

## GI SPECIAL 4110:

# BUSH CONDOMS



**FOR THE DUMB FUCKER WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO PULL OUT**

[Thanks to Frank M, who sent this in.]

# “I Spent A Year In Combat With The 5th SFG And Am Outraged”

From: K  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 08, 2006  
Subject: Your Postings

Came across your postings/website - just wanted to say glad to see another ex-military with a brain.

I spent a year in combat with the 5th SFG and am outraged by the phony war(s) on terrorism which has nothing to do with freedom and democracy (which has never existed anywhere but on a pirate ship, anyway) and everything to do with stealing oil, positioning American and British Storm troopers so more oil can be stolen and the finishing of the bankruptcy of America and thus the middle-class.

Keep up the good work.....

*On a different note, I stumbled across the 'Lethal Weapon' movie one night and for the life of me cannot recall which Special Forces unit had the tattoo Mel Gibson is sporting.*

Any ideas???????

Thanks

K

**REPLY:**

Thanks for your letter. The closest I ever got to combat was Airforce ROTC, but your letter will get passed along to the many honorable people that contribute to making GI Special happen, which includes Iraq and other veterans and military family members, and persons now serving.

Any wisdom is to their credit.

Re your question about 'Lethal Weapon": We don't post ID or email addresses, unless writers make a specific request to do so, because most readers, including those serving in Iraq, do not love Bush, or the war, and the chain of command has been known to come down on critics, including fucking with their families. Any replies will be forwarded on to you.

This publication is not opposed to people in military service. The view shared is that the politicians are the enemy domestic and have betrayed the troops. We need our troops on our side to protect us from those now in command. Payback is overdue.

If anybody has the answer to the question about Lethal Weapon, please send it in.

Respect for your service.

T

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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**

# “Third British Soldier Killed From One Unit In Iraq In Just Four Days”

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

Sep 9 2006 ITV Network

The third British soldier killed from one unit in Iraq in just four days is being honoured.

Gunner Lee Thornton had enlisted in 2000 aged just 16

Tributes are being paid to Gunner Lee Thornton who died from injuries he received from a single gunshot wound while patrolling north of Basra.

The Ministry of Defence said his patrol came under fire near a building used to plan reconstruction in the town of Al Qurna.

The 22 year old from Blackpool, of the 58 (Eyre's) Battery, 12th Regiment Royal Artillery, was flown to Germany for treatment, but died despite medical intervention.

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## Three U.S. Troops Wounded In Baghdad



A U.S. armoured vehicle after a car bomb attack targeting a U.S. patrol in Baghdad, September 9, 2006. The attack killed a civilian, and wounded three U.S. soldiers and four other residents in eastern Baghdad. REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen (IRAQ)

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**Notes From A Lost War:**

# **Anbar Troop Strength Cut For Baghdad: U.S. Officers Concerned Everything Their Troops Sacrificed To Achieve Is At Risk; U.S. Forces Powerless To Prevent Insurgent Operations**

**Anbar has always been an “economy of force” theater for U.S. commanders, meaning they have never had as many troops as needed to control the province and defeat the insurgents.**

August 28, 2006 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

AWAH and BAGHDAD, Iraq

**The call to reinforce Baghdad with U.S. forces originally destined for Anbar province may be essential to restore order in the Iraqi capital, but it risks sacrificing gains paid for with American blood in the western province.**

With sectarian violence spiraling out of control in Baghdad, Multi-National Forces-Iraq announced July 29 it was moving 3,700 troops from other locations in Iraq to reinforce units already in the capital.

Most came from 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which was due to return to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in August, but instead had its deployment stretched by up to 120 days.

But at least one extra battalion-size unit sent to Baghdad was originally slated for Anbar, which stretches from Baghdad’s western suburbs away to the Syrian and Jordanian borders and forms the heart of Iraq’s Sunni insurgency.

**Anbar has always been an “economy of force” theater for U.S. commanders, meaning they have never had as many troops as needed to control the province and defeat the insurgents.**

According to some officers, the only reasons senior leaders paid Anbar any attention was the presence there of al-Qaida in Iraq’s foreign jihadists. “If there were no foreign fighters, I don’t think anyone in Baghdad would give a flying frog about Anbar,” said Marine Lt. Col. Ron Gridley, executive officer for Regimental Combat Team 7, which is in charge of a swath of central and western Anbar.

**Despite limited forces, U.S. commanders felt they were making progress in the province. But the recent repositioning has left even fewer American troops there to hold down the fort while all eyes turn to Baghdad.**

**With Iraqi forces nowhere near ready to take the lead, U.S. officers are concerned that everything their troops sacrificed to achieve is at risk.**

Nowhere is this more so than Area of Operations Saber, a slab of northern Anbar that straddles the Euphrates and includes the towns of Rawah and Anah.

From August 2005 to July 2006, the only U.S. force stationed in AO Saber, which is in RCT 7's battle space, was a task force organized around 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, from the 172nd Stryker BCT.

**At 11,200 square miles, it was "the biggest AO for a battalion-size element" in western Iraq, said Capt. (P) Tom Hart, 4-14's fire support officer. Task Force 4-14 had fewer than 500 troops to control this vast area.**

"We're an economy of force mission," TF 4-14 commander Lt. Col. Mark Freitag said in a July interview. "If I had 800 soldiers that I could use in the battle space, maybe (I could have) forward presence all over the battle space."

**The situation is much the same in the rest of RCT 7's area. "We don't really have the forces" to occupy the central part of Anbar, Gridley said in a July 13 interview, two weeks before the order came down to strip forces from RCT 7 to reinforce Baghdad.**

**"The area is too large to occupy space," he said.**

**U.S. forces thus are sometimes powerless to prevent insurgent operations.**

Gridley pointed on a map to a highway that ran parallel to the southern edge of RCT 7's area of operations, where enemy activity was suspected around the gas stations.

**"We're concerned there's bad stuff going on there, but we can't provide a force to provide security there 100 percent of the time," he said.**

When TF 4-14 arrived in AO Saber in August 2005 and set up headquarters just outside Rawah, they faced a daunting challenge. Rawah and Anah, whose citizens were almost all Sunni, were fertile breeding grounds for the Sunni-based insurgency. By mid-2005, both towns were in the grip of an al-Qaida in Iraq subsidiary called Jama'at al Tawid al Jihad, or Group for Monetheism and Jihad, staffed mainly by local Sunni insurgents.

**TF 4-14's officers estimated that 98 percent of the locals gave passive support to the insurgents, meaning that they were reluctant to work with coalition forces, or even provide them information.**

"Passive resistance is just as damaging as active resistance sometimes, because you'll shake my hand, but you won't tell me there's someone putting an IED down the road,"

Hart said. If someone engages in “active resistance,” — actually emplacing the IED, say — “you can kill that guy,” he said.

To make things even harder for Freitag and his troops, both towns were relatively affluent, with good roads and functioning schools and sewage and water systems. Unlike Baghdad, power cuts were rare. There were few major civil-military projects that TF 4-14 could propose that might curry enough favor with the locals to make them turn against the insurgents.

But TF 4-14 forged ahead using tried-and-true counterinsurgency methods — establishing a locally-recruited police force, which became a source of excellent human intelligence, and using TF 4-14’s two tactical human intelligence teams to recruit sources and informants, which helped build a more complete and nuanced picture of the insurgency and the official and unofficial power structures in the region.

The task force’s intelligence shop then fused the human intelligence with other intel, which allowed troops to carry out precisely targeted raids to nab insurgents. These successes had the twin effects of not alienating innocent locals by having foreign soldiers barging into their homes, and boosting the population’s confidence in the capabilities of TF 4-14 and Iraqi security forces.

By July, TF 4-14’s one-year deployment was over. It was due to be replaced by 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, a Stryker outfit from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and identical to 4-14.

Task Force 1-14 had been preparing for the mission for several months. Its commander, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Peterson, had visited Rawah in March on a “pre-deployment site survey,” and Freitag’s intelligence and operations officers sent weekly reports back to 1-14’s home post at Fort Lewis, Wash., keeping their presumed replacements updated on events in AO Saber.

With Freitag scheduled to hand the reins to Peterson July 28, the 1-14 commander and his advance party arrived in Rawah July 14, giving them two weeks to get up to speed and get running.

**But in a move that stunned leaders of each squadron, they were ordered to Baghdad a few days later as part of the reinforcement of the Iraqi capital. For 4-14, it meant a four-month extension of their deployment.**

**For 1-14, it meant the effort they put into learning the complexities of AO Saber was wasted.**

To plug the gap in AO Saber, Multi-National Forces-Iraq sent a headquarters element and a company from the Marines’ 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force out of Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The move put 3rd LAR, which had been at Rutbah, in western Anbar, at a disadvantage.

**Unlike 1-14, the Marines had no chance to do homework on Rawah and Anah. Successful counterinsurgency demands thorough understanding of local personalities and the complex interlocking networks of tribe, family, clan, religion,**

**business and politics. But 3rd LAR's command group arrived in Rawah with almost no knowledge of their newly assigned area of operations.**

**Lt. Col. Matt Jones, the battalion commander, had about 10 days to prepare for an extremely challenging mission. Even had he been given all the time he needed to prepare, the small force he arrived with meant Jones had only a skeleton headquarters and about 40 percent of the combat power available to Freitag or Peterson, the 4-14 commander said.**

**In other words, Jones had less than one Marine for every 100 square kilometers of his battle space. That left 3rd LAR unable to match 4-14th's operational tempo, according to Freitag.**

Jones was also missing critical "enablers" available to both 4-14 and 1-14, which had proven vital in the counterinsurgency fight in AO Saber. "We had the humint teams that were more robust than what 3rd LAR was able to come with," Freitag said. "We had an interrogation team that they were unable to replicate."

**Another "huge difference" between the cavalry squadrons and 3rd LAR was the engineer platoon that the former had, which was equipped with Buffalo and Husky counter-IED vehicles, according to Freitag.**

**The Marine battalion had already been in Iraq for several months, and several 4-14 officers felt their attitude upon arrival in Rawah was dismissive of the challenges posed by the insurgency there and of TF 4-14's efforts to bring them up to speed.**

**But Jones and his men were to face a steep learning curve. The day after they took charge, a suicide truck bomb killed four Marines at a checkpoint. In late July a member of the Anah town council was assassinated. The insurgents began planting roadside bombs along routes TF 4-14 had kept clear for months.**

**Jones got another company, giving him about 80 percent of the combat power that Freitag had, but on Aug. 20, an IED blew up a 3rd LAR Light Armored Vehicle, killing another two Marines and a Navy corpsman. Jones' force has lost at least eight personnel in less than a month on the ground in AO Saber, despite not having the forces to conduct as many operations as TF 4-14.**

**That is the same number of troops killed in action as TF 4-14 sustained over the course of the previous year.**

**That a reduction in force in AO Saber was followed by a rise in insurgent violence should not have come as a surprise.**

The same dynamic had occurred less than a year previously, in November, when most of TF 4-14 departed Rawah for three weeks to northwestern Anbar to support RCT 7's Operation Steel Curtain, leaving only a platoon in Rawah.

**While the operation succeeded in reducing insurgent violence in Qaim and other towns close to the Syrian border, this was partly because insurgents took**

advantage of the vacuum left in towns like Rawah, Anah and Ramadi and moved there instead, according to TF 4-14 officers.

Roadside bomb attacks in AO Saber climbed from 54 in October to 92 in November. This reflected what many have come to call the “whack-a-mole” effect, in which moving forces to one part of Iraq just leaves a vacuum for insurgents to fill. Gridley compared the approach to squeezing a balloon.

“These guys went elsewhere,” he said. The U.S. military does not have enough forces in Iraq to conduct operations like Steel Curtain everywhere at once, Hart said. Just filling the gap left by 1-14 in AO Saber with Jones’ force meant “you’re accepting risk somewhere else” — such as the parts of Anbar that Jones’ companies had been covering previously, Freitag said.

Few are willing to say so publicly, but TF 4-14’s soldiers worry that the gains they made in Rawah and Anah over the past year, bought with the lives of eight of their comrades, have been put at risk by the decision to use TF 1-14 to reinforce Baghdad.

“A lot of people felt like they worked hard over the past year for something and now it was not receiving the same attention that they were able to give it,” Freitag acknowledged.

Spokesmen for MNF-I did not respond to e-mailed questions about the rationale for pulling forces from Anbar to reinforce Baghdad, rather than deploying more troops into Iraq to buttress the coalition effort in the capital.

**But there is little doubt among officers familiar with Anbar that the strategy has left the violent province vulnerable.**

**But no one is declaring defeat. “I don’t intend to give up this AO without a fight,” RCT 7 leader Col. W. Blake Crowe told the RCT 7 and TF 4-14 staffs July 31 at his headquarters in Al Asad Air Base, alluding to the possibility that he might lose another battalion to the fight in Baghdad.**

It is cold comfort for the U.S. officers in Anbar trying to achieve victory with fewer troops, but their situation is almost a counterinsurgency cliché.

In “Counterinsurgency Warfare; Theory and Practice,” a slim 1964 volume by French writer David Galula that is now required reading at the Army’s Command and General Staff College, the author states:

**“The junior officer in the field who, after weeks and months of endless tracking, has at last destroyed the dozen guerrillas opposing him, only to see them replaced by a fresh dozen ... the general who has ‘cleared’ Sector A but screams because ‘they’ want to take away two battalions for sector B ... these are typical illustrations of the plight of the counterrevolutionary.”**

**As Galula’s countrymen say, plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose.**

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**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO  
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS  
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS  
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A CROOKED FUCK  
WHO LIVES IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS  
YOU THERE, SO HE WILL LOOK GOOD.  
That is not a good enough reason.**



A U.S. soldier during a firefight with insurgents in Iraq, August 20, 2006. (U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Keith W. DeVinney/Handout/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed; Nationality Not Announced**

09/09/2006 Thomas Crosbie Media

One NATO soldier has been killed during fierce fighting in southern Afghanistan, the alliance said today.

The soldier's nationality was not released but Canadian forces are leading the Panjwayi push and have had at least five soldiers killed since the operation began.

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## **Another General Howls For Help; Also Enters Contest For Stupidest Liar Of 2006**

9.8.06 AP

"The fighting is extraordinarily intense. The intensity and ferocity of the fighting is far greater than in Iraq on a daily basis," Brig. Ed Butler, the commander of British Forces in Afghanistan, told British ITV news.

He echoed NATO commander Gen. James L. Jones' call Thursday for more troops. Jones, who said the next few weeks would be decisive in the fight against militants, was expected to press officials from the 26 NATO member states for more soldiers and air support at talks in Poland this weekend.

**Butler said more soldiers would allow operations to be carried out faster. "It will continue to be tough and we will continue to take more casualties, but morale is extraordinarily high," he said.**

**[Who on earth or in heaven does he think he fools with this raving horseshit? The troops know their morale is in the toilet. The resistance is destroying them. Their officers anonymously tell the press they're exhausted, can't function, have lousy support and inferior equipment, and have had quite enough, thank you very much. Let this asshole General spend a week or two on the front lines in Helmand and see what he has to say about morale then. This assumes he comes back alive, but there are risks for a babbling general; a bullet in the brain, accidentally, for instance, is not unknown on a battlefield where demoralized troops find a babbling, lying general throwing their lives away for nothing discernable.]**

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## **Close Runner Up For Stupid Liar Of 2006, So Far: Major Scott Lundy**

9.8.06 AP

NATO forces launched airstrikes and artillery and mortar barrages on Taliban positions in Kandahar's Panjwayi district overnight, inflicting an unspecified number of Taliban casualties, said Maj. Scott Lundy, a NATO spokesman. No NATO or Afghan forces were hurt.

[Perhaps this silly man would care to explain how, if his troops did not advance to the enemy position, but, instead, launched long distance explosives, how he knows there were any casualties at all, and explain how, if he knows there were casualties, why he is unable to say, "Two or more," or "Three or more"? No, the truth is not in lair Lundy. He has no clue if the barrage hit rocks, trees, goats, sheep or his opponents, and so a silly stupid man tells the silly stupid lie.]

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## **Resistance Controls Southern Half Of Afghanistan: “Their Frontline Is Advancing Daily”**

Sep 5 Sanjay Suri, (IPS) [Excerpts]

**The Taliban have regained control over the southern half of Afghanistan and their frontline is advancing daily, a group closely monitoring the Afghan situation said in a report Tuesday.**

**"The Taliban frontline now cuts halfway through the country, encompassing all of the southern provinces," the Senlis Council report says. The Senlis Council is an international policy think tank with offices in Kabul, London, Paris and Brussels.**

The report from Senlis, which has reported extensively on Afghanistan over recent years, says also that "a humanitarian crisis of starvation and poverty has gripped the south of the country."

**"The subsequent rising levels of extreme poverty have created increasing support for the Taliban, who have responded to the needs of the local population," the report says.**

**"There are around Kandahar now camps with people starving, kids dying almost every day, and this is obviously used by the Taliban to regain the confidence of the people, and to regain control of the country."**

The poppy eradication programme has been a disaster, he said. "It is a direct attack on the livelihood of the farmers, so there is a clear connection between the eradication and this humanitarian crisis.

**"All this is being used by the Taliban to say that when we were there we were maybe hard and cruel, but you could feed the family, now look what's going on. They are more and more providing support, social services to the local population."**

Consequently the international community has lost the battle for the hearts and mind of the Afghan people, the report says..

These camps also accommodate families who have left their home due to violence and fighting, the report says. Some are there because their homes have been destroyed by coalition forces' interventions in the 'war on terror' and the current heightened counter-insurgency operations, the report says.

**"Right from 2001, the U.S.-led international community's priorities for Afghanistan were not in line with those of the Afghan population," said Reinert. "It is a classic military error: they did not properly identify the enemy."**

The large numbers of civilian casualties and deaths have also fuelled resentment and mistrust of the international military presence, the report says. There were 104 civilian casualties in Afghanistan in the month of July alone.

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

9.6.06 AP & 9.8.06 AP & 9.9.06 MUNIR AHMAD, The Canadian Press

Wednesday, a bomber blew himself up alongside a car in eastern Afghanistan, killing two passengers and wounding the driver, police said.

The bomber, who was on foot, struck in the Khost province town of Yaqubi. A teacher and a government employee who were inside the vehicle were killed, provincial police chief Mohammed Ayub said.

About 70 Taliban fighters fired rockets at a district government headquarters in the central province of Wardak early Friday before police repelled them, said provincial police chief Mahboobullah Amiri.

A roadside bomb killed two police and wounded four in neighbouring Paktika province late Wednesday, said Sayed Jamal, spokesman for the provincial governor.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **A Father Recounting A Fallen Marine's Last Days**

September 5, 2006 By JOHN FENTON, OPINION, The RECORD [New Jersey]

**[Thanks to Vietnam Veterans Mike Hastie and Dennis Serdel, who sent this in.]**

**[Mike Hastie writes: A friend sent this to me today. This should be made into a pamphlet, so the American people can read it at the dinner table. There are bodies everywhere, and the American people just keep stepping over them. That is the nature of denial, when people pretend to be alive.]**

**[Dennis Serdel writes: This letter brings the war home; sometimes it is better to die than live horribly wounded.]**

John Fenton lives in Little Ferry, NJ.

His son, Matthew died from wounds suffered in the illegal and immoral war and occupation of Iraq. John is a member of MFSO and is now a regular participant in the Wednesday Bring the Troops Home NOW vigil in Teaneck, NJ. We plead with you to forward his letter to friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, people in your religious or community organizations, press, your elected officials - Anyone you can think of. This letter will and must make a difference. Dave Stratman, [newdemocracyworld.org](http://newdemocracyworld.org)

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**In the four months since the death of my son, Sgt. Matthew J. Fenton, from injuries suffered in Iraq, I have stated many times the horror of what I saw in the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.**

**I believe that the time has arrived to tell the whole story of his death and the carnage that was inflicted on some of his fellow Marines.**

**I do not find this easy to do, but as the death toll and injured number continues to climb, I cannot sit silently.**

On April 26, Matthew, 24, was the gunner on a Humvee protecting a Marine convoy on the outskirts of Fallujah. A suicide car bomber attempted to ram his Humvee, and he got off a few shots at the vehicle. From what I have been told it is common practice for these bombers to detonate their bomb if they come under fire. Matthew was the only Marine injured in the attack. Later that same day I received a phone call telling me that Matt was seriously wounded and that it was a head injury.

The next day we were informed that Matt had been flown to Germany. Matt's mother, Diane, and I prepared to go to Germany. But in the middle of trying to get a flight, we received another call saying that he had stabilized and they were going to fly him to the United States. We were all lifted by this seemingly good news.

Diane and I flew to Washington the next day and were met by a uniformed Marine and driven to Bethesda.

**What awaited us there is still shocking to me now. We met with two doctors who laid everything out for us. Matthew's injury was a devastating one. Shrapnel had entered his head just above his left eye and traveled diagonally through his brain and exited the right rear.**

**Surgeons in Baghdad had removed two plates from his skull to help relieve the pressure from the swelling of his brain. The frontal lobe was destroyed, so they had removed it. It was explained that the frontal lobe is the center of personality and the place where someone is aware of themselves. The Matthew that we knew and loved was gone and would never come back.**

As we struggled with that staggering news there was more to come. The shrapnel had done severe damage to both sides of Matt's brain because of the angle that it traveled through. The brain can figure a way to control functions when one side is damaged, like in a stroke. But this was devastating news.

The doctors told us that if this had happened in Vietnam, there would have been no surgery. If this happened in front of the best hospital in New York City, there would have been no surgery. His chances of ever having meaningful movement were less than slim.

Why, we asked was the surgery done in Baghdad? The answer, surgeons do whatever they can to keep a soldier alive. They do not decide life or death.

We were then led down a long hospital corridor toward my son's room. This is the moment that I will never forget until the day I die. Just outside his room we were instructed that we had to don gowns, masks and gloves every time we entered the room. This was to prevent us from picking up bacteria that Matt may have brought back from Iraq and spreading it to other patients in the ward.

My shock was doubled upon seeing Matthew. He was unrecognizable.

His head was completely swollen, like some cartoon character. There were maybe hundreds of metal staples in his head. There were of course tubes coming and going everywhere. There were drains running from the site of the surgery. And there was the ventilator. I immediately snapped at the doctors. Somewhere along the line I had been informed that Matt was breathing on his own. Nine years ago I watched my father die after having lung cancer surgery. He never got off of the ventilator, and I flashed back to that time.

Matthew was able to breathe on his own, the doctors explained. The ventilator was only assisting. His heart and lungs were perfect. There had been no damage to his brain stem, which controls involuntary actions like breathing and the heart beating. So there we were looking at our son, not recognizing him, not a scratch on him below his eyes. But his face and head mangled and inflated. This must be a nightmare, one that we will never wake up from.

**For days we made that walk down that long hallway. It took some time but I finally was able to look at some of the other Marines on the ward with Matthew. I wish to this moment that I hadn't. Kids with horrible injuries.**

One had been in the ward for 11 months, after seven different brain surgeries. His wife refused to let him go. She was praying for a miracle. He had parts of his skull removed also, but all the swelling was gone now and his head had sunken in where they had been removed. He did not move at all.

Across the ward another Marine was in his third month, and his head was all sunken in. This is what lay ahead for Matthew also.

Also across the ward was another Marine who was there only a few days before Matt. He was lucky, damage to only one side of his brain. I became friendly with his father, Jim, from Tennessee. One day there was an uproar from his son's room and I looked over and made eye contact with Jim. Maybe an hour later we met in the hallway and he apologized to me. His son had opened his eyes for the first time and his family just responded. There was no need for an apology as I would have jumped for joy if Matthew were to open his eyes.

All that was left was to decide when the life support would be removed. That final decision rested in the hands of his mother. There was no disagreement on what course to follow, just when.

On May 3, the Marine Corps commandant presented Matthew with his Purple Heart. On May 4, I noticed that the swelling of Matthew's head was going down. By the end of the day the indentations where pieces of his skull were missing were becoming noticeable. The next morning I was dreading what he might be looking like. And, yes, there was his head becoming very odd shaped.

I prayed that Diane would find the strength to let her son go today. I did not want to see him decline another day. Another day of watching his head sink into his skull. And neither did she.

Sometime around noon on May 5, Matthew was moved from the ward to a private room. Behind some curtains they removed the ventilator and most of the tubes. He was kept on the morphine, and we were assured he would not feel any pain. Now he was breathing all on his own. Diane got into the hospital bed with her son, and I held his hand and we all waited and watched for Matthew to pass.

But he would not go easily.

After three hours of labored breathing, I asked the nurse if there was anything that she could do. No. I asked God to take him now. No. His mother told him to go. I asked him to go. Go to some peace. A half-hour later, he finally took his last breath.

**This is the real story of the war in Iraq. We all know the numbers, and we all know the reasons that are claimed that we have to be there. But this is the reality: young, brave, patriotic men losing their lives for a cause that keeps shifting.**

**Every politician who supports the war should go to Bethesda or Walter Reed and see just what their support is costing in human life and suffering.**

**And to everyone who opposes the war, don't just sit back any longer.**

**Someday you may be touched personally by some tragedy from this disastrous war, and it will be too late, like it is for me.**

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



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

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## **3000 From 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

September 8, 2006 By ANGELA K. BROWN, Associated Press

FORT HOOD: In the past year, U.S. Army helicopter pilots have rescued patients from damaged hospitals, delivered food to hundreds of starving people and dropped off medical and building supplies in remote regions.

Now they're going to Iraq.

On Thursday, troops who responded to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as the Pakistan earthquake, and others attended an official send-off ceremony before the 3,000-member 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade deploys during the next two months.

The brigade's 2-227th Aviation Battalion at the Central Texas Army post was summoned because it has UH60 Blackhawk helicopters, which can carry troops and supplies, and CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopters. The brigade's other battalions fly Apaches, which are used in battles.

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# Four Iraq War Vets Arrested At Pentagon

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

Campdemocracy.org/

**Four veterans of the current war in Iraq and one supporter (a total of five young men) were detained at the Pentagon today after they attended an open house and left behind flyers providing information about the lethal effects of depleted uranium.**

The five (if released) and leaders of Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Veterans for Peace will hold a press conference at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Sunday, September 10, at Camp Democracy, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., near Fourth Street.  
Contact: David Swanson 202-329-7847

**The veterans observed literature available in the Pentagon's chapel, which is at the site of the 9-11 plane crash. This literature, produced at tax-payer expense, included copies of the New Testament in camouflage covers.**

**They left behind flyers explaining the effects of depleted uranium. Some of the vets detained currently suffer from depleted uranium poisoning.\***

The four vets are Steve Mortillo of Pennington, N.J.; Joe Hatcher of San Diego, Calif.; Geoff Millard of Buffalo, N.Y.; and Toby Hartbarger of Indiana. Also detained was Gregory "Tristan" Watson of Chicago, Ill.\*

Retired Col. Ann Wright said, "Iraq vets who have suffered the effects of depleted uranium have every right to educate others about the terrible effects of this illegal substance used in weapons produced by the United States government."



[www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net)

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**NUMBER THE DEAD  
VIGIL & DEMONSTRATION;**

# NYC 9.17.06

From: Sally B Davidson, Military Families Speak Out, New York  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 08, 2006  
Subject: Number the Dead - Sept. 17th

**Please publish in GI Soldier. Military Families Speak Out NY has joined as an endorser. (In addition to the fallen US service men and women, each block between 80th & 8th Streets will have a remembrance of 1,000 slain Iraqis). Many thanks.**

\*\*\*\*\*

On Sunday September 17th there will be 2700 concerned persons lining the east sidewalk of 5th Avenue from 8th Street to 98th Street in NYC. The number corresponds to the number of US soldiers that have died in Iraq.

Each person will hold a poster board with the name, age and hometown of every fallen US soldier. In addition, each block will have a poster marking the number of Iraqis who have been killed.

Each block will represent 1000 Iraqis.

From 10-11a.m. we will stand together in a silent vigil and demonstration, called NUMBER THE DEAD.

**For more information, please visit our website: [www.numberthedead.com](http://www.numberthedead.com)**

## **IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE**

**If you want to be part of the line on September 17th, you MUST send us an e-mail at: [numberthedead@mac.com](mailto:numberthedead@mac.com)**

**You must sign up to line up! We need a count to make sure that we have enough volunteers to represent the 2700 soldiers. In your email, please provide a contact number. Once you have signed up, you will receive more details about the event.**

**Please support the cause of remembering and honoring the US soldiers and Iraqis whom we have lost in this war. This project will only be successful if we have every soldier represented. It's time we take a stand and illustrate what the number 2600+ looks like alive.**

Hope to see you on the line.

Annie Lennon Carroll  
646-246-1219  
[numberthedead@mac.com](mailto:numberthedead@mac.com)

# Generals Defy Bush On Terrorism Trials

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

**"I'm not aware of any situation in the world where there is a system of jurisprudence that is recognized by civilized people where an individual can be tried and convicted without seeing the evidence against him," said Brig. Gen. James Walker, U.S. Marine Corps staff judge advocate. "I don't think the United States needs to become the first in that scenario," he said.**

Sep 7 By Kristin Roberts, Reuters

**The U.S. military's top legal officers on Thursday criticized a White House plan for military tribunals to try foreign terrorism suspects because it would allow convictions based on evidence never seen by the defendants.**

**The military judge advocates general, senior legal advisers to their branches of the armed forces, told Congress the plan failed to give suspects enough legal rights because it restricted their access to evidence.**

The right to a full and fair hearing requires the accused have access to the evidence used to convict them, even if it is classified information, the military advisors told the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

**"I'm not aware of any situation in the world where there is a system of jurisprudence that is recognized by civilized people where an individual can be tried and convicted without seeing the evidence against him," said Brig. Gen. James Walker, U.S. Marine Corps staff judge advocate.**

**"I don't think the United States needs to become the first in that scenario," he said.**

U.S. military lawyers in recent years have resisted several steps taken by civilian leaders of the Bush administration related to detainees, including interrogation tactics and trial rules.

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### Assorted Resistance Action



A blanket covers the body of Abdul-Kareem al-Rubaie, an employee at the state-funded PRO pro-occupation al-Sabah newspaper, after he was shot dead inside his car in Baghdad September 9, 2006. REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen (IRAQ)

07 Sep 2006 Reuters & 9.8.06 By QAIS AL-BASHIR, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & September 9, 2006 By QASSID JABAR (AP) & Reuters & (AFP) & (KUNA)

Insurgents opened fire on two employees of the state-owned Sabah newspaper as they drove to work, killing one and wounding the other, a security official said.

Iraqi authorities said police foiled an attempted car suicide bombing against a police station near a mosque in Baghdad's northern Azamiyah neighbourhood. But the blast killed one policeman and wounded 10 civilians, the ministry said.

In a separate attack, roadside bomb targeting a police foot patrol in east Baghdad wounded two policemen, while two Iraqi soldiers were wounded by another roadside bomb which had apparently been intended to strike a U.S.-Iraqi convoy in the northern part of the capital, police said.

Police Brigadier Muthhir Kamil was captured by insurgents in northern Baghdad's Shaab district on Friday.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, 290 kilometres north of the capital, a roadside bomb killed three policemen and wounded 11, some of them civilians.

A roadside bomb struck an Iraqi army convoy in a village near Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad, killing four Iraqi soldiers, police said.

Two bombs planted in a market killed two policemen and four civilians in Zaafariniya in southern Baghdad, police said.

A car bomb targeting the convoy of Colonel Ali Mohammed, police chief for the city's Karrada district, exploded in Zayouna district, central Baghdad, killing one policeman

and a bystander, police and Interior Ministry sources said. Six others, including four policemen, were wounded in the blast.

Militants killed Ibrahim al-Khalaf, leader of the Sunni Arab Bagara tribe, and seriously wounded his guard and a member of the city council in a drive-by shooting in Hawija, 70 km (45 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, a security source said.

An Iraqi soldier was killed and two others were wounded when guerrillas ambushed their patrol 15 km (10 miles) south of Samarra, 100 km north of Baghdad, the U.S.- Iraqi Joint Coordination Center said.

The body of Haider Hamza, an interpreter working for Danish troops in Iraq, was found shot dead in front of his house in central Diwaniya, 180 km (115 miles) south of Baghdad, police said. He had been taken prisoner three days ago.

In Kirkuk, a police source said Lieutenant General Mohammad Naseh of the Kirkuk police escaped an attempt on his life after an explosive device was planted in his car.

The source added that the explosive device blew up after the officer left his car and entered his home in Shourja district, northern Kirkuk.

The bombers detonated the second device as a police patrol arrived on the scene of the first blast, killing one officer and wounding two, said Lieutenant Colonel Akram Abdullah of Kirkuk police.



Iraqi private security guards accompanying oil ministry fuel tankers, with truck driver, after a car bomb struck their convoy, in Baghdad Sept. 9, 2006. A parked car bomb Saturday exploded in southern Baghdad on a convoy of fuel tankers of the Iraqi oil ministry. (AP Photo/Asaad Mouhsin)

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# “The Raw Excitement Of Grunts Discovering Their Power And Their Voices In Their Ability To Resist”



4.19.06 Nathan Rabin, The Onion [Excerpts]

Much of military life, especially the inhuman gauntlet of basic training, resembles fascism in its fierce regimentation, glorification of order, rigid hierarchy, and brute force. By contrast, much of combat, especially guerrilla warfare, resembles anarchy at its most raucous and out of control.

This curious, paradoxical dynamic was explored memorably in *Born On The Fourth Of July*; it's revisited in *Sir! No Sir!*, an earnest, hokey documentary that's less an exploration of the military wing of the anti-Vietnam War movement than a gushing love letter to soldiers who took public stands against America's involvement in the conflict.

David Zeiger's directorial style is straight out of Documentary 101, with lots of talking heads, archival footage, black-and-white photographs, and a score that tries to recreate the spirit of the '60s in the most clichéd manner imaginable. But his conservative approach pays rich dividends.

The contrast between the smiling young military men in the photos and the death-haunted old men they've become is haunting. Zeiger films some of the talking-head footage of vets in groups of two and three, a wise choice that underlines the camaraderie that's central to military life.

Of course, the parallels between Vietnam and Gulf War II are about as subtle as an ice pick to the frontal lobe.

**Much like M\*A\*S\*H, Sir! No Sir! can easily be seen as a film that uses an unjust previous war to critique a current war.**

**Zeiger's film isn't subtle, and he doesn't pretend to be nonpartisan—even Jane Fonda's much-reviled involvement in the anti-war cause is depicted in an unambiguously positive light—but for all its clumsiness, Sir! No Sir! movingly captures the raw excitement of grunts discovering their power and their voices in their ability to resist.**



**Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War**

**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."

## **“The Truth Is Like A Bounty Hunter, It Can Force You To Escape Reality”**



From: Richard Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 06, 2006  
Subject: Mrs. Qui's Story

### **Mrs. Qui's Story**

[From the book: "Then The Americans Came," Martha Hess]

During the war my village was burned so many times by the Americans, that we went to live in the mountains. They bombed there too, and we came here.

All the villages were bombed, and many, many people were



killed. If we got to a shelter, we lived.

I had eight children, and two of them were killed by bombs, two more died from sickness.

We tried to buy medicine in the market, but the American and South Vietnamese forces wouldn't let us go there. They thought we were bringing something to the Viet Cong.

Two of my children died because they had no medicine.

During the war with the French, I was very young, and we lived in the plains, not the mountains.

In the second war, with Diem and the Americans, we were captured, beaten, and we were helpless when our homes were set on fire.

Bombs and bullets, killing and death. How can we not hate the Americans?

\*\*\*\*\*

If one does not know what happened during the Vietnam War, it will be very difficult to comprehend what is happening in the war in Iraq.

War is barbaric.

People in a "Group Think" situation, can do things that would defy the human imagination.

The killing of civilians in war is considered S.O.P., especially when heavy weaponry is used.

Anyone who does not believe this, is fooling themselves, to the extent that their belief system is in total denial.

The truth is like a bounty hunter, it can force you to escape reality.

The general public has to be given this information over and over again, until the word "WAR" becomes flesh.

The war in Iraq is immoral, just like the war in Vietnam. It is America at its worst!!

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
September 6, 2006

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

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.

# **The Attica Uprising Against “Ruthless Brutalization And Disregard For The Lives Of The Prisoners Here And Throughout The United States” Sept. 10, 1971**



September 03, 2006 By Carl Bunin, Peace History Sept 4-10, [peacebuttons.info](http://peacebuttons.info)

[Pbs.org]

**On the morning of Monday, September 13, 1971, Governor Nelson Rockefeller arrived at his Fifth Avenue apartment for a meeting with some of his advisors. It had been a tough weekend, but he had finally reached a decision. It was, he told them, "a matter of principle."**

**The Attica State Penitentiary — the scene of an inmate uprising just five days earlier — was to be retaken by force.**

**What followed was the bloodiest prison confrontation in U.S. history, and the most unfortunate episode in Rockefeller's political career — one that would haunt the family name for decades to come.**

Trouble was in the air in the summer of 1971. The Vietnam war, court-ordered busing of students to integrate schools racially, and student protests had shaken the country.

Prisons were seeing a surge in the pressure — both from within and from without prison walls -- to recognize the rights of inmates, fueled in part by racial unrest.

In the imposing Attica State Penitentiary, a maximum-security facility 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York, the tension had been particularly palpable for months.

**Inmates, who were predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, were incensed at the deteriorating living conditions — among them the fact that they were only entitled to one shower a week and one roll of toilet paper a month. Overcrowding had also become a source of resentment in a facility where the capacity limit had been exceeded by almost forty percent.**

It was this pent-up unrest that prompted one of the guards to forcefully suppress a scuffle between two prisoners on September 9, 1971. The two inmates were taken to isolation cells. Rumors circulated that they would be tortured. Confrontations escalated between the prisoners and the guards.

The following day, violence boiled over when a group of inmates managed to leave their cells and force their way into the prison's nerve center, where they beat several guards with pieces of pipe, lengths of chain, and baseball bats, fatally injuring one of them.

More than one thousand strong, the inmates quickly took control of the prison and set fire to several of its buildings. By the time the state police was summoned and managed to recapture part of the facility that afternoon, the inmates had regrouped in one of the yards and were holding 40 hostages in a ring of wooden benches.

**Their demands were soon made public: federal takeover of the prison, better conditions, amnesty for the crimes committed during the revolt and the removal of the prison's superintendent. In their statement, they criticized the "unmitigated oppression wrought by the racist administrative network of this prison throughout the year," and the "ruthless brutalization and disregard for the lives of the prisoners here and throughout the United States."**

Those words had a troubling ring for Nelson Rockefeller, who in his last years as governor had toughened his stand on crime and political dissent. He believed that the

rebellion was led by revolutionaries, and that any sign of compromise would have a domino effect throughout the nation. Having sent one of his closest aides to the scene, he retreated to the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, just a few miles outside of New York City.

Four hundred miles upstate, things were quickly heating up.

**A group of observers had been trying in vain to come up with a compromise package. On Sunday, three days after the outbreak, they issued a statement, calling on Rockefeller to come to the prison to avert a "massacre... so we can spend time and not lives in an attempt to resolve the issues before us."**

**The pressure on the governor to come to Attica was mounting, as the inmates and even the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Russell Oswald, urged him to address the situation in person. "We must have Rockefeller," said one of the inmates' leaders. "We got to have Rockefeller here to save our lives and those of his hostages. ... I say his hostages because he created this situation."**

**But Rockefeller wouldn't budge.**

Saying that his physical presence on the site would not "contribute to a peaceful settlement," he vowed to stand fast and rely on his aides on the scene, among them Robert Douglass. "In life it's not easy to face a hard decision, particularly when human lives are involved," he told Commissioner Oswald, "But I think we have to look at these things not only in terms of the immediate but in terms of the larger implication of what we are doing in our society."

By Sunday night, hopes for a non-violent compromise solution were wearing thin, and on Monday morning Rockefeller, determined to appear firm, authorized the operation to reclaim the facility.

**It was 9:46am when a state police helicopter started dropping tear gas over the yard and walkways where the inmates were holding the hostages at knife-point.**

**Gunfire broke out, and within 6 minutes, 2,200 lethal missiles were discharged.**

**The use of shotguns, with their imprecise range, increased the bloodshed.**

Rockefeller had been assured that every precaution would be taken to avoid harm, but as he followed the operation by phone it became apparent that the attack had been anything but orderly.

***Ten hostages and twenty-nine inmates died — a horrific toll that was especially appalling after it was revealed that all the hostages had died from gunshots inflicted by state troopers and guards.***

**Rockefeller was also spared the sight of the capture's grim aftermath. Once the prison was reclaimed, guards, enraged by the events, ordered the inmates to crawl naked into the yard, beating them with clubs as they passed through. One of the leaders, Frank Smith, was stripped naked and forced to lie on a table**

balancing a football under his chin for hours, threatened with being shot if he let it fall to the ground.

The extent of the chaos was not acknowledged by Governor Rockefeller, who said that the state troopers had done "a superb job."

One year later, an investigative commission would reach a very different conclusion. Its report stated that the operation had been ill-conceived, poorly executed and probably unnecessary, and stressed the fact that Rockefeller should have gone to Attica, "because his responsibilities as the State's chief executive made it appropriate that he be present at the scene of the critical decision involving great risk of loss of life."

In spite of the public outrage, Nelson Rockefeller's hard-line stance in the Attica crisis made him more palatable to the conservatives who were now in control of the Republican Party.

He never publicly regretted the way he handled the situation, saying only that he wished he had been more aware of the "tremendous need that existed" at the Attica facility.

Yet the impact of the Attica crisis would be long lasting.

In August 2000, almost thirty years after the prisoners' revolt, the state of New York paid up to \$8 million to the 1,280 men harassed during the attack, after their lawyers filed a class-action lawsuit against prison and state officials in 1974. The verdict, however, had little echo within the walls of the Attica Correctional Facility, where overcrowding is still a problem.

### **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))

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

Received:

**“These Guys Aren't Stupid Or Uninformed”**

From: F  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 08, 2006  
Subject: It's a good thing they've got GI Special

Dear GI Special,

A quote from "Marine Battalion Heads To Iraq For Fourth Time" caught my eye :

"The war is something these guys definitely talk about," said Capt. Patrick Faye, the 30-year-old commander of Lima Company, who grew up in San Francisco.

"These guys aren't stupid or uninformed. They read the papers. In the chow hall, the TVs are always tuned to Fox news and CNN. So they know what's going on."

It's a good thing they've got GI Special!!! If they had nothing but Fox and CNN they'd be victimized by the Pentagon's disinformation campaign completely.

I hope you get fueled up this month!

All of us will be better off with GI Special running on a full tank.

**REPLY: Thanks!!!! T**

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