to 9 PM.**

IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK AND STRING PULLING, BUT WE ARE GOING TO BE SET UP IN THE MIDLAND BEACH AREA AT THE "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME" EVENT, WHERE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WILL GET TO SEE THIS MOVING EXHIBIT.

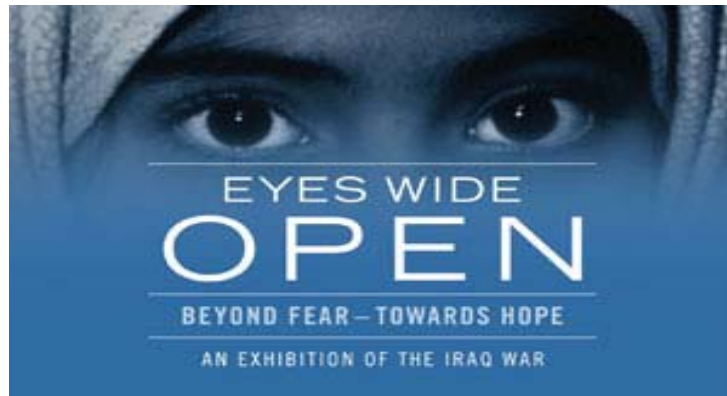
**PLEASE FORWARD THIS FLYER ATTACHED FAR AND WIDE. THE MORE THAT COME AND SUPPORT US, THE BETTER.**

**I WOULD LOVE TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE ALSO.**

PEACE AND RESISTANCE ALWAYS,

ELAINE BROWER

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“Eyes Wide Open” the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) acclaimed exhibition on the human cost of the Iraq war is coming to Staten Island

**When: August 1st, 2006**

**Where: Turtle Circle, Midland Beach (Father Capodanno Boulevard) at Staten Island's 23rd “National Night Out Against Crime”**

**Time: 3pm-9pm**

This traveling exhibit is a memorial to those who have fallen and a witness to our belief that no war can justify its human cost.

Since 1917, the American Friends Service Committee has championed the dignity and worth of every individual, the sanctity of human life and humanity's collective responsibility to promote peace.

**When this Exhibit was unveiled in the Chicago office in January 2004, there were 504 pairs of boots symbolizing the lost lives of U.S. soldiers in Iraq.**

**With each passing week, each stop in a new city, more pairs of boots are added to represent the newly fallen. Today we have over 2,500 pairs of empty boots and it continues to climb.**

As the exhibit makes its appearances across the country, families and friends come to grieve for lost loved ones and strangers honor those who gave their lives to a cause far from home. The boots on display will represent the fallen soldiers of New York State.



[Wearethechurch.org/eyeswideopen](http://Wearethechurch.org/eyeswideopen)

## **IT'S TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME NOW**

Sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee: <http://www.afsc.org/>

Contact Peace Action Staten Island, 718-989-2881, <http://www.panys.org/SI/>

### **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))

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# “The Iraqi Civilian Population Will Never Surrender To The U.S. War Machine. Never”



Kim Phuc



Kim Phuc today, showing the scars of American napalm

From: Richard Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 27, 2006  
Subject: War crimes picture from the Vietnam War

On July 6-9, 2006, I attended a conference in Castlegar, Canada. It was called, "Our Way Home Reunion."

It centered around Americans who went to Canada during the Vietnam War, to avoid military service. Over 50,000 Americans made the trip over the border.

**Kim Phuc was one of the main speakers at the conference. She was the nine-year-old girl who was hit by American napalm on June 8, 1972. Her picture was published around the world.**

Her presence at the conference was emotionally powerful. She was a living witness to American atrocities in Vietnam. 400,000 tons of Napalm was dropped on Southeast Asia by the U.S. government. Thousands of innocent civilians were murdered by this deadly weapon.

**Fast forward 30 years, and we have the "Amnesia War" in Iraq.**

**The U.S. cannot win this war in Iraq, for the same reasons the U.S. lost the war in Vietnam.**

**The U.S. could have never won the war in Vietnam, because the corrupt Vietnamese governments we put in power in Saigon never represented the vast majority of the civilian population in South Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh knew the U.S. would never have staying power.**

**Iraq is another deadly deceit.**

**The Iraqi civilian population will never surrender to the U.S. War Machine. Never.**

**Kim Phuc is a living example of her will to bear witness. She has had numerous operations to heal the pain and suffering she went through as a result of Dow Chemical.**

**The will to bear witness is the most powerful voice in the human spirit.**

**It is the voice that will never be destroyed.**

**The United States will loose the war in Iraq, because truth is more powerful than human greed.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
July 26, 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)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

## “I Miss The Days When The Constitution Still Meant Something”

From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 27, 2006  
Subject: Bring Walter Out Of Retirement?

I watched a PBS program last night about the career of Walter Cronkite. I saw the program follow the rise of Walter's career, with the inevitable "most trusted man in America" quotes.

I'm one of those middle aged old farts that can recall as a child watching the CBS Evening News with Douglas Edwards in the pre-Cronkite era.

The PBS program mentioned the press initially supporting the Viet Nam War. It told of Walter Cronkite going to Viet Nam to hear more of the same lies from General Westmoreland that he had already heard in Washington DC. Walter was swallowing the government propaganda, at least until Morely Safer told him otherwise.

Morely told Walter that he wanted to set up a meeting with a guy Walter should listen to.

The guy was a Special Forces Captain on his second tour who opened Walter's eyes by telling him the exact opposite of everything he'd been told by General Westmoreland.

**The program went on to remind us of how Walter openly questioned US policy in Viet Nam on air after Tet 1968. It mentioned that this was not only a major tipping point in public opinion, but also the initiation of government attacks on the press for opposing government policy. Does anyone else recall Spiro Agnew ranting against "the nattering nabobs of negativity?"**

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

**Our government lies to us, and threatens the press when they dare to tell the truth.**

The difference now is that there is no one person in the press that is trusted enough to have the impact on public opinion that Walter Cronkite did in his day. The mainstream media has become infotainment instead of news.

None of the current talking heads have the sort of integrity that the reporters of old had. None of them are able to influence public opinion as dramatically as Walter Cronkite could.

Walter is in his 80's now. It would be too much to ask of him to go to Iraq and come back to tell America the truth.

What a shame that reporters these days hunker in the relative safety of the green zone compound and only regurgitate military press releases.

What a shame that the financial backing and visibility of CBS News is not put behind the few honest reporters like Dahr Jamail. I miss Walter.

**I miss CBS standing up to Nixon, instead of distributing propaganda for Bush. I miss the days when The Constitution still meant something.**

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

## **Contempt Comes With Courage Of A Different Sort**

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

July 29, 2006 Steven Alvarez, Special to the Orlando Sentinel. Steve Alvarez is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who lives in Maitland. He wrote this commentary for the Orlando Sentinel.

\*\*\*\*\*

U.S. Army First Lt. Ehren Watada has been charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, missing movement and contempt toward officials for refusing to deploy to Iraq. He believes the war is illegal and immoral.

At face value, Watada's comments are a slap in the face to me, a guy who gave up a year of his life to serve in Iraq and never did anything illegal or immoral while there.

Watada said he opposes the war due to the deception used to wage the war. He disapproved, he said, of the lawlessness that has pervaded every aspect of civilian leadership regarding the war.

In essence, Watada's refusal to obey orders and his entire legal defense hinges on his perception of presidential deception and an unproven notion that U.S. leadership is above the law. Regardless of what Americans believe, there are plenty of reasons why we should and shouldn't have gone into Iraq, but that all depends on your politics.

But at the core of his dissent, Watada is misinterpreting his right to disobey a lawful order. It is correct to disobey an order to kill innocent civilians, but it is illegal to disobey the orders of the government, the president and Congress, that collectively declared war on a regime.

Military personnel are afforded protection under military laws if they refuse to execute orders issued by superiors that are unlawful or illegal. But much like all laws, military laws are also subject to interpretation and legal maneuvering.

As we slog through this chapter of American history, political parties look for pawns that will push their agendas. Sometimes the military unknowingly becomes fodder for public-opinion guns pointing to the left and the right.

The media add to the barrage, too, determining for us all what is and isn't news. Watada's defiance has made headlines only because it has political value. According to the Defense Department, more than 5,000 military personnel have deserted since the war in Iraq began. In the past six years, more than 40,000 military members have walked away from their commitments to the uniformed services.

I don't agree with Watada's politics, and I take exception to his actions. As an officer, he has moral and solemn obligations commensurate with his office that he must execute. He swore to defend the Constitution "against all enemies," and in 2003 Saddam Hussein was still an enemy of the United States. And while Watada argues that it is his job to protect the people of the United States, it is the people of the United States that elected the persons who told Watada to go to war.

On paper, it appears the Army failed to make an officer out of Watada, but I think it succeeded in making him a man. It takes a great deal of gumption to be a dissenter in the rank and file of the military. Furthermore, it requires profoundly deep courage to live life by one's own moral code because as we all know, we cannot be true to others when we are not true to ourselves.

Watada could have easily slipped away to Canada. The military ordinarily doesn't track deserters. It turns cases over to law enforcement, and most personnel are eventually picked up, arrested and returned to the military by civil authorities.

Most deserters, including those who refuse to fight, are administratively discharged and rarely spend time in jail. Had Watada fled, he likely would have had a past known only to him and a select group of men. Instead, he voiced his opposition to the war, asked to serve in Afghanistan and later offered to resign in protest, two requests the Army declined. His courageous yet misguided stand may cost him seven years in prison.



Whether you support Watada's beliefs or are against his views, you have to respect him for speaking out. Many in military and government high places now making a mint as military analysts for the media and as authors had the chance to speak, but they chose silence as the sabers rattled. Their inaction is what's immoral here.

Let's not attack Watada's moral compass. He took an oath, and the military believes he didn't keep his word or uphold his end of an agreement. Watada may not be officer material, according to military standards, but he has conviction, and that isn't a crime.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON**

**THIS IS DEDICATED TO NEO-NAZI  
SWINE WHO WOULD HAVE YOU THINK  
ALL JEWS ARE ZIONIST MASS  
MURDERERS, AND TO ALL ZIONIST  
SWINE WHO DENY ISRAEL IS A  
TERRORIST STATE INTENT ON  
GENOCIDE**



Jews from New York attend a protest at the Israeli Embassy to the United States in Washington July 25, 2006. Hundreds of people took part in the protest against Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon, calling for an immediate cease fire. [English.people.com] [Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

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# Zionist Killers Set A One Month Record For Slaughtering Palestinians

29 July 2006 By Anne Penketh in Gaza City, Independent News and Media Limited

A 12-year-old boy dead on a stretcher. A mother in shock and disbelief after her son was shot dead for standing on their roof. A phone rings and a voice in broken Arabic orders residents to abandon their home on pain of death.

Those are snapshots of a day in Gaza where Israel is waging a hidden war, as the world looks the other way, focusing on Lebanon.

It is a war of containment and control that has turned the besieged Strip into a prison with no way in or out, and no protection from a fearsome battery of drones, precision missiles, tank shells and artillery rounds.

**As of last night, 29 people had been killed in the most concentrated 48 hours of violence since an Israeli soldier was abducted by Palestinian militants just more than a month ago.**

The operation is codenamed "Samson's Pillars", a collective punishment of the 1.4 million Gazans, subjecting them to a Lebanese-style offensive that has targeted the civilian infrastructure by destroying water mains, the main power station and bridges.

[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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## “It Is Israel Which Is Running Out Of Time In Southern Lebanon”

06/27/06 By Robert Fisk, The Independent [Excerpts]

Qlaya, Southern Lebanon

Is it possible - is it conceivable - that Israel is losing its war in Lebanon?

From this hill village in the south of the country, I am watching the clouds of brown and black smoke rising from its latest disaster in the Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil: up to 13 Israeli soldiers dead, and others surrounded, after a devastating ambush by Hizbollah guerrillas in what was supposed to be a successful Israeli military advance against a "terrorist centre".

Claiming to "control" this southern Lebanese town, the Israelis chose to walk into a Hizbollah trap.

The moment they reached the deserted marketplace, they were ambushed from three sides, their soldiers falling to the ground under sustained rifle fire. The remaining Israeli troops - surrounded by the "terrorists" they were supposed to liquidate - desperately appealed for help, but an Israeli Merkava tank and other vehicles sent to help them were also attacked and set on fire. Up to 17 Israeli soldiers may have died so far in this disastrous operation.

The battle for southern Lebanon is on an epic scale but, from the heights above Khiam, the Israelis appear to be in deep trouble.

Their F-16s turn in the high bright sun - small, silver fish whose whispers gain in volume as they dive - and their bombs burst over the old prison, where the Hizbollah are still holding out; beyond the frontier, I can see livid fires burning across the Israeli hillsides and the Jewish settlement of Metullah billowing smoke.

It was not meant to be like this, 15 days into Israel's assault on Lebanon. The Katyushas still streak in pairs out of southern Lebanon, clearly visible to the naked eye, white contrails that thump into Israeli's hillsides and border towns.

So is it frustration or revenge that keeps Israel's bombs falling on the innocent? In the early hours two days ago, a tremendous explosion woke me up, rattling the windows and shaking the trees outside, and a single flash suffused the western sky over Nabatiyeh.

The bombardment of Khiam has set off its own brush fires on the hillsides below Qlaya, whose Maronite Christian inhabitants now stand on the high road above like spectators at a 19th century battle.

**Khiam is - or was - a pretty village of cut-stone doorways and tracery windows, but Israel's target, apart from the obviously marked UN position whose inhabitants they massacred, is the notorious prison in which - before its retreat from Lebanon in 2000 - hundreds of Hizbollah members and, in some cases, their families, were held and tortured with electricity by Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army.**

**This was the same prison complex - turned into a "museum of torture" by the Hizbollah after the Israeli retreat - that was visited by the late Edward Said shortly before his death.**

**More important, however, is that many of the Hizbollah men originally held prisoner here were captives in cells deep underground the old French mandate fort. These same men are now fighting the Israelis, almost certainly sheltering from their fire in the same underground cells in which they languished, perhaps even storing some of their missiles there.**

**It is Israel which is running out of time in southern Lebanon.**

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# Amazing News: Israeli Tanks Having Trouble With Anti-Tank Missiles

Jul. 27, 2006 YAAKOV KATZ, HERB KEINON and ANSHEL PFEFFER, THE JERUSALEM POST [Excerpt]

The fighting has taken its toll on tank crews, some of whom have been in continuous action for the last two weeks. On roads near the border, the Armored Corps has set up sites where tank crews can drive up, replenish their ammunition and supplies, and refresh themselves before returning to Lebanon.

**The biggest problem the tank crews have come up against in this conflict is the large number of anti-tank missiles in Hizbullah's hands, which have hit a significant number of IDF tanks.**

**The missiles come in a wide variety, not only the Russian-made RPGs and Sagers that the IDF has dealt with before, but also French-made Milan missiles.**

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## ***Looks Like Somebody Just Blinked: Israel Won't Ask Hizbollah To Disarm***

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. He writes: Sounds like a retreat to me.]

Jul 29 By Adam Entous, Reuters

Israel will not demand the immediate disarming of Hizbollah as part of a deal to end the fighting in Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said on Saturday.

Israel's position could make it easier to reach agreement with Western powers and the Lebanese government on the proposed deployment of a peacekeeping force in Lebanon. Hizbollah would almost certainly reject a force whose mandate called for its disarmament.

"Disarming Hizbollah will not be part of the mandate for the (peacekeeping) mission for now," a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters.

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**Received:**

# Reality Check

From: A  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 27, 2006  
Subject: reality check

This is something you need to put in the Special and send to every american soldier you know in the Middle East.

Hisbullah is numbered at around 5,000 to 6,000 men. The americans in the Middle East need to look at what Hisbullah is doing to the zionist regime, and consider what it would be like having HUNDREDS of thousands of fighters just like Hisbullah, pouring over the Iranian boarder to deal with them.

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

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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://qi-special.iraq-news.de>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; <http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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