

## **GI SPECIAL 4H1:**

**ENOUGH  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. forces take cover as they hear gun shots while inspecting the site of car bomb, July 30, 2006, in Mosul, Iraq. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ibrahim)

**“The Occupation Has  
Reached A Point Where  
It Is ‘Delaying Defeat’”**

**“Col. Wilkerson Notes That He Has  
Not Received A Single Positive Email  
From Anyone On The Ground In Iraq”**

**[So, now we know what the mission is. Now we know what you're supposed to die for. You're supposed to die to "delay defeat." You know by now what the troops in Vietnam did about that proposition. In the words of the prophet, "Go thou and do likewise." T]**

31 July 2006 By Stirling Newberry, Truthout Book Review [Excerpts]

*Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq* - the title alone of Thomas E. Ricks's book is enough to make it shoot to number one on Amazon.com. Ricks has twice been a member of a reporting team that won the Pulitzer; he has been covering the military for over 20 years. His recent book is a brutal look at the bundle of failures in conception, operation and execution that are the American involvement in Iraq.

On Friday, he was at the New America Foundation along with Colonel Larry Wilkerson (retired), former chief of staff at the State Department, at a gathering hosted by Steve Clemons, the director of the American Strategy Program at NAF.

**His conclusion is that Iraq is in a "civil war," and that the occupation has reached a point where it is "delaying defeat."**

The situation of ground troops has become a defensive one in which they, in the soldier's own words, "embrace the suck" as a way of dealing with the unstable personnel situation, the siege mentality, and the complete lack of real progress.

**Col. Wilkerson notes that he has not received a single positive email from anyone on the ground in Iraq.**

**When asked about what "victory" would mean in Iraq, both Ricks and Wilkerson denied that military victory was even possible.**

I've written on root causes of military failure, the most important the triangle of failure, where the drive for quick results leads to shock tactics.

These are frustrated by the lack of decisive battle, producing frustration, which leads to the drive to create body count, which creates the expectation of some measurable result, such as control of territory. This in turn drives expectations for quick return on territorial control.

Ricks's book amply demonstrates how this triangle has been chased around and around at ever-increasing expense.

**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.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# 'Soldier's Soldier' From Arundel Dies In Iraq Ambush



Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Swanson

July 27, 2006 By Nia-Malika Henderson, Sun reporter

On his personal Web site, Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Swanson called himself "Just a regular Joe," and he blogged about growing up in the 1990s, and the valor of soldiers and of his troops.

"They are my life and my family right now," he wrote on his myspace.com page, which family and friends used to post word of gatherings and milestones. "I would do anything for them even if it means giving my life to save theirs."

On Saturday, Sergeant Swanson, who wrote that his goal was to bring his soldiers home safe, died in an ambush in Anbar, his family said yesterday. The southern Anne Arundel County resident was 25.

The Department of Defense had not confirmed Sergeant Swanson's death as of yesterday evening, but his family was making funeral preparations.

## **More than 50 Maryland soldiers have died in the war in Iraq.**

"Chris was a dedicated servant, he was a leader, and he wanted to be out front," said Glenn Swanson, his uncle. "He was going to be a career soldier, that's what it looked liked to us."

**It looked that way because Sergeant Swanson, of Rose Haven, kept serving. He was on his third tour of Iraq when he was killed,**

Public service was something he learned from his parents - both work in law enforcement - and began years ago.

As a teenager, he traveled on mission trips with members of First Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, preaching the gospel on Florida's beaches and teaching lessons about

love, honor and integrity to gang members in Ohio. In West Virginia, he helped build part of a church, moving concrete and hammering nails in the afternoon sun.

At Southern High School in Anne Arundel County, where he was captain of the soccer team, he was the student who spent his free period in the principal's office.

Not because he was in trouble, but because he wanted to help.

"He was always lending a hand, running errands, sorting mail, making copies," said Carole Nutwell, an administrative secretary at Southern High. "He was just a really happy-go-lucky, likable kid."

Toward the end of his junior year, he began talking about joining the military, said his father, Gary Swanson.

By his senior year, his mind was made up, even when others tried to dissuade him.

In August 1999, three months after he graduated from high school, he enlisted. "You don't ever want to let loose of a child, but it was his decision, and we supported him," said his father. "He could have chosen any career in life, but this is something that he wanted, to serve his county."

Sergeant Swanson served in Kosovo as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, and was part of the initial assault on Iraq in March 2003, his uncle said. He returned home in October of that year and was redeployed a month later.

His third tour began in November last year. He was awarded two Purple Hearts, his uncle said. The second came about two weeks ago, when he was injured by an improvised explosive device.

He refused to be sidelined, he wrote his brother, Kenneth Swanson, after the incident. His troops needed him.

"Chris' main thing was to be there for his men, he got them to the places where they needed to be," his uncle said. "He was a true soldier's soldier."

With his father, he enjoyed fishing and following the Ravens and Orioles. His father said he would leave an empty seat for his son at the games.

"He was every man's dream son, but he didn't stand out. He was just an average kid, doing what he loved," he said. "He's our hero. ... This has brought us to our knees."

Funeral services are planned for 11 a.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro. Sergeant Swanson will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Additional survivors include his grandparents, Roger and Tillie Swanson of Phillippi, W.Va., and Peggy and Conrad C. Sloan of Zephyrhills, Fla.

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## **U.S. Patrol Attacked In Mashtal;**

# Casualties Not Announced

July 31, 2006 Xinhua

A makeshift bomb went off at about 9:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) near a passing U.S. patrol under a bridge in Mashtal neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, the source said.

It was not clear whether the U.S. troops sustained any casualties, the source added.

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### **“We Know Perfectly Well That Once We Leave A Village, The Taliban Come Back”**

30 July 2006 By Françoise Chipaux. Le Monde [Excerpt]

NATO forces risk finding time running against them, while the Taliban presence has very clearly spread and its influence progressed. The fight against these rebels and their potential inroads could thus very quickly overwhelm the will for development, especially if losses in the ranks of the international forces are significant.

Already, one Canadian soldier back from patrol acknowledges, "We know perfectly well that once we leave a village, the Taliban come back."

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

July 29, 2006 (CNN) & Khaleej Times & July 31, 2006 People's Daily Online & Xinhua & Amir Shah, Canadian Press

Four Taliban were killed during a three-hour battle north of the Afghan capital of Kabul after they attacked a police post. One policeman died and four others were wounded in that fight.

Taleban insurgents attacked a police checkpoint in Dand district of Kandahar province. Two policemen were wounded in the Taleban attack.

Suspected Taliban fighters blocked the road from Kandahar to Kabul for one hour at Hassan Kariz village of Shagoi district in Zabul province.

Taliban militants attacked a police post in Dand district of Kandahar province, and the police fought back robustly, the spokesman said.

A bomb planted in a car exploded Monday outside a crowded mosque in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least eight people and wounding 16, during a memorial service for a mujahedeen commander, officials said.

The bomb planted in a car targeted the provincial governor and other senior officials in his administration. Gov. Gul Agha Sherzai - who has been targeted by bombings before - had driven away from the mosque minutes before the bomb went off and was unharmed.

The dead included five police and three civilians.

Witnesses at the scene of the blast said a vehicle belonging to bodyguards of the provincial governor was damaged by the bombing.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



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

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# 52% Of Adult Americans Want To See All U.S. Troops Out Of Iraq Within A Year

July 29th, 2006 By: Glenn Greenwald on Saturday, Crooksandliars.com [Excerpts]

For almost two years now, polls have continuously shown that a solid majority of Americans opposes the war in Iraq, the signature policy of the Bush administration and its followers, and believes it was a mistake.

But a new analysis of Gallup poll data reveals that opposition to the war isn't just substantial, but is greater than it was for the Korean War, and roughly equal to the opposition Americans expressed towards the Vietnam War even as late as 1970:

An analysis released today by Frank Newport, director of The Gallup Poll, shows that current public wishes for U.S. policy in the Iraq war eerily echo attitudes about the Vietnam war in 1970.

**The most recent Gallup poll this month found that 52% of adult Americans want to see all U.S. troops out of Iraq within a year, with 19% advocating immediate withdrawal.**

In the summer of 1970, Gallup found that 48% wanted a pullout within a year, with 23% embracing the "immediate" option. Just 7% want to send more troops now, vs. 10% then.

At present, 56% call the decision to invade Iraq a "mistake," with 41% disagreeing.

Again this echoes the view of the Vietnam war in 1970, when that exact same number, 56%, in May 1970 called it a mistake in a Gallup poll.

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**Odious Odierno's Brutal, Stupid Tactics Built The Iraqi Resistance Movement;  
Now The Worthless Piece Of Shit Goes Back To Iraq As Second In Command**

July 26, 2006 By Michael Hirsh, Newsweek [Excerpts]

Reading "Fiasco," Thomas Ricks's devastating new book about the Iraq war, brought back memories for me.

**Memories of going on night raids in Samarra in January 2004, in the heart of the Sunni Triangle, with the Fourth Infantry Division units that Ricks describes.**

**During these raids, confused young Americans would burst into Iraqi homes, overturn beds, dump out drawers, and summarily arrest all military-age men—actions that made them unwitting recruits for the insurgency.**

**For American soldiers battling the resistance throughout Iraq, the unspoken rule was that all Iraqis were guilty until proven innocent.**

**Arrests, beatings and sometimes killings were arbitrary, often based on the flimsiest intelligence, and Iraqis had no recourse whatever to justice.**

**Imagine the sense of helpless rage that emerges from this sort of treatment. Apply three years of it and you have one furious, traumatized population. And a country out of control.**

As most U.S. military experts now acknowledge, these tactics violated the most basic principles of counterinsurgency, which require winning over the local population, thus depriving the bad guys of a base of support within which to hide.

Such rules were apparently unknown to the 4th ID commander, Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno.

The general is a particular and deserving target of Ricks's book, which is perhaps the most exhaustive account to date of all that went wrong with Iraq.

**Nonetheless—according to that iron law of the Bush administration under which incompetence is rewarded with promotion, as long as it is accompanied by loyalty—Odierno will soon be returning to Iraq as America's No. 2 commander there, the man who will oversee day-to-day military operations.**

Like Ricks, The Washington Post's first-rate Pentagon correspondent, I don't really fault the soldiers on the ground for the mistakes made. These young men and women were in a hellish situation, and as warriors they performed superbly.

**But once they began breaking into Iraqi homes, cool and competent GIs turned into Keystone Kops, pressed into a counterinsurgency role they'd never been taught.**

**So the soldiers improvised, often amateurishly, apparently, according to Ricks, directed by Odierno to kick down doors.**

The American soldiers themselves were aware of how inane many of their night raids were. Back in January 2004, the unit I was with jokingly called their raids "Jerry Springers." Why? Because the intelligence was often based on unreliable sources who



had agendas of their own. "Lots of times it turns out to be some guy who wants us to arrest another guy who's interested in the same girl," one soldier told me.

They were more wild goose chases than military operations.

During one raid someone spotted a picture of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian revolutionary leader, lying in a pile of paper. "Who is that?" asked Capt. Andy Depanais, a young tank commander who would have been in grade school at the time of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. None of the soldiers seemed to know, but Khomeini did look suspicious to them.

Never mind that the insurgency, even then, was mostly Sunni, while the Iranians and Khomeini were Shiite.

**"I usually just round up all the military-age men," Ben Tomlinson, the lieutenant in command of the platoon, told me. As Ricks writes, this had become doctrine for all of Odierno's 4th ID.**

At one point we burst into a small hotel, or hostel, whose guests were said to be Iranian-influenced insurgent sympathizers. Finding none, we moved onto a house supposedly occupied by the Iraqi hostel owner, arresting him and his three sons.

One son, I remember, protested that he was a medical student, and the soldiers riffled through what were clearly English-language medical textbooks surrounding his bed. No matter, the youth was shoved to the floor.

**Another, by appearance the youngest, was hyperventilating and coughing incessantly, obviously feverish and ill with some respiratory ailment. On the floor he went, an American boot to his back.**

**On the ride back to base, I sat next to one detainee in a Bradley fighting vehicle. Blood was oozing from his nose, which appeared to be broken, but he could not wipe it away because his hands were tied. He was whimpering. Many like him ended up at Abu Ghraib prison.**

**And there, even if they weren't insurgents before—most weren't—many became supporters of the insurgency.**

Back home meanwhile, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was still denying there was an insurgency at all. Bush was pretending that angry Iraqis who might be sympathetic to the insurgency were terrorists of the same ilk as Al Qaeda.

**Odierno, who allowed credit for Saddam's capture to accrue to him though Special Forces had led the operation, was suggesting that he was close to defeating the insurgency. "The former regime elements we've been combating have been brought to their knees," Odierno declared two and a half years ago.**

**Today, despite these disastrous misjudgments, not only do all these men still have their jobs, some, like Odierno, are destined to run the future U.S. Army.**

But inexorably, month by month, the Bush administration broadened the war on terror to include ever more peoples and countries, especially Saddam's Iraq, relying on thinner and thinner evidence to do so.

And what began as a hunt for a relatively contained group of self-declared murderers like bin Laden became a feckless dragnet of tens of thousands of hapless Arab victims like the sons of the hostel owner in Samarra, the vast majority of whom had nothing to do with Al Qaeda or terror, just as Saddam had little to do with Al Qaeda, just as the Iraqi insurgency had little to do with Al Qaeda (at least at the start), just as Hizbullah has nothing to do with Al Qaeda.

And as the war broadened beyond reason, and the world questioned the legitimacy of the enterprise, our friends dropped away.

**Worse, we have found ourselves making enemies in the Islamic world faster than we could round them up or kill them.**

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# **The War On Gatorade Comes To Camp Anaconda: [Reading Between The Lines And The Lies, Looks Like Supply Problems Getting Worse]**

Jul 30 By Rebecca Santana, Associated Press

CAMP ANACONDA, Iraq

Friday, July 28, 2006, 2:17 p.m. local time

One of Command Sgt. Major Lawrence A. Halls biggest worries in Iraq is Gatorade. Too much Gatorade, to be precise.

The problem started with making sure the troops were hydrated in the hot July sun, when the low temperature is still in the 90s and the high often goes well above 110. And in this case, hydrated doesn't mean seven to eight glasses of water a day as is recommended by many beauty magazines to keep your skin glowing. It means seven to eight liters of water a day.

But liter after liter of water obviously doesn't have a lot of taste to it, so troops like to mix up what they're drinking, and Gatorade is an obvious choice.

Then Hall, of the Army's 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry, learned that the medical staff is starting to notice an increase in kidney stones and gall stones in troops.

**They believe its because the guys, and gals, are drinking a lot of Gatorade and at the same time, *not getting enough exercise.***

So soldiers are encouraged to either exercise more or drink water instead of Gatorade.

They're also rationing the amount of Gatorade troops can pick up at the dining facility to two bottles per person, whereas in the past, troops could — and often did — fill up every pocket with a bottle of the green or orange liquid.

***Cutting back on the amount of Gatorade also means fewer convoys on the highways bringing the stuff in and, as a result, fewer people dying from roadside bomb attacks.***

Hall said he didn't know whether it was the medical reasons or the aim of limiting convoys that originally led to the 2-bottles per person rule, but the end result has been a Gatorade crackdown.

"Who would have thought that wed come to Iraq and my biggest problem would be too much Gatorade?" said Hall. "Little things that you would think never matter, are a big deal around here."

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## **Israeli Armored Corps Officer Refuses To Kill Lebanese; Goes To Jail**

[Thanks to many people who sent this in.]

**There are other soldiers like Amir who feel the same as he does but they avoid reserve duty in other, indirect manners, Nitzan stated. Amir refused to do this and be tried for absenteeism, she explained.**

07.30.06 By Hanan Greenberg, Ynetnews.com & By Amos Harel, Yuli Khromchenko, Lily Galili, Gideon Alon and Yoav Stern, Haretz

Captain Amir Pastar, called up by army in recent days to join fighting in Lebanon, declares Sunday he refuses to take part in war, sentenced to 28 days in military jail. 'He thinks Israel's operation hurts civilians on both sides,' his girlfriend explains

**The Yesh Gvul movement reported in this regard that it is currently in touch with more than 10 soldiers and officers who have been called up to serve in Lebanon and decline taking part in the fighting.**

While some of them have answered reserve duty call-ups and are participating in military training, they have said that they will not take part in the fighting, according to organization spokesman Yishai Menuchin.

Pastar, who has been called up in the recent reserve mobilization, stated that "participating in the war contradicts the values I was brought up upon."

The officer was sentenced by his regimental commander after stating he prefers to serve jail time rather than act against his conscience. Pastar's girlfriend, Nitzan, told Ynet that "even before he received the induction order he was contemplating how he would respond. He has no problem in principle to serve anywhere else, as long as it's not inside Lebanon."

On Sunday morning, when Pastar found out he would have to enter Lebanon, he spoke with his subordinates and informed them he will not take part in the mission. By evening he faced a disciplinary procedure and was sent to prison.

Pastar's girlfriend said that Amir believes Israel should not operate inside Lebanon, which is a foreign state. "He thinks it's an act that hurts civilians and jeopardizes civilians on both sides of the border," she explained. She also admitted that the decision not to serve was very difficult and complex in light of the national consensus regarding the war.

"It's not easy refusing to take part in this, especially when you're the first one to do so," she said.

Nitzan also said that while Amir gave a lot of thought to this move, he eventually decided he is willing to go to jail in order to stay true to his principles.

**There are other soldiers like Amir who feel the same as he does but they avoid reserve duty in other, indirect manners, Nitzan stated. Amir refused to do this and be tried for absenteeism, she explained.**

***In a separate incident a disagreement erupted between an officer in the armored corps and his commanders.***

**The officer, who is currently in compulsory duty, received instructions to help repair a stranded tank near the south Lebanese village of Maroun Ras.**

**In view of the fact that the crew of the tank was not inside, the officer was convinced that sending soldiers to fix the tank in daylight would unnecessarily place his men at risk.**

**Eventually, the officer's commanders yielded and the repair was carried out during night hours, without the difference of opinion reaching the level of refusing a military order.**

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# ***VICTORY!***

# **“HOPE TO SEE YOU IN COURT MR BLAIR, YOU AND BUSH LIED”**

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son Gordon was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

From Rose Gentle  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 31, 2006  
Subject: victory

**FAMILIES OF FOUR SOLDIERS KILLIED DURING IRAQ WAR AND  
SUBSEQUENT OCCUPATION HAVE PERSUADED THREE MOST SENIOR  
JUDGES IN COURT OF APPEAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FULL  
HEARING OF THEIR CASE, AT A FULL HEARING IN NOVEMBER.**

**THE COURT WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE LEGALITY OF THE DECISION BY  
THE UK TO INVAD E IRAQ SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF A FULL  
INDEPENDENT AND PUBLIC INQUIRY**

**IF SO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE  
AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ,,THE 3 DEFENDANTS IN THIS CASE  
WOULD HAVE TO GIVE FULL EVIDENCE IN PUBLIC AS TO THE BACK  
GROUND TO RELEVANT DECISIONS.**

**MY SON WAS WHENT TO IRAQ TO FIGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY BUT NOW  
WE ALL KNOW HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SENT THERE,**

**GORDON WAS KILLIED BY A ROADSIDE BOMB IN BASRA HE WAS 19 AND  
KILLIED ONLY 3 WEEKS IN IRAQ, ON THE 28 JUNE O4,**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU IN COURT MR BLAIR, YOU AND BUSH LIED,**

**BRING OUR TROOPS HOME,**

**I HAVE NOT GIVEN UP YET**

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**IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

## **WELCOME TO BAGHDAD: GET THE MESSAGE?**



Iraqis burn the US and Israeli national flags during a demonstration in Baghdad's poor neighborhood of Sadr city. (AFP/Karim Sahib)

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# **“We Declare Our Solidarity With The Lebanese People And Islamic Resistance”**

## **Iraqi Oil Union Statement of Solidarity With Lebanon**

From: Ewa Jasiewicz

Sent: July 31, 2006

Subject: Iraqi Oil Union Statement of Solidarity with Lebanon

**Latest Communique from the General Union of Oil Employees in Basra**  
**[www.basraoilunion.org](http://www.basraoilunion.org)**

We and all peaceful and free people of the world have been following with great attention the American and Zionist aggression against Lebanon for more than two weeks now.

This is despite the sadness and pain that this compounds in our hearts as a result of the total destruction and the killing of innocent people, and the displacement and dispossession that our brothers in Lebanon are exposed to in these days.

**At the same time, we are proud of the wonderful steadfastness and resilience of the Lebanese people and the Islamic resistance confronting the Zionist barbaric aggression, achieving more and more victories against the Zionist occupation forces.**

The most painful to the heart is the degrading positions adopted by Arab countries which have affirmed to all that they are agents of America and Israel.

**This is in contradiction to the Iraqi people who forgot the injuries and killings due to the terrorist operations affecting them in addition to the occupation forces, so much so that they got out into the streets and demonstrated in solidarity with their brothers in Lebanon and collected contributions to support them .**

We in the General Union of Oil Employees painfully follow this brutal aggression.

We announce our protest against these criminal and barbaric actions that Zionist aggression has perpetrated against our brothers in Lebanon and at the same time we appeal to all the honorable and free people of the world to demonstrate and protest about what is happening to Lebanon.

**We also urge our people in Basra to help their brothers in Lebanon and support the brave Islamic resistance there.**

**We denounce the cowardly and degrading positions adopted by some Arab countries and we declare our solidarity with the Lebanese people and Islamic resistance and we are proudly greeting them and God with you.**

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

07/31/06 AFP & BBC NEWS & Reuters & By QAIS AL-BASHIR, Associated Press Writer

Unidentified fighters killed Brigadier Fakhri Jamil of the Iraqi government intelligence service as he drove his private car in the Yarmuk area of western Baghdad, a defence official told AFP Monday.

A car bomb detonated in the Waziriyah area of western Baghdad as a police patrol passed by, wounding a policeman and a civilian bystander, an interior ministry official said. A roadside bomb killed a policeman.

The corpse an employee of the oil ministry was found.

Militants wearing Iraqi police uniforms have captured 25 people in a commercial district in central Baghdad, interior ministry officials said.

They pulled up in 15 vehicles and rounded up staff and customers of a firm on a shopping street in Arasat.

**A security source told KUNA that the gunmen stormed the free trade building in Midtown Baghdad today. The offices belong to the Iraqi-American chamber of commerce. Police say the head of the chamber of commerce and 11 of his employees are among those captured.**

A guard standing across the street said the militants arrived in police cars without number plates.

"They separated the women from the men and took only men," he told the AFP news agency.

Guerrillas killed Maad Jihad, an advisor to the health minister, in the Mansour district of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A bomber detonated a pickup truck near an Iraqi observation post outside the northern city of Mosul, killing four soldiers and wounding six, said an army officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release such information.

A day earlier, guerrillas ordered four policemen and a lawyer out of their car and beheaded them near the northern town of Hawija, 150 miles north of Baghdad.

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

**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**



# “You Have To Remember That By 1971 There Was A General Hatred Of The Military Within The Army Itself”



20-Jul-2006, By Ken Eisner, Vancouver Free Press [Excerpts]

**Fact: Jane Fonda's biggest fans in her antiwar tours were American GIs.**

**Fact: returning soldiers were the vanguard of the out-of-Vietnam movement by the end of the 1960s.**

This is just a smattering of context for Sir! No Sir!, a new documentary that restricts itself to resistance to the Vietnam War within the military.

**The feature, which opens at the Ridge on Friday (July 21), doesn't mention Iraq and doesn't really need to.**

The concept of citizen soldiers invoking their right to remain citizens is crucial to modern democracy, and it's certainly foremost in the thoughts of writer-director David Zeiger, who launched his film after stewing over its subject for more than three decades.

“I avoided doing this movie for as long as I could,” says the filmmaker, on a cellphone call from somewhere near his home in Manhattan. “On a certain level, I never intended to make this thing, because I felt like the time had passed for this story to even be noticed. In the ’90s, when I first started making films, the ’60s had been caricatured thoroughly and people were pretty much Vietnamed out.

“It really was the Iraq war that changed the climate so that this story would be, and had to be, listened to.”

Just because people might be ready to hear it, and the participants would be willing to give their testimony, didn’t mean the thing would tell itself.

“I knew it would be tough to make: expensive, with a lot of obstacles,” Zeiger continues. “This story has been so thoroughly buried, I knew it would take a lot of digging to get it out there. I thought it would be emotionally draining too, and that’s one of the things that scared me off. But what I found as the process went along is that it became much more celebratory.

“This gave a lot of people a chance to tell their stories within a context that would inspire others. The conversations certainly did conjure up painful memories, but overwhelmingly it was a positive experience for everyone involved.”

While struggling to attain conscientious- objector status during the war, Zeiger himself, originally from Los Angeles, washed up in conservative Killeen, Texas. Paradoxically, that military town sported several antiwar hot spots, including the Oleo Strut, a place that figures prominently in the film, which reunites servicemen active in the resistance movement with other figures from the era, including Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland.

Fonda, whose son, Troy Garity, narrates the movie, comes across a bit differently than her critics would have her, especially when you see her performing for thousands of GIs, although her FTA (Fuck the Army) tour is definitely not your Bob Hope USO show.

**“You have to remember that by 1971,” the director explains, “there was a general hatred of the military within the army itself. I mean, ‘FTA’ was a common greeting among soldiers, and that was just accepted as part of the culture of the military—that level of defiance and antiwar sentiment was considered normal.**

**“That year, the Pentagon commissioned a poll of enlisted men and found that more than half of the people in uniform had engaged in some form of protest.”**

Soldiers were not just standing against the immorality and ultimate uselessness of the war but were fighting for recognition of what they had already been through and, worse, been forced to do. Until the early ’70s, there was no medical condition known as posttraumatic stress syndrome.

“The syndrome that Vietnam veterans were struggling with was not just a result of having been in combat,” Zeiger says.

**“It was the kind of combat in which civilians were wantonly killed and all that went with that. It became a political issue to recognize the particular nature of fighting in that kind of war.”**

In Zeiger’s view, what Americans are living through today, with a new citizens’ army bringing soldiers to two or three rotations through the chaos in Iraq, is an extension of what went criminally wrong under Richard Nixon.

“You have to think back to the era of Watergate,” Zeiger concludes, “when every bad intention of a corrupt government began to be thwarted.”

**He points out that Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney were close by Richard Nixon’s side when everything came crashing down. “And they have made it their personal lifetime missions to reverse all that was achieved in that era and to redefine the 1960s on their terms. It’s our job to deny them that dubious victory.”**

Jeff Schutts, A history instructor at Douglas College in New Westminster and Coquitlam, has long been intimately involved with the material tackled in Sir! No Sir!. In fact, when the Georgia Straight catches up with him, he is putting up posters for the film along Commercial Drive. Schutts is part of a panel at the Ridge on opening night, but during the Reagan era, the Illinois-born educator was stationed in Germany as an officer in the U.S. army. He finally mustered out as a conscientious objector and was drawn to academia when he began a serious study of resistance to foreign adventure within the ranks of his native nation’s military.

Earlier this month, Schutts saw the film in Castlegar, as part of the Our Way Home reunion of draft-dodgers and antiwar activists.

**In his view, the growth of an in-house resistance is happening much more quickly in this conflict than during the last one. But it’s early days yet.**

**“We’re still in the personal-conscience stage,” he declares, soon after plunking down his masking tape.**

“We’re at the stage where there are many people who have refused to redeploy and some have, in fact, gone to jail.

“But we’re almost at the point where some soldiers, and even officers, are actively calling for others to do the same.”

He points to the case of 1st Lieut. Ehren Watada, a 28-year-old native of Hawaii who is currently under charges at Fort Lewis, in Washington, where he faces nearly eight years in military prison for refusing to fight in what he calls an illegal war.

“Watada has declared that he is not a pacifist,” Schutts says, “and he would be willing to fight for his country in a real emergency—not one created from whole cloth by Halliburton and its friends in the White House. This is only the beginning, with leaders emerging as role models in a new and widespread resistance movement.”

The local historian estimates that as many as 200 uniformed men and women have fled to Canada since the Iraq adventure began. (More than 50,000 draft-agers came during

Vietnam.) He agrees with Zeiger that the extreme right wing in the U.S. has succeeded in rewriting history where veterans are concerned.

**“You know, the vets had a huge role, perhaps the leading role in ending that conflict.**

“And the vast majority of them went on to contribute to society in meaningful ways. In fact, statistics show that a disproportionate number went into some kind of public service as a way of feeling useful, or to make up for things they felt were wrong. And they still need to be recognized for that.”

**Some recognition comes on August 13 in the form of another gathering of military war resisters at the Peace Arch, as a tie-in with the convention of Veterans for Peace, in Seattle the previous week.**

“There’s a standing agreement,” Schutts acknowledges, “so that people from both sides can meet and have a barbecue without having to worry about being snatched at the border.”

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

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at  
[www.sirnosir.com](http://www.sirnosir.com).**

Also available will be a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film by me about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

**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.**

## **Bosses And Workers**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 31, 2006  
Subject: Bosses And Workers by Dennis Serdel

Written by Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

## **Bosses And Workers**

**Sometimes the Bosses don't get along,  
so one Boss starts to sing,  
something about America,  
something about the brave.  
He throws in a lot about God  
and he throws in even more about hate,  
sometimes the Bosses don't get along  
so one Boss starts to sing.**

**Now, the other Boss asks his Workers,  
do you hear him singing his song?  
you're going to have to defend us,  
hurry, because it won't be long.**

**But the Workers on either side,  
tell their Bosses they won't fight,  
they would rather stand side by side  
with all the Workers world wide.**

**Workers build the machines of war  
that the Workers pay for with taxes.  
Workers or their sons are the ones that die  
while the Bosses grind their axes.**

**Sometimes the Bosses don't get along  
so one Boss starts to sing,  
something about the Resistance,  
something about the brave.  
He throws in a lot about Allah  
and he throws in even more about hate,  
sometimes the Bosses don't get along  
so one Boss starts to sing.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The capitalists like a foreign war so they can  
attack the workers back home while the citizens  
focus on the war.**

**Actually soldiers are workers in uniforms. By  
law the soldiers can not form a union to negotiate  
wages, supplies, healthcare, disability pay, retirement and more.**

**During Vietnam, soldiers made 13 cents an hour,**

but while in Vietnam, they bonded as a union  
and fought the war "their way."

The war profiteers should pay all disability payments.

Big Oil should hire all mercenaries to fight THEIR  
war and quit using our worker soldiers as cheap  
labor.

Endless Peace, Dennis Serdel

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## **“From This Tap There Flows Blood”**

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

[Zope.gush-shalom.org](http://Zope.gush-shalom.org) [Israel]

\*\*\*\*\*

"Condoleezza gives us  
All the time we need  
To continue the war."

"Condoleezza will stop  
The war  
In a week."

Condoleezza and her boss  
Open and close  
The tap -  
According to their  
Own interests,  
Of course.

From this tap  
There flows  
Blood.

*Ad published in Haaretz [Israel], July 31, 2006*

\*\*\*\*\*

"We warned them  
And called on them

**To escape!"**

**That is disgusting  
Hypocrisy.**

**Because we have:  
Bombed the roads.  
Destroyed the bridges.  
Cut off the supply of gasoline.  
Killed whole families on the way.**

**There is only one way  
Of preventing more such disasters,  
Which turn us into monsters:  
T O S T O P!**

**There is no military solution!**

*Ad published in Haaretz [Israel], August 1, 2006*

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## **“And The World Wonders How ‘Terrorists’ Are Created!”**

July 30, 2006 Riverbend, Baghdad burning [Excerpts]

**And the world wonders how 'terrorists' are created!**

**A 15-year-old Lebanese girl lost five of her siblings and her parents and home in the Qana bombing.**

**Ehud Olmert might as well kill her now because if he thinks she's going to grow up with anything but hate in her heart towards him and everything he represents, then he's delusional.**

**Is this whole debacle the fine line between terrorism and protecting ones nation?**

**If it's a militia, insurgent or military resistance- then it's terrorism (unless of course the militia, insurgent(s) and/or resistance are being funded exclusively by the CIA).**

**If it's the Israeli, American or British army, then it's a pre-emptive strike, or a 'war on terror'.**

**No matter the loss of hundreds of innocent lives.**

**No matter the children who died last night- they're only Arabs, after all, right?**

Right?

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.



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### **Civilian Contractors Quit Serving Marines In Fallujah**

31 Jul 2006 Grainger 1st Sgt Ben A, Fallujah Courant [Excerpt]

Anyways our civilian contractors who pump out our water, trash, and port-a-johns quit so that has put a dampener on things out here.

It would be different if we lived out in the woods were you could just go behind a tree and take care of business. Even last time we just went out in the desert and dug a hole. Those ideas don't work to well in the city though. So we go to the bathroom in bags now and haul them out to a dump out of the city. Got to love it.

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**Notes From A Lost War:**

**Ramadi:**



# “‘The Government Center Is Nearly Devoid Of Governance,’ Said The Top Marine”

July 31, 2006 By ANTONIO CASTANEDA, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

RAMADI, Iraq: Peering over piles of sandbags, U.S. Marines sometimes see more gunmen on the streets than municipal employees coming to work. The provincial governor regularly arrives at his office with armed guards in tow. But young Marines notice few others on his staff trail behind.

After three years of war in Ramadi, the U.S. military has yet to move from combat to stabilization operations in most of this city of 400,000 people and capital of Sunni-dominated Anbar province.

Here full-fledged combat still rages. Efforts to build a local government have faltered.

As a result, residents are afraid of even walking near the offices of the Anbar provincial government, which is supposed to administer an area the size of North Carolina with about one million inhabitants.

A 500-meter around the provincial government complex is abandoned.

"There's been a concerted campaign against government officials that's had some great success ... the government center is nearly devoid of governance," said the top Marine intelligence officer for the 3rd Battalion, 8th Regiment, who asked not to be identified because of security policies for intelligence officers.

**Earlier this year policemen were stationed in a rebuilt station within the compound -- but daily attacks scared them away. Now the police station with fresh paint is empty, surrounded by police cars with tires flattened by mortar shrapnel. Iraqi soldiers were also relocated to safer parts of the city, leaving the government's defense again in the hands of Marines.**

"The only way this thing is going to get normal is if Iraqis stand up for themselves," said Sgt. John Strobridge, 21, of Orlando, Fla., as he walked through the empty police station. Pointing to the damaged police vehicles, he observed, "As you can see, they didn't last long."

In recent weeks the U.S. military has tried to wedge away neighborhoods from insurgent control, building new outposts deeper into the city to extend the reach of its patrols. Marines are also trying to expand the so-called "Green Zone" of the city, a calmer western neighborhood of about 25,000 people near a cluster of U.S. bases.

But in the heart of the city, the war continues unabated.

So far the insurgency has shown few signs of backing off its mission of destroying anything that cooperates with the U.S. military.

**NOTE: An earlier version of this story included a reference to the Iraqi provincial government being run by officials "handpicked by Americans or U.S.-chosen councils." These positions were chosen during a 2005 election, although there were only 4,000 voters. [Gee, now who do you suppose could have twisted the reporters neck to make him come up with this piece of bullshit?]**

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON**

# ***Mass Murderers At Work: The Racist, Terrorist Theocracy Of Israel***



A man screams for help as he carries the body of a dead girl after Israeli air attacks on civilians in the southern Lebanese village of Qana. At least 36 children were killed when Israeli war planes blitzed a village in south Lebanon. (AFP/Nicolas Asfour)

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# Twisted Zionist Freaks Call More Bombing A Halt In Bombing

31 July 2006 The Associated Press

Jerusalem:

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes in southern Lebanon on Monday, hours after agreeing to temporarily halt raids while investigating a bombing that killed nearly 60 Lebanese civilians, mostly women and children seeking shelter.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed to a 48-hour halt in the airstrikes beginning at 2 a.m. Monday while the military concludes its inquiry into the attack on the south Lebanese village of Qana.

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## The “Ethnic Cleansing” Of South Lebanon; [That’s Nothing But A Pretty Term For Genocide]

Jul 30, 2006 by Juan Cole, Juancole.com [Excerpt]

**The Israelis appear to be engaged in a concerted campaign of ethnic cleansing in the Shiite towns and villages of southern Lebanon, and are indiscriminately bombing all buildings in the area south of the Litani River.**

**They have chased hundreds of thousands of residents out, and are destroying the property they left behind in a systematic way, rather as they destroy the houses belonging to the family members related to suicide bombers.**

**In other words, the Israelis are engaged in collective punishment on a vast scale.**

They maintain that rocket launching sites are embedded in these villages. But since Hizbullah keeps firing large numbers of rockets, it does not actually appear to be the case that the Israelis are hitting the rocket launchers.

**They are demonstrably hitting civilian houses and apartment buildings in a methodical way.**

There is no independent evidence that this civilian building in Qana was used for any military purpose.

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora has called for an international investigation and an immediate ceasefire, and he summarily sent Condi Rice away until she brings such a proposal.



Imitation Is The Sincerest Form Of Flattery [<http://www.holocaust-history.org>]

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[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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**THIS IS DEDICATED TO NEO-NAZI  
SWINE WHO WOULD HAVE YOU THINK  
ALL JEWS ARE ZIONIST MASS**

# MURDERERS, AND TO ZIONIST SWINE WHO DENY ISRAEL IS A TERRORIST STATE INTENT ON MASS MURDER



**London Demonstration Against The War On Lebanon**

[Thanks to William Bowles, who sent this in. Check out his fine commentaries at:  
<http://www.williambowles.info/> ]

**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.**

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