

## GI SPECIAL 4K7:



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

**“This War Is Not Right”**  
**“If People Want To Support The**  
**Troops, Then They Should**  
**Support Us Coming Home”**  
**“The First Antiwar Movement**  
**Organized By Active Military**  
**Personnel Since The Vietnam**  
**War”**

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

November 01, 2006 Katrina vanden Heuvel, The Nation & Nov. 02, 2006 By Mark Benjamin, Salon.com & November 06, 2006, Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

**"As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for US troops to come home."**

**This statement – the Appeal for Redress – has been signed by over 600 active-duty soldiers who have had enough of seeing their brothers and sisters sacrificed to the disastrous war in Iraq.**

**Seaman Jonathon Hutto and Marine Sergeant Liam Madden spearheaded the Appeal which is co-sponsored by Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace and Military Families Speak Out.**

It is the latest effort stemming from the antiwar energy that has emerged among military families, veterans, and active military, including generals and other high-ranking officers.

**It's also the first antiwar movement organized by active military personnel since the Vietnam War.**

A minority of the troops who have signed on so far are reservists, while more than 75 percent are active-duty service members -- more than 60 percent of whom have served in Iraq.

**Hutto, who served off the Iraq coast from September 2005 until March, told the Washington Post, "I hear discussions every day among my shipmates about the war in Iraq and how it doesn't make any sense at this point. There is no victory in sight."**

"We've heard many voices, we heard from some politicians, some activists and pundits. We haven't heard from the men and women who actually serve, and I think that's a constituency that has to be heard from," he said in a phone interview Oct. 23.

**There are "thousands of men and women" who believe that it's time to end the war, he added.**

Madden served in Anbar province from September 2004 until February 2005.

**"I don't think any more Iraqis or Americans should die because of the US occupation," he told ABC News. "If people want to support the troops, then they should support us coming home."**

Madden cited his disillusionment with a war based on non-existent weapons of mass destruction and phantom links between al Qaeda and Iraq.

At a White House press briefing last week, press secretary Tony Snow dismissed the protest effort as tiny, and suggested the participants were not "proud" of their service. At that time, only 65 service members had signed on.

"You get 65 guys who are, unfortunately -- no, not unfortunately -- 65 people who are going to be able to get more press than the hundreds of thousands who have come back and said they're proud of their service," Snow told reporters.

Madden says he takes pride in his service to his country, and that he loves the Marine Corps.

"Joining the Marine Corps was one of the best decisions I've ever made," Madden told me over dinner in Washington, about a 45-minute drive from his post at Quantico, Va.

But he harshly criticized what he considers to be a botched strategy -- along with the shifting rationale for the war, its high human toll and the poor prognosis for success.

**He said there is "an implied trust" between soldier and government that the military will not be ordered into a dubious, costly adventure.**

**"When it becomes blatantly evident that you are being exploited then it is justified for those in the military to dissent," Madden said. "This war is not right."**

David Segal, director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland, said he thinks that disillusionment about Iraq is "latent but widespread" among troops.

**"I think they are expressing a sentiment that is really there," he said, referring to the small but growing group of protesters. "I think we could see a newly emerging soldiers' movement," Segal said. "I don't think it is there yet. But the germ is there."**

**One soldier, speaking under condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said, "I don't think that the American public realizes just how many soldiers and service members in general really do have reservations about what is going on over there....It's very hard. These soldiers seeing all this tribal fighting, ethnic fighting going on around them....There is not really anything you can do to stop this."**

Madden admits that it is difficult to say exactly how many of his fellow Marines quietly agree, beyond those who have participated in the campaign. A drafted soldier in the Vietnam era might have been quicker to make his voice heard. But fear of retribution prevents professional service members in particular from voicing their concerns in order to protect their careers.

**Yet the silent resistance runs deep, Madden believes. "It is more than anybody would ever admit," he explains.**

"A lot of people are in the military for life, because of their economic situation. But their hearts may be against this war."

***At least some measure of that sentiment has surfaced recently: A February 2006 poll by Zogby International showed that 72 percent of troops serving in Iraq thought the United States should get out by the end of the year.***

**Another soldier said he believed the Appeal would have "a snowball effect" and more and more people would sign on.**

**"Once they start seeing momentum going forward and more and more service members coming out, they will be much more inclined to come out as well."**

"These brave men and women, who put their lives on the line for our nation every day, must be heard."

**The top brass has taken notice. Organizers say they got a call last week from staff on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who asked for details on the number and kind of troops signing on to the protest.**

**The campaign of appeals to Congress is largely the brainchild of Jonathan Hutto, a 29-year-old Navy seaman based in Norfolk, Va., recently named the best seaman of the quarter on his aircraft carrier. While floating off the coast of Iraq in December 2005, Hutto read "Soldiers in Revolt" by David Cortright, a chronicle of the GI movement against the war in Vietnam.**

Back in Norfolk in June, Hutto invited Cortright to town to address an off-base meeting of about 100 like-minded people, including many military service personnel. Madden happened to be in town visiting a friend and he went to see Cortright speak. Then Madden and Hutto began exchanging e-mails, and the movement took shape.

"We are appealing to the best of our political leadership. We are appealing to our government.

**"And if those appeals are met we can avoid those more massive forms of protest."**

Cortright, who was active in the GI movement during Vietnam and is now a research fellow at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, has become an advisor and organizer of the protest movement.

"This is an incredibly elegant and interesting way for service members to express their feelings about the war, in a legal way, to their congressional reps," Cortright said in a phone interview. Despite the formal approach, he added, the appeals are based on powerful personal convictions. He said they "reflect this growing feeling in the ranks" that the war in Iraq "is not working."

While the methods may be different from Vietnam, Cortright said he detects a striking similarity in the disillusionment among service members from both wars -- particularly as the mission in Iraq becomes increasingly unclear to troops there, and the war continues to "drift sideways," as Senate Armed Services Committee chairman John Warner put it early last month.

The movement includes soldiers who say they still love the military, but are angry because it is unclear to them just what they are supposed to be doing there. Daily patrolling through Iraq's dangerous streets serves as one example.

"There is a civil war going on and we are stuck in the middle of it," one female Army soldier, who had returned from Iraq in September, told me.

**She has signed on to the current protest to Congress, but did not want her name to be made public out of fear that it might hurt her military career.**

**She said of the daily patrols: "You go out and you drive around the city to show a presence. Sometimes you stop and search houses. But a lot of times you drive around for a while and drive back, unless you get hit, and then you come back a little earlier. In some places, you were guaranteed to be hit within 15 minutes."**

Retired Lt. Gen. Robert G. Gard, now a senior military fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Washington, acknowledges there is debate about whether service members should speak out. "That is a tough question to come down on," Gard said. "We have a social contract in this country that the military does not question the civilian control over it."

**"But the flip side," Gard continued, "is that there is an implicit assumption that they will not put the military into harm's way and accept casualties except in causes that are reasonably in the national interest. In this case, I can't find a rationale that makes any sense."**

**The Appeal:**  
**<http://www.appealforredress.org/>**

**MORE:**

## **“There’s A Huge Population Of Soldiers Upset About The Way Things Are Going”**

November 3, 2006 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

**“There’s a huge population of soldiers upset about the way things are going,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War.**

**“And I don’t blame them one bit.**

**“It’s finally risen to a point where their frustrations have peaked, and they’re no longer afraid to voice their opinions about the direction of the war.**

**“It’s a cry to the public for people to realize how dire the situation is, and that not every soldier supports it.**

**“There’s nothing illegal about a soldier trying to inform the public that war in Iraq is a negative experience, especially considering that the war itself is illegal and probably unconstitutional.”**

MORE:

# Nothing Is More Important Today Than Forging New Links With The Troops Turning Against This War: They Have The Power To Stop It.

[This is re-run from an earlier GI Special in response to favorable comments in an email from Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran. Thanks to Katherine G. Y., Military Project, who contributed a key part of the remarks below. T]

Remarks at the “Exposing the Empire” panel, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY, 3.24.06, presented by RIT Antiwar:

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*Thomas Barton compiles the GI Special newsletter, lives in New York City, and is a hospital worker and union shop steward. During the American war on Vietnam, Barton helped distribute on Vietnam GI, a monthly newspaper for troops opposed to that war edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet. Ten thousand copies monthly were sent to anti-war troops.*

*Today, Barton is a member of the Military Project, an organization of veterans and antiwar activists who focus on providing aid and comfort to service personnel who question, oppose or resist U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.*

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**Good evening brothers and sisters,**

**It's an honor to be allowed to speak here today in Rochester.**

**Things are pretty messed up these days, but that's not new.**

**The Biblical prophet Isaiah had this to say to the traitors who ran the government of his day:**

**“Ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor,**

**“Ye have eaten up the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses.**

**“Thy prices loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards, they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.**

**“How is the faithful city become a harlot,**

**“It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it,**

**“But now murderers.”**

**Sounds familiar, doesn't it?**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**The good news is how far we have come in a year.**

**Every day more and more Americans are turning against the war.**

**Most importantly, resistance is growing inside the armed services as well. Where it really counts.**

**But you don't have to take my word that's where it really counts.**

**Let's look at some history.**

**During the Vietnam War, the anti-war movement at home was necessary to stop the war, but it was not sufficient.**

**The resistance in Vietnam was necessary to stop the war, but it was not sufficient.**

**But the rebellion against the war in the armed forces was both necessary and sufficient to stop the war.**

**And the war stopped.**

**It was the greatest insurrection against an Imperial war since the rebellion of the Russian army in 1917.**

**But you don't have to believe me about that, and you shouldn't.**

**Check out: Heinl, Jr. Col. Robert D.  
THE COLLAPSE OF THE ARMED FORCES  
Armed Forces Journal, 1971**

**But you don't have to believe Col. Heinl about this, and you shouldn't.**

**There's a new documentary film, Sir No Sir, opening next month in theaters across America that shows us the war in Vietnam didn't end because the**

politicians or the rich or the commanders or even the anti-war movement wanted it to end.

The war in Vietnam ended because the troops there rebelled against it wholesale. There were “search and evade missions,” arranging private truces with people they didn’t see as “the enemy” anymore.

There were flat-out refusals of combat missions. There were more lethal expressions of opposition to those in command as well.

And the rebellion spread to the Air Force: pilots refused to bomb. And it spread to the Navy: sailors disabled their ships so they couldn’t engage in combat.

In Sir, No Sir, you will meet the Vietnam troops up close and personal, and you will see them with your own eyes, wrecking the war machine until it breaks down completely.

Lots of soldiers can fight in wars.

It takes something very special in soldiers to stop one. Honor and respect to them all.

Respect also to the civilians who forged the links to the anti-war troops, gave them aid and comfort, and helped make that rebellion possible.

Now it is time for us to follow the instruction of the prophet:  
Go thou and do likewise.

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Today, the anti war movement is necessary to stop the war in Iraq, but it is not sufficient.

Today, the Iraqi resistance to Imperial invasion and occupation is necessary to stop the war, but it is not sufficient.

But the coming rebellion in the armed forces will be both necessary and sufficient. It may not come as soon as we might wish, but it will come. And this war will stop.

But you don’t have to take my word for that, and you shouldn’t.

Here is what one soldier in the 1<sup>st</sup> ID wrote to GI Special on behalf of a group of anti-war soldiers in Baquaba Iraq:

“Before any soldier risks going to prison he should realize that his ability to communicate with other troops will be limited.

“We choose our battles and continue to speak out in our underground action.



**“There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect.”**

**“A unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect.”**

**Think about that.**

**But you don't have to take his word for it, and you shouldn't.**

**Thanks to a Zogby poll released this month, you don't have to:**

**Today we know that 72% of the troops in Iraq say “get out this year,” and 29% are for immediate withdrawal.**

**What's more important is that because of the publicity about that poll, now those troops know it too.**

**Think about that.**

**Now they know there is a new political majority among men and women in arms in Iraq, which may be summarized as follow: this bullshit has gone on too long and it has to stop.**

**It's only a matter of time before this dawning consciousness finds expression in ways that are unmistakable, and will shake the world.**

**The Imperial politicians, Republican and Democrat, always knew what Iraq was really about.**

**They thought they would win an empire of oil.**

**They have ended by losing their army.**

**But those troops are not lost to us.**

**Let all of us opposed to this evil war open our arms to them and say Brothers and Sisters, welcome home.**

**Welcome home to sanity, decency and honor.**

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**It's time now for Veterans, military family members and responsible civilians to act.**

**Not talk, act.**

**Specifically:**

**To give aid and comfort to members of the regular armed forces, reserves and Guard who are turning against the war.**

**In New York City, members of Veterans For Peace, Military Families Speak Out, and the Military Project are reaching out to make contact with National Guard soldiers.**

**Many of them have served in Iraq, some expect to be sent soon. They thank us for coming, for the publications against the war we offer, and so far, not a harsh word spoken.**

**This can be done anywhere there is a military presence: National Guard, Reserves or regular armed forces, like right here, and a small, or large, group of allies.**

**Think about that, and where that can lead.**

***Nothing* is more important today than forging new links with the troops turning against this war. They have the power to stop it.**

**Please, let us all now most solemnly pledge to our brothers and sisters in arms:**

**We will not turn our back on you.**

**We will help you do what is necessary to stop this war.**

**Together, we can end forever the power of the predators who rule America. They have betrayed us all.**

**If we act together to take back our lives and our futures from those who would steal both, there is no force on earth that can stop us.**

**We need you by our side.**

**When you enlisted, you took an oath to defend our liberties.**

**The time has come.**

**We must have your protection from the enemies domestic, the Imperial politicians, Republican and Democrat, who hate our liberties.**

**Without you we are truly lost.**

**With you, everything is possible.**

**Now let's get to work.**

**Thank you for your attention.**

**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 or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Marines, One Soldier Killed In Al Anbar**

06 November 2006 Multi-National Corps West PAO RELEASE No. 20061106-03

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Saturday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died today from wounds sustained Saturday due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

One Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division died today from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

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### **Helicopter Down, Two Task Force Lightning Soldiers killed**

06 November 2006 Multi National Division North PAO RELEASE No. 20061106-05

TIKRIT, Iraq: Two Task Force Lightning Soldiers attached to 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, were killed when a helicopter crashed in Salah Ad Din province, Monday.

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### **Cpl. Jose A Galvan Of San Antonio Killed In Iraq**

11/06/2006 KENS 5 Eyewitness News

Marine Cpl. Jose A Galvan of San Antonio was killed Saturday while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, according to a press release.

According to the release, Galvan, 22, was killed by an improvised explosive device.

The Associated Press reports at least 2,834 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq War in March 2003.

Galvan was a member of Charlie Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), in Camp Pendleton, California. He was part of a Regiment Combat Team 5 (RCT-5) detach to 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, of Okinawa, Japan.

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

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



U.S. soldiers patrol Baghdad, October 24, 2006. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

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**Lovelady Soldier Killed In Iraq;**

# He Was Due To Leave Iraq In Just Four Days

Nov 1, 2006 Steve Fullhart, KBTX

A Lovelady resident is among the latest casualties in Iraq.

Army SPC Carl Eason was killed on October 23 when an explosive detonated near his vehicle, that according to the Pentagon. The 29-year-old was assigned to the 1st Armored Division out of Baumholder, Germany.

According to a family spokesperson, Eason spoke with his wife and parents a few hours before his death. He was due to leave Iraq in just four days.

Eason was a 1996 graduate of Lovelady High School, and was a volunteer firefighter in the town, and had three children.

The family asks that donations be made to the Lovelady Volunteer Fire Department in lieu of flowers to the family.

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## Milan Marine Killed In Iraq

November 02, 2006 By Ray Kisonas, Monroe News

A Milan High School football and baseball star who later fulfilled his goal of joining the Marine Corps was killed in Iraq.

Gary Koehler, who graduated in 2003 and recently married, died during a battle believed to be on Tuesday. The Department of Defense did not release details of his death as of this morning. However, news of Mr. Koehler's death traveled fast through the Milan community.

High school coaches and school officials remembered Mr. Koehler as a dedicated athlete who volunteered to be deployed to the war a second time even after suffering a gunshot wound about 1½ years ago.

Milan football Coach Steve Robb remembered visiting with Mr. Koehler, who showed him his scar after he was shot in the thigh. Coach Robb assumed at the time that his former defensive lineman was done with the war, but Mr. Koehler chose to be redeployed.

"He said he had to go back because he couldn't let down the guys in his platoon," Coach Robb said this morning.

"He was a warrior. He wanted to do what he could for his country."

Mr. Koehler married Hilary Moss, who was on the Milan swim team. The couple reportedly had a civil ceremony and was planning a formal wedding ceremony later.

His wife's family members, who live in Ypsilanti, declined to comment.

While at Milan, Mr. Koehler played football and baseball. In football, he was named first team All-Huron League and was the second leading tackler on the team in his senior year, Coach Robb said. He was first team All-Region in football as well.

"He was a high school football coach's dream," he said. "He set goals for himself and worked very hard to achieve those goals." Adam Gilles said he coached Mr. Koehler in baseball all four years of his high school career. He was a starting leftfielder.

"He was a leader on the team and it didn't matter how old he was," Coach Gilles said. "He would just go all out all the time. He was a great kid. Everybody liked him." Coach Gilles said Mr. Koehler was probably the best hitter on the team in his senior year and was a natural leader. He said that would explain his desire to join the Marines.

"It takes a special person to be a Marine," Coach Gilles said. "He was the type of kid who could do it. Everyone wanted to be around him."

**Coach Gilles said Mr. Koehler was expected to come home a week ago but was held over. He was then killed during the extended stay.**

Coach Robb said when they last spoke, Mr. Koehler told him he was trying to be trained as a sniper. He wasn't sure if he succeeded his goal.

But Coach Robb said knowing Mr. Koehler the way he did, he would not be surprised if he achieved everything he set out to be. "He was definitely a patriot," Coach Robb said. "We need more guys like him."

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## Roadside Bomb Injures NH Soldier In Iraq

11/06/06 By JOHN WHITSON, Union Leader Staff

NEWPORT: A local soldier should be on his way back to the United States tomorrow after being badly injured in a roadside bomb explosion outside Baghdad last week.

Army Spc. Christopher Howe, 20, is recovering in Germany from a severe concussion, lacerations to his face and a broken arm, said his father, Raymond Howe, this morning.

"He was out retrieving a vehicle," said his father. "They hitched it up and were on the way back, and he believes it was a roadside bomb that came right up through the center of his vehicle."

Howe was with one other soldier at the time of the explosion last Wednesday, and that man also reportedly survived the incident.

“He’s doing good now,” said the elder Howe of his son. “I talked to him today and he just got out of surgery on his arm.”

Howe’s right arm is broken in multiple places and his elbow is shattered, said his father. He said his son is listed in serious but stable condition.

“It’s better news than what it could be,” said Raymond Howe. “He said he had people calling him from his unit and asking if it’s really him. They don’t see how someone could have survived that kind of damage.”

Howe said he and his wife, Wendy, will be on a plane to see Chris as soon as they find out where he’s headed from Germany. He will be flown to either Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington or a medical facility at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, the family said.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **“Leaving 12,000 Troops In Afghanistan While The Brass Cut And Run Back To Washington”**

<p><b>I call on all soldiers and officers to take a look at the oath they took and to read the Constitution. Let your lawmakers and supervisors know what you find, as it is painfully evident that they have not read either document themselves.</b></p>
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Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
11.6.06

On Oct. 5, our fearless military leaders throughout the Pentagon and the Defense Department surrendered 12,000 U.S. troops to NATO. (Eight thousand remain under U.S. control.)

I wonder what Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry was thinking about when he handed operational control of U.S. men and women over to a foreign general.

Those soldiers chose to join the Army with the understanding that they were joining the U.S. Army, and they have been betrayed.

It is disgusting to think that this surrender of our troops was done purely for political reasons.

The politicians and the Pentagon want to play a less visible role in the increasingly restive country of Afghanistan for the upcoming midterm elections.

I guess their idea of “less visible” is leaving 12,000 troops in Afghanistan while the brass cut and run back to Washington.

I call on all soldiers and officers to take a look at the oath they took and to read the Constitution.

Let your lawmakers and supervisors know what you find, as it is painfully evident that they have not read either document themselves.

Capt. Matthew Shifrin  
Baghdad

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## TROOP NEWS

### HOLIDAY MAILING DEADLINES

The U.S. Postal Service has issued its holiday mailing deadlines for mail sent to APO and FPO addresses. The dates below are for Christmas; deadlines for Hanukkah are 10 days earlier.

Type of service	Deadline
Parcel Post	Nov. 13
Space-Available Mail	Nov. 27
Parcel Airlift Mail	Dec. 4
Priority Mail*	Dec. 11
First-Class (letters/cards)*	Dec. 11
Express Mail Military Service**	Dec. 19



\*Except for mail going to APO/FPO ZIP codes starting with 093; deadline for those locations is Dec. 4.

\*\*EMSS not available to APO/FPO ZIP codes starting with 093.

Source: U.S. Postal Service

MARCIA STAIMER/STAFF

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## Troops Need Child Care Help

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
11.6.06



## **Why do we have to pay for child care, giving up one-sixth of our pay or more if we have more than one child?**

The military could make child care a military occupational specialty. It could fall under the medical field. Medics are already qualified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, emergency medicine and other specialties. This MOS could become a 68W with a pediatric/child care additional skill identifier.

One or two pediatricians could work for an installation's day care center. This would free up appointments for military and dependents at other medical clinics. All physicals, well-baby and other appointments could be handled at the day care site and not at the clinics.

Child care could become a 24-hour service. This would also help soldiers when they have charge of quarters, noncommissioned officer staff duty, field training exercises or other military obligations, such as having to work late.

Units would not have to release soldiers to go pick up their children, losing manpower and compromising military duties.

When soldiers have duty or go to the field, they would have to bring proof of duty to the day care center from either their first sergeant or company commander. Soldiers would have to care for their own child on holidays, training holidays and weekends unless they are working.

Staff Sgt. Eric J. Kelley  
Baumholder, Germany

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



The casket of Army Spc. Nicholas Rogers at Deltona Memorial Gardens in Deltona, Fla. Nov. 2, 2006. Rogers, who was in the Army's 10th Mountain Division, was killed Oct. 22 in Iraq. (AP Photo/Nigel Cook, Pool)

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### “Bring ‘Em On”



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special

**"Bring 'Em On"**  
**George Bush**  
**July 2, 2003**

**2836 U.S. Troops Dead:**

**The American people keep paying the death toll.**

**(Is this insane yet, or is it just my opinion?)**

**Mike Hastie**  
**Vietnam 1970-71**

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

# “The People In The Military Have Great Contempt For Mr. Rumsfeld”

From: Tim Goodrich [Iraq Veterans Against The War]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 06, 2006

So the news is out. The Military Times has run an editorial calling for the ouster of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

While this does not appear to be phenomenal news to the general public, let's step back and take a look at how powerful this really is.

The Military Times is a publication consisting of the Air Force Times, Navy Times, Marine Times, and the Army Times. With a circulation of 250,000, it can be purchased at any military base across the world and is the chief publication that the troops read in order to learn about current events in their branch of service.

Although the Military Times has previously expressed discontent over the SecDef, this is the first time the language has been so clear.

**Frankly, its surprising that it has taken so long for an article like this to appear. If a poll were taken within the military, it would likely show Mr. Rumsfeld with roughly the same approval rating that Dick Cheney has from the civilian population (18%).**

**The people in the military have great contempt for Mr. Rumsfeld and it doesn't take much of an imagination to figure out why.**

With famous comments such as, “As you know, you go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time”, it has been made clear to the troops time and time again that Mr. Rumsfeld is not looking out for their best interests.

Naturally, with the release of the editorial, the White House had to put its own spin on the situation.

When asked about it, Tony Snow made comments saying it was “grandstanding” and a “shabby piece of work”.

**Snow also felt that the editorials claims that “One rosy reassurance after another has been handed down by President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld” were untrue.**

**Maybe Mr. Snow needs to pay more attention to what his bosses are actually saying, but there are many of those rosy reassurances.**

**Take one from the President when he said, "major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed."**

**Or how about Vice President Dick Cheney saying that American troops would be greeted in Baghdad with flowers and candy.**

**Or maybe Donald Rumsfeld saying, "It is unknowable how long that conflict (the war in Iraq) will last. It could last six days, six weeks. I doubt six months."**

Finally, Tony Snow tried to deflect the criticism of Rumsfeld by saying that the editorial was the sole opinion of a writer. Considering the Military Times is essentially the voice of the military, this is a weak argument.

It is more likely than not the Military Times contacted at least several high ranking officers and asked their opinions before deciding to run the editorial. Although these high ranking officers may not publicly speak out, you can get an idea of where they stand by looking at the comments of recently retired generals.

Last year, several of them were quoted as saying Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was "not a competent wartime leader" who made "dismal strategic decisions" that "resulted in the unnecessary deaths of American servicemen and women, our allies and the good people of Iraq."

With the Bush administration coming off a week of criticizing John Kerry for being against the troops because of his recent comments, it's more than a little bit hypocritical to disregard an editorial that echoes the sentiments of our troops.

While the firing of Rumsfeld will not be a solution to all of the problems in Iraq, it would be a step in the right direction and act as a gesture of good faith to our military.

**In the meantime, we are stuck in a war with the Secretary of Defense we have, not the Secretary of Defense we might want.**



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

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.**

# **“Sounds A Lot Like The Patriot Act And The Demise Of Habeas Corpus To Me”**

From: David Honish, Veteran

To: GI Special

Sent: November 06, 2006

Subject: Sounds a lot like the patriot act and the demise of habeas corpus to me?

"It is a strange thing about the Nazi psychology that as they were obliterating innocent lives over an entire continent, they always liked doing so under the rule of law.

"If they did not have a law that said they could torture or execute you, they would rustle one up and have it on the statute books just so they could kill you in a tidy manner."

William Ash from his book *Under The Wire* about his time as a RCAF Spitfire pilot and his longer time as an "escapologist" POW.

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## **Two Occupation Head Shots:**

### **1. A 12 Year Old Girl In Palestine**

[Thanks to J, who sent this in.]

05 November 2006 Aljazeera.

Israeli snipers killed two Palestinians in Gaza on Saturday, one of them a 12-year-old girl, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli soldiers briefly eased their grip on the northern town of Beit Hanoun, but as darkness fell soldiers began house-to-house searches, local residents said.

The violence followed one of Gaza's bloodiest days in months, when 19 people were killed as Israel continued an operation it says is aimed at stopping rocket fire by Palestinian fighters.

The 12-year-old girl was killed by a single bullet to the head, local hospital workers said.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, who has described the operation as a "massacre," called on the UN Security Council to convene to discuss the issue, his spokesman said.

Abbas "sent a message to the head of the Security Council asking him to convene immediately to discuss the tragic situation in Gaza because of Israeli aggression, which has killed 42 Palestinians so far," Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

## 2. A Five Year Old Boy In Iraq

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

Oct 31, 2006 By Claudia Parsons, (Reuters)

**Staff at the U.S. military hospital in Baghdad are used to horrific injuries but when the limp, bullet-riddled body of a 5-year-old Iraqi boy was zipped up in a grotesquely oversized bodybag, it was different.**

**It got worse when they heard he was shot by an American.**

The child was flown to Baghdad from Taji, 20 km (12 miles) to the north, on Monday evening and rushed into the emergency room with a blue stuffed bear tucked into a blanket wrapped round him.

Half a dozen doctors and nurses quickly unwrapped the naked body, feet already waxy and yellowing. They tore off field bandages to show an elbow reduced to pulp, a head wound that went through to the brain and several other injuries nurses said could be bullet wounds or shrapnel from a bomb.

A nurse pumped the boy's chest, trying to resuscitate him even though others told him there was no pulse and no bleeding from the wounds. "He doesn't have any vital signs," said one.

At 9.46 p.m. (1846 GMT) the boy was pronounced dead, though doctors said he had been dead on arrival, and probably already on departure from the spot where he was hit.

"That was horrible," said a Scottish nurse from the Royal Air Force, Squadron Leader Aileen Danby, who has left her children, aged 3 and 6, for three months to work in Baghdad.

"I was a wee bit upset there," she admitted, minutes later.

"You kind of tell yourself in your head that you can handle what we see in there because it's adults ... but I don't know how you bargain with that. No matter how much you're in medicine, children get you every time."

Lieutenant Ken McKenzie, a nurse from Los Angeles, said many children came through the emergency room.

**"It's crazy," he said. "We had a 3-year-old the other day. It was like 'Who'd shoot this little boy?' but he was the only one left. They (Iraqi gunmen) shot his entire family."**

**Shortly afterwards a report came in from the field that the boy from Taji was not shot by insurgents. [Oops. Comforting fantasy #1 trashed.]**

"So we shot him?" McKenzie asked.

The circumstances were still unclear but it started to emerge U.S. troops had shot the boy at a checkpoint.

**Major Bill White, another nurse, suggested he may have been a decoy used by insurgents to get close. "They'll deliberately put kids in the car so they get shot," he said.**

During the night, a U.S. officer from Taji came for the body, McKenzie said on Tuesday.

**"The guy who killed that kid came to collect the body," he said. "He said the car was driving at 45 miles an hour at the checkpoint. It didn't slow down. There was an old guy in the car and the kid in the front seat. They fired warning shots and it didn't stop."**

[Oops. Comforting fantasy #2 trashed.]

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **While Troops Die, Iraq War Profiteers Take The Money And Run Away; "The Checks And Balances Are Gone. The System Is Broken"**

**"There's never been a time in our country's history when we've shoved so much money out the door with so little oversight," said Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-N.D.)**

November 4, 2006 By Griff Witte, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The list of alleged contractor misdeeds in Iraq has grown long in the past 3 1/2 years. Yet when it comes to holding companies accountable, the charges seldom stick.

Critics say that because of legal loopholes, flaws in the contracting process, a lack of interest from Congress and uneven oversight by investigative agencies, errant contractors have faced few sanctions for their work in Iraq.

**"Contractors know they can push prices up. They know they can be late," said Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla). "They know they don't have to perform."**

Several civil cases have been tossed out of court for lack of jurisdiction. In September, for example, a judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by former Halliburton Co. truck drivers and their families who argued that the company knowingly sent a convoy into a raging battle without proper protection. A federal judge in Texas ruled that the Army, not Halliburton, was ultimately in charge and that the court could not "try a case set on a battlefield during wartime without an impermissible intrusion into powers expressly granted to the executive by the Constitution."

**"There's never been a time in our country's history when we've shoved so much money out the door with so little oversight," said Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-N.D.), who blames Republican indifference for the lack of accountability.**

Frederick F. Shaheen, an attorney with the firm Greenberg Traurig LLP who represents contractors, said firing a contractor is difficult because the military is so dependent on them.

If an official were to try to cancel a meal-service contract, for example, "some colonel is going to be on the phone to you ripping your lips off saying, 'Why aren't my troops being fed?' " Shaheen said.

The threat of canceling a contract "is normally the sharpest quiver in the bag of the contracting officer. But there's no arrowhead on it any more," Shaheen said.

"So the checks and balances are gone. The system is broken."

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

**“Things Are So Bad That Even  
Pro-Occupation Iraqis Are Going  
Back On Their Initial ‘WE LOVE  
AMERICA’ Frenzy”**

**I just read somewhere that some of the families of dead American soldiers are visiting the Iraqi north to see 'what their sons and daughters died for'. If that's the goal of the visit, then, "Ladies and gentlemen- to your right is the Iraqi Ministry of Oil, to your left is the Dawry refinery..."**

November 05, 2006, By Riverbend, Baghdad Burning

**When All Else Fails..... Execute the dictator.**

**It's that simple.**



**When American troops are being killed by the dozen, when the country you are occupying is threatening to break up into smaller countries, when you have militias and death squads roaming the streets and you've put a group of Mullahs in power- execute the dictator.**

Everyone expected this verdict from the very first day of the trial.

There was a brief interlude when, with the first judge, it was thought that it might actually be a coherent trial where Iraqis could hear explanations and see what happened.

That was soon over with the prosecution's first false witness. Events that followed were so ridiculous; it's difficult to believe them even now.

**The sound would suddenly disappear when the defense or one of the defendants got up to speak. We would hear the witnesses but no one could see them- hidden behind a curtain, their voices were changed. People who were supposed to have been dead in the Dujail incident were found to be very alive.**

Judge after judge was brought in because the ones in court were seen as too fair.

They didn't instantly condemn the defendants (even if only for the sake of the media).

**The piece de resistance was the final judge they brought in. His reputation vies only that of Chalabi- a well-known thief and murderer who ran away to Iran to escape not political condemnation, but his father's wrath after he stole from the restaurant his father ran.**

***So we all knew the outcome upfront (Maliki was on television 24 hours before the verdict telling people not to 'rejoice too much').***

**I think what surprises me right now is the utter stupidity of the current Iraqi government.**

The timing is ridiculous- immediately before the congressional elections?

How very convenient for Bush. Iraq, today, is at its very worst since the invasion and the beginning occupation. April 2003 is looking like a honeymoon month today. Is it really the time to execute Saddam?

I'm more than a little worried.

This is Bush's final card.

The elections came and went and a group of extremists and thieves were put into power (no, no, I meant in Baghdad, not Washington).

The constitution which seems to have drowned in the river of Iraqi blood since its elections has been forgotten.

It is only dug up when one of the Puppets wants to break apart the country.

Reconstruction is an aspiration from another lifetime: I swear we no longer want buildings and bridges, security and an undivided Iraq are more than enough.

Things must be deteriorating beyond imagination if Bush needs to use the 'Execute the Dictator' card.

Iraq has not been this bad in decades.

The occupation is a failure. The various pro-American, pro-Iranian Iraqi governments are failures.

The new Iraqi army is a deadly joke. Is it really time to turn Saddam into a martyr?

**Things are so bad that even pro-occupation Iraqis are going back on their initial 'WE LOVE AMERICA' frenzy.**

Laith Kubba (a.k.a. Mr. Catfish for his big mouth and constant look of stupidity) was recently on the BBC saying that this was just the beginning of justice, that people responsible for the taking of lives today should also be brought to justice.

He seems to have forgotten he was one of the supporters of the war and occupation, and an important member of one of the murderous pro-American governments. But history shall not forget Mr. Kubba.

**Iraq saw demonstrations against and for the verdict. The pro-Saddam demonstrators were attacked by the Iraqi army.**

**This is how free our media is today: the channels that were showing the pro-Saddam demonstrations have been shut down.**

Iraqi security forces promptly raided them.

Welcome to the new Iraq.

Here are some images from the Salahiddin and Zawra channels:



Zawra channel. The subtitle says: **Baghdad: Zawra satellite channel has stopped broadcasting by order of the government.**



Sharqiya channel announcing breaking news: **Two channels, Salahiddin and Zawra, shut down. Security forces raid the offices of the channels.**

It's not about the man- presidents come and go, governments come and go.

It's the frustration of feeling like the whole country and every single Iraqi inside and outside of Iraq is at the mercy of American politics. It is the rage of feeling like a mere chess piece to be moved back and forth at will.

It is the aggravation of having a government so blind and uncaring about their peoples needs that they don't even feel like it's necessary to go through the motions or put up an act.

And it's the deaths.

**The thousands of dead and dying, with Bush sitting there smirking and lying about progress and winning in a country where every single Iraqi outside of the Green Zone is losing.**

Once again...

The timing of all of this is impeccable- two days before congressional elections.

And if you don't see it, then I'm sorry, you're stupid. Let's see how many times Bush milks this as a 'success' in his coming speeches.

A final note.

**I just read somewhere that some of the families of dead American soldiers are visiting the Iraqi north to see 'what their sons and daughters died for'.**

**If that's the goal of the visit, then, "Ladies and gentlemen- to your right is the Iraqi Ministry of Oil, to your left is the Dawry refinery..."**

Each of you get this, a gift bag containing a 3 by 3 color poster of Al Sayid Muqtada Al Sadr (Long May He Live And Prosper), an Ayatollah Sistani t-shirt and a map of Iran, to scale, redrawn with the Islamic Republic of South Iraq.

Also... Hey you! You; the female in the back; is that a lock of hair I see?

Cover it up or stay home."

And that is what they died for.

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



APPLE-BOBBING AT THE CHENEYS'

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

**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))

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The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

[http://robinlea.com/GI\\_Special/](http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/); <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

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

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