

## GI SPECIAL 4L12:



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

# Sgt. Kelly Vs. The Iraq Veterans

Fight To Survive: [www.ftssoldier.blogspot.com/](http://www.ftssoldier.blogspot.com/)

The Statistics were a group of soldiers deployed in Iraq between January of 2004 and March of 2005.

The posts from this period are an expression of our raw emotions and thoughts while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Since being honorably discharged in the summer of 2005, we've continued to post additional journal entries, poetry, and reflections from our time served and our current lives as veterans as we continue our Fight to Survive.

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From: J.D. Englehart [Veteran, 1<sup>st</sup> ID, Iraq, Fight To Survive]

To: GI Special

Sent: November 17, 2006  
Subject: a little something from our blog

Here is a cute little argument that flared up recently on our blog. Maybe you can use it in GI Special.

Anyways, here's what sergeant Steve Kelly has been saying, and our rebuttal. I think he's New Jersey National Guard. Hell, you may even know him!

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**Steve Kelly said...**

## **“You Disgrace The Word ‘Veteran’ Every Time You Use It”**

I respect your right to speak your mind on this subject however it's your turn to respect my right to do the same.

**You disgust me beyond words! The garbage that you put out there is the same crap as everyone else opposed to this war. All the same old regurgitated quotes, gripes, bitches blah blah blah...**

**You disgrace the word "Veteran" every time you use it.**

**Please do us all a favor and give it a rest.**

**If you hate everything about this country just leave. I'm sure France, Iraq, North Korea or Iran would welcome you with open arms.**

Please don't disgrace the memory of those who actually fight or have fought in this war with the poetic bullshit that you spew.

If you disagree with the war, stick to the issues and leave the soldiers out of it.

Let me guess, you joined the military for college money huh?

I am glad that you made it back from Iraq alive, but saddened that you apparently lost half your brain in the process.

Now you have yourself a nice day and thank you for allowing me to share my point of view with you.

Sgt. S. Kelly  
5:46 PM

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**The Statistics said...**

# **“There Are Other Benedict Arnolds Out There Like You. Your Very Existence And Subservient Nature Contradict The Exact Constitution That You Swore To Defend”**

**Steve Kelly, you poor, manipulated stooge. I can't believe people in uniform, and who have been to Iraq or Afghanistan, can so vehemently support the same administration that has abused our soldiers like a red-headed step-child.**

Steve, you are the perfect example of a soldier who has been victimized.

There seem to be parallels between an abused housewife -- ever so devoted to the man who beats her -- and that of a soldier who lives in a constant state of denial.

Can you not see the part we all played, as veterans and soldiers, in this American adventure in Iraq?

Do you not see the criminal behavior of this administration, even after the dust settled in the recent election? (It is a FACT that the main reason Americans went to the polls this year was to vote out CORRUPTION.)

Do you not remember the amount of corporate pillaging and WAR PROFITEERING (which is a federal crime in this country, I might add) that took place and is still going on through companies such as Halliburton-KBR, General Electric, Lockheed, Bechtel, Black Water Security, and so on.

**Don't you remember how fucked up it was to be in Iraq, doing some insanely dangerous mission, and watching a contract employee doing essentially less than you but with far better equipment, a salary that dwarfed yours by at least triple, and all while wearing a polo shirt and a smug grin on his face while you toiled away pretending that your role in the actual Uniform of the US Military was somehow more noble and respectful than his?**

**After all, Steve, you didn't do it for the money, that's for damn sure.**

**Do soldiers like you really live in such a state of denial that when Uncle Scam comes at you with a back hand, you beg for the whole fist?**

You know, I couldn't stand sergeants like you.

**So consumed and engrossed in your own measly authority over soldiers that you become completely subservient to the powers over you, and truly believe in authority with such fervor that you become depended on it for stability, and when actually given the chance to think independently, you instead just turn off your brain, shut the fuck up, and do exactly what you're told, even if you know what you are doing is stupid, dangerous, or just outright immoral.**

**Servitude is pathetic, Steve.**

**You have the mentality of a cop. I'm sure if you had the chance, you would love to see me on the street and beat me within an inch of my life simply for not agreeing with you.**

**You say we disgust you?**

**Well you disgust me.**

**You not only protect a system that marginalizes the poor, terrorizes the citizenry, pisses all over our civil and constitutional rights, and arrogantly abandons our war veterans, but you protect it ever-so proudly and belligerently.**

**You are nothing more than a loyalist, Steve Kelly.**

**And there are other Benedict Arnolds out there like you.**

**Your very existence and subservient nature contradict the exact Constitution that you swore to defend.**

**So keep pretending that you served a noble cause, and keep imagining that the Bush administration is pure and honest and true.**

**In time, there will be less and less "good little sergeants" out there who believe the hype.**

**And somewhere down the road, when this country looks back on the Iraq and Afghanistan occupations with shame and regret, you will be the only motherfucker in the VFW crying in his beer over it.**

**Confused, beaten, and distraught, you will wonder why the government you loved so much never seemed to love you back.**

**You also have a nice day, by the way.**

**-heckle**

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**Steve Kelly said...**

**“It Is Obvious That You Have A Severe Problem With Authority, Probably Due To Your Feelings Of Inadequacy”**

Ok, so you all feel the need to spew your crap, yet not one of you are brave enough to post your own name? You hide behind a keyboard and tell people what they should and should not believe.

I, just like all of you have every right (more so) than some who have commented to also speak my mind.

**As noted by Marty who actually took the time to check out my web site, *I have not yet been to Iraq*, and had you actually taken the time to do some research, you would have discovered that as well.**

It just shows me that what you say is whatever pops in to your heads and that you take no time to research your thoughts or what you call the truth.

To you "Heckle" first let me say that I have no ill feelings towards you personally what so ever. I do not know you well enough to hate you. You see, I unlike you chose not to use foul language and hypothetical situations in a feeble attempt to degrade you.

I simply evoked my right to freedom of speech to inform you that people like you disgust me.

As evidenced in your writing, you are uneducated and uninformed, yet you continue to spew your rhetoric and messages of hate to anyone who is stupid enough to listen or brave enough to stand up to you.

It is obvious that you have a severe problem with authority, probably due to your feelings of inadequacy.

Just because you had Sergeants you disliked does not mean every Sergeant is as you put if "So consumed and engrossed in your own measly authority over soldiers that you become completely subservient to the powers over you".

You state that you believe I am subservient, yet you are the one blindly following the heard.

You complain that the system "marginalizes the poor, terrorizes the citizenry, pisses all over our civil and constitutional rights" yet you do nothing to change it but complain on the internet? Surely you must know that if you have a complaint, than you better have a solution as well.

I did not volunteer to go to Iraq based on my political views nor did I attempt to interject my beliefs upon you. I volunteered to go based on my personal feelings on the matter and nothing you can say will change that.

I know it pisses you off when people disagree with you folks because it makes you think and obviously that it a challenge for you.

And Phoebe, I did take the time to read the blog as I already stated, I did my research. But hey, isn't that what makes this country of ours so great... the ability for anyone to speak their mind and agree or disagree with whom ever they choose?

You folks have a great day I know I will.

4:50 PM

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**The Statistics said...**

**“We Are In Books, Magazines, Newspapers,  
And On Your TV. We Are In The Streets In  
Marches And Demonstrations And We Are In  
On The Hill Forcing Legislation”  
“Crossing The Border Or In Your Home Town, We  
Are FUCKIN’ Your Shit Up!”**

Look Stevie,

I am glad you keep coming back to not only listen to anything we spew, but also swallow it all. You must enjoy the taste of having your feeble opinions ripped apart by stone cold reality.

**If you actually do your research you can probably find most of our names on this very site.**

Perhaps you lack the fortitude to face the truth? Most people like you fail to have the back bone or wisdom to accept the facts.

I also think that presents us with more ammunition to degrade you than you us. That is likely the reason for your feeble comments? That is fine however, we will entertain your childlike views and continue to punish your dim wit with clever rebuttal.

It is great that we disgust you. You are well within the minority and not everyone can be reeducated and saved from believing in blind ideology. Your disgust is a symbol to me that we are on the right track. It is fully obvious that you are a mere stubborn clone, hopeless and pitiful.

**The only authority I allow over me is competent and honorable governing.**

**Like the founding fathers vision of a government that represent the majority, not some "decider" that dictates to his subjects whether to "Stay the Course".**

**I swore to serve as a weapon for my democracy, not a Justiciar for state and corporations. And I still serve the people of the United States before any corrupt ruler. It is through inadequacy that people put promotion and ideology before integrity and conviction. Perhaps you should reexamine that Army Values card?**

**I had Sergeants I liked and Sergeants I thought were ass kissing climb the ladder hope the command throws me a bone types.**

**I think just your kind was put in the second category. So don't attempt to confuse yourself with any qualified Non Commissioned Officer. Perhaps you will also have to read the NCO Creed?**

**Look around Stevie, you might find that we at FTS are much the leaders rather than the followers.**

**Not only have we been speaking out largely against the war while we fought it, it was us who took the risk to attempt to inform the public about the realities of the occupation.**

**However there were a few voices in the dark that now are finally being spotlighted.**

**We thank everyone that has worked long and hard as the underdogs to achieve some position in the struggle. It hasn't been the easy road, but we have always had the moral high ground.**

**How little you understand of what we actually do.**

**The website is just another tool in the tool box.**

**We are in books, magazines, newspapers, and on your tv. We are in the streets in marches and demonstrations and we are in on The Hill forcing legislation.**

**We are turning foreign policy and dismantling domestic institution.**

**Crossing the border or in your home town, we are FUCKIN' your shit up!**

What exactly are your personal feeling on the matter when you talk about why you joined and went to war?

**The ability to speak our minds is an amazing quality and it is one that is in dire jeopardy if this administration is allowed to accomplish any of their plans.**

**We have lost so much already and George W Bush has limited American Freedoms more than any president in history.**

Of course you will have a fine day. Ignorance is bliss after all.

Anonymous, you are the most meek antagonist we have on the site. Please try to step it up a notch and come up with one original thought in your inane cheerleading.

The H  
4:52 AM

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The Statistics said...

**“It Is You Who Are Quickly Becoming The  
Minority”  
“We Are In Every Facet Of Your Society.  
We Are Everywhere!”**

All of the authors on this site are now currently antiwar activists.

Our views are seen by some as radical in nature, but our dedication to the Constitution and true liberty remains our undying conviction. To say we only hide behind our keyboards, or do nothing to enact change, or force our ideas on others is utterly false.

I'm J.D. Englehart, also known as "Heckle". I never tried to hide my identity. If you google Fight To Survive, or actually read through the blog for that matter, you can certainly find my name. Our decision to use pseudonyms does not need to be explained, but at any rate...

**The opposition to this war or this government has no face.**

**It cannot be easily profiled or identified.**

**It is an opposition that can be found anywhere: it thrives in your community, it resides next door to where you live, or even secretly exists in your very own household!**

**We are in every facet of your society. WE ARE EVERYWHERE!**

**And as something that the Right has adamantly denied and the liberal Left has only seemed to catch on to recently, opposition has been festering under the surface for quite some time now.**

**It has only been through recent GLOBAL events, in which the ruling minority has proven itself absolutely corrupt and fraudulent, that such an opposition has become a popular movement.**

**As a result -- the few, the proud and the brainwashed -- those of you out there who stand obediently behind a system that consciously manipulates us all, it is you who are quickly becoming the minority.**

**You are the Loyalists who pledge allegiance to a molested and degraded alteration of the true freedoms that we as Americans have as our birthright.**

While your dedication to a sinking ship may seem noble, it's your ignorance and arrogant nationalism that keeps you in line.



**Either wake up and help us to weed out these greedy two-faced crooks, or go home. We don't need you.**

**I do not choose my resistance to authority, it comes naturally.**

**It's not a result of insecurity, but rather one of personal integrity.**

**And if ever a time comes to oppose an authority that robs us blind of even our self respect as adult human beings, then you're goddamn right I will stand up for the true values of freedom that is supposed to be what makes this country great.**

The freedom you choose is the freedom to consume. The only freedom you were ever taught is freedom FROM thought, nothing more.

**There exists a better world on the other side of your narrow-minded wall.**

-JD



Former Army specialist Darrell Anderson Dec. 4, 2006 in San Diego outside the bus he and members of Iraq Veterans Against The War are using to travel the country expressing their opposition to the war. (AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi)



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

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **New York Soldier Killed: “All He Talked About Was Those Damn IEDs”**

December 8, 2006 SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)

Army Spc. Kenneth Haines' family feared his daily encounters with improvised explosive devices while on road patrol.

This week, the family learned their fears had become reality. Haines was killed Sunday on routine road patrol when the armored vehicle he was riding triggered a roadside bomb near Balad, Iraq. Two other soldiers were critically wounded in the explosion.

The 25-year-old Haines had just begun his second tour of duty in Iraq in October.

"I tried to talk him out of going back," said his older brother, Mike Haines, 30, of Baldwinsville. "All he talked about was those damn IEDs."

A six-year Army veteran, Kenneth Haines was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas.

When Mike Haines heard about his brother's death, he said he refused to believe it.

"But the next day, I called the Army to confirm, and I've been getting calls from friends ever since," he said.

A two-sport varsity athlete at Fulton's G. Ray Bodley High School, Kenneth Haines had lived in Granby since age 12. His parents divorced and his mother struggled to provide for him and four siblings, the brother said.

Kenneth Haines was a defensive end on Fulton's Red Raiders football team that finished runner-up in the 1998 state high school football championship playoffs. He also wrestled in high school.

Michael Conners, the Fulton varsity wrestling and football coach, was stunned when he heard of Haines' death.

"This is the kind of kid you want representing your country, because he's a man of honor and loyalty. He showed that as an athlete. You weren't going to find a kid who was much more loyal or honorable than Kenny Haines," Conners said.

Mike Haines said he hopes to carry his brother's legacy on with his yet-to-be born child.

"I've decided if it's a boy, I'm going to name him Kenny," he said. "His memory will live on."

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## **“Real Special Man” Killed On 3rd Tour In Iraq**



Family members said John Hartman loved the camaraderie of the military but he had expressed frustration to friends about the direction of the war in Iraq. COURTESY PHOTO

December 06 By ANTHONY CORMIER, Herald-Tribune

BRADENTON -- Staff Sgt. John Hartman didn't have to go back to Iraq -- he had already served two tours and had a plum post-combat assignment awaiting him at a base in Oklahoma.

But when a platoon mate's wife gave birth earlier this year, Hartman was compelled to help him out.

So Hartman, a veteran Army artilleryman and Manatee High School graduate, headed back to Baghdad in his friend's stead. It was a sacrifice that cost Hartman his life.

Hartman, 39, was killed Thursday when a roadside bomb detonated near a Humvee in Baghdad. He was manning a machine gun atop the vehicle and took the brunt of the blast.

Hartman, a father of two, is the seventh person from Southwest Florida killed during the war in Iraq. Six have been killed since the official end of combat operations in May 2003. As of Tuesday afternoon, the Pentagon had confirmed the deaths of 2,892 troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Family and friends said there were four others in the Humvee, and Hartman's brother said Tuesday that "everybody in that vehicle died."

"An Army liaison told us that all five of them were killed," said Jared Hartman of Port Charlotte. "I don't know if that's gotten out yet, but the Army told us there were 'mass casualties.'"

Pentagon officials could not be reached Tuesday afternoon, and a spokeswoman at Fort Stewart, Ga., where Hartman's regiment is based, declined to comment on other casualties.

Hartman sometimes expressed to his friends that he was frustrated with the war's direction, especially the disorganization of Iraqi security forces.

When Hartman decided to return for a third tour in July, he was assigned to a military transition team made up of Special Forces operators, Army Rangers and other experienced soldiers who worked in small groups to train the Iraqi military.

He was dismayed that police checkpoints throughout Baghdad provided little resistance to insurgents, who have wreaked havoc across Iraq during post-combat operations.

In a letter to a friend, Hartman said he recently saw a bound and gagged man try to escape a truck at an Iraqi checkpoint -- but the man was shoved back inside the truck and a group of insurgents moved past unnoticed.

"Some of the stories are unbelievable," said Rich Hickey, a longtime friend who served alongside Hartman in the late 1980s.

Hartman was a skinny teenager who graduated from Manatee High in 1986. He didn't have a lick of fear -- or a clue what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

He joined the Army for a short stint after high school, then got out but couldn't get comfortable in civilian life.

He bounced between jobs -- he was once a roofer in Bradenton -- and made his way to stay with friends in Washington before re-enlisting in November 1990.

Like his father, a Marine who fought in Vietnam, Hartman loved the camaraderie of the military.

He wasn't afraid of war, or of dying, his father said Tuesday. But the one thing he could not stand was to be away from his fellow soldiers while they were fighting.

"I don't think he was ever scared of anything in his life," said his father, John Hartman, of Lake City. "He just loved the military, that type of life. He thought he could never see the world by staying at home."

Hartman, who recently divorced, rolled into Iraq during the initial invasion to provide a deadly range of fire with a 155mm Paladin howitzer. The second go-around had Hartman in downtown Baghdad, patrolling some of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods in an armed Humvee.

"He never saw the inside of the Green Zone," the protected area, Hickey said.

His trips home were often brief, but the fish were plentiful. A lifelong fisherman and hunter, Hartman was an outdoorsman who would rather be digging ditches than sitting behind a computer screen.

Hartman's sense of humor often kept other soldiers, and even harried family members, afloat during times of trouble. Witness, for instance, pictures of a recent fishing trip: Hartman and Hickey are shirtless and possibly a bit drunk, smiling like fools as they cradle small fish.

"He was one of those guys that it didn't matter what was going on," Jared Hartman said, "John could make you laugh. He was a real special man."

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## **Iraq Blast Kills Army Soldier; Iowa Parents Grieve Loss Of Son**

December 3, 2006 By JARED STRONG, REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Two Iowa parents are mourning the loss of their son, an Army soldier who was killed Thursday in a bomb attack in Iraq.

Army Staff Sgt. Jeremy W. Mulhair, 35, was killed just more than a month after he left for a second tour of duty in Iraq, the U.S. Department of Defense said Saturday. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas.

Mulhair died when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle during reconnaissance operations in Taji, about 20 miles north of Baghdad.

The soldier's mother, Mildred Mulhair of Kimballton, said the last time she talked with her son was shortly before he was deployed in late October.

"He was proud of his service. He was ready to do his duty, but he wasn't really excited because he has a 9-month-old baby," Mildred Mulhair said.

Jeremy Mulhair grew up in the Omaha area and served with the ROTC and National Guard before joining the Army about seven years ago, shortly before he was married, his mother said. His parents moved to Iowa about eight years ago.

Mulhair's wife and three children - ages 9, 8 and 9 months - live on the military base at Fort Hood.

Mildred Mulhair said her son had previously served overseas in Korea and in Iraq for a year, shortly after the war began in 2003.

"He always did play with army men when he was little," she said, adding that her son was following in the footsteps of his father, Jerry, who is a Vietnam veteran.

Mildred Mulhair recently sent her son a care package with a letter, snack food and toiletries. She doubts that it made it to him before his death, and has requested that military officials return the letter to her.

She said that funeral services will be scheduled after her son's body is returned to Texas, but that the burial will take place in Omaha.

**Forty-seven Iowans have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of the war in March 2003.**

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



U.S. soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team stand guard at a checkpoint in Baghdad, October 27, 2006. (Thaier al-Sudani/Reuters)

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# **Graying Grad Shot By Sniper In Iraq Looks Forward To Rejoining His Comrades: “They’re Shorthanded Like Most Units Are Over There”**

12/14/06 by Dan Sanderson-Staff Writer, Crawford County Avalanche

A Grayling High School graduate, who was shot by a sniper in Iraq last month, said he has bittersweet feelings since he will be with family for holidays, but looks forward to rejoining his comrades on the battlefield.

Mark "Fuzzy" Taylor is being treated at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Taylor was shot by a sniper while in Ramadi on Nov. 19 while he and another soldier were on top of a building repairing radio transmission equipment designed to help enhance communications when troops leave their base.

Taylor was hit by the second of two rounds fired by the sniper.

"I could tell whoever was firing at us was close by, and my first instinct was to get off the roof, and when I went to turn, I got shot," Taylor said. "The bullet just shredded my leg."

The bullet left a baseball size hole in Taylor's right thigh and damaged his femoral artery.

Doctors had to open up his lower leg to allow the blood that had flowed down to drain. A skin graft was taken from his left thigh to replace the damaged tissue.

Taylor said he does not feel much pain, and receives good treatment at the Brooke Army Medical Center, where a large number of wounded soldiers who return from Iraq are treated.

"I couldn't ask for much more," he said. "They're just really sharp here because they have seen everything before."

Taylor is a specialist serving with the 1-9 Infantry Regiment Second Infantry Division, which is based out of Fort Carson, Colo.

The infantry unit landed in Iraq on Oct. 30. Taylor said it was unnerving dealing with the small arms and sniper fire coming from the militias in Ramadi.

"You just want everything to hurry up and go fast so you can get back stateside and come back in one piece," he said.

Taylor said he is happy to be with family for the holidays, but is anxious to start rehabilitation so he can rejoin his unit.

"They're shorthanded like most units are over there," he said.

Taylor said serving in the military is a family tradition. His grandfather, Edwards Gibbs Sr., served in World War II. His father, Edward Gibbs Jr., enlisted in the army during the Vietnam War era. His older brother, Robert Avrams, served in the Marine Corps. And Taylor's younger brother, James Gibbs, is currently serving in the Army in Afghanistan.

Taylor said he was inspired to join the military after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"That really prompted me to join and made me want to do something," Taylor said.

Taylor, who received his General Education Development certificate in Grayling in 2001, was back in town in September and keeps in contact with friends.

Taylor, who earned the nickname Fuzzy for a hat he wore, said he likes the small town atmosphere in Grayling and the peacefulness of being out in the country.

"I'll end up back in Grayling at some point," he said.

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## TROOP NEWS

# **Palo Verde Grad, Now Guard Medic, Calls For Exit From Iraq: "You Have To Be A Citizen As Well As A Soldier"**

12.13.2006 By Tom Beal, ARIZONA DAILY STAR

***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 U.S. troops to come home. — Appeal for Redress From the War in Iraq***

**As petitions to Congress go, the wording of this one is mild.**

**Its impact lies in the signatures that will be affixed to it — soldiers, sailors, Marines and Air Force personnel on active duty or, like Palo Verde High School graduate Brian Hill, between assignments with the Army National Guard.**



A group called Appeal for Redress plans to deliver the petition to House and Senate members in January.

**Veterans of the Iraq war and families of those currently serving have formed groups and spoken out against the war, but the voices of the active-duty military, for the most part, have been missing.**

Hill, 27, is a staff sergeant and Army medic who served two years' active duty stateside in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He said he and other members of a medical support unit giving physicals and immunizations to soldiers for battle in Iraq were skeptical of the war from the beginning.

"The doctors, nurses and physician's assistants, we questioned what was going on," he said. "That had nothing to do with our mission. We completed our mission and we did a great job. It has no bearing on our work ethic and our patriotism."

**Hill said he is now even more convinced that the United States doesn't belong in Iraq.**

**"What we're trying to do over there, obviously, is not working. Our military presence is part of the problem. It antagonizes folks to act the way they do over there.**

**"We don't even know how many Iraqis have died," he said, and the U.S. death toll has become "a number and no one remembers names."**

Hill, speaking from his parents' home in Tucson, emphasized that he spoke for himself, as a citizen, not while on duty and not while in uniform — and that he and the more than 800 other signatories signed the petition to Congress in the same capacity.

Those elements are essential if members of the armed forces want to speak out without violating military rules, said Department of Defense spokeswoman Cynthia Smith.

Hill, who is enrolled at Central Christian College of the Bible, a small college in Moberly, Mo., plans to stay in the National Guard and is a little worried that his public call for withdrawal from Iraq will hamper his advancement. He figures his commanders will find out.

He recently flew to Washington to meet with other members of Appeal for Redress, the group that formed to collect signatures of active-duty personnel on the petition to Congress — and to be interviewed for a story about the group by Lara Logan from the CBS newsmagazine, "60 Minutes."

**"I met some of the others and that was really neat. There is always the sense of, 'Oh my goodness, am I the only one who feels this way?' "**

Hill said the group, formed by Navy Seaman Jonathan Hutto and Marine Sgt. Liam Madden, both of whom served in Iraq, collected the first 800 signatures with little publicity. He expects that number to mushroom as more find out about it.

Regardless of how he feels, Hill said, he remains a soldier and if his unit were activated and sent to Iraq, he would not hesitate. "I'd go. That's it. There's no argument. That's what I do. I have no problem following orders and I'll do my best."

But you have to be a citizen as well as a soldier, he said, and as a citizen he wants Congress to know that he and other members of the armed forces support bringing the troops home.

"I know in my heart of hearts that I'm doing the right thing," he said.

The petition and other information are online at [www.appealforredress.org](http://www.appealforredress.org)

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



The casket bearing the remains of Army Sgt. Jay Ryan Gauthreaux at of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Vacherie, La., Dec. 13, 2006. Gauthreaux was killed in Iraq on Dec. 4, when a roadside bomb exploded near the vehicle in which he was patrolling. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

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# Troops Sue To Stop Anthrax Vaccines

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

**[An editorial in Army Times this fall demanded that every top DoD official take the shot to show it's safe. Now why do you suppose they won't do that? T]**

December 14, 2006 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Members of the military sued on Wednesday to prevent the Pentagon from requiring anthrax vaccinations, the latest legal challenge over the vaccine's possible health risks.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant defense secretary for health affairs, announced in October that the military would reinstate the mandatory program for troops and Defense Department civilian personnel and contractors serving in the Middle East, Central Asia and the Korean Peninsula.

A federal judge suspended the program in 2004 after finding fault in the Food and Drug Administration's process for approving the drug. Sullivan allowed the Pentagon to vaccinate on a voluntary basis.

Last December, the FDA reaffirmed its finding that the vaccine was safe.

Lawyer Mark Zaid said in court documents that the FDA designation was not scientifically sound. He said the program should continue to be voluntary.

The suit was filed by six military members and defense contractors on behalf of U.S. troops worldwide. The case has not been assigned to a judge.

Winkenwerder said in October that anyone who refused the vaccine would be reminded of its importance and safety. Then, if needed, their supervisor would get involved and the matter would be resolved "like any other refusal to follow a lawful order."

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

# Guess Who Doesn't Need U.S. Military Trainers?

# [Guess Who's Winning The War]



Armed militants drive through Ramadi Dec. 5, 2006. Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, is located in Anbar province, where many insurgent groups are based. (AP Photo)

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### The Legacy Of Vietnam and Iraq



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 11, 2006  
Subject: The Legacy Of Vietnam And Iraq

### **The Legacy Of Vietnam and Iraq**

**The recipe for war is always the same.  
You absolutely have to follow the money trail.  
Once veterans reach the end of the trail,  
they see the truth.  
At this point, veterans are stoned to death  
by betrayal from their own government,  
sometimes slowly, sometimes quickly.  
Betrayal is the malignant cancer that eats  
you up from the inside out. It dismantles your  
entire belief system. It destroys your soul.  
Family and friends keep wanting to know what  
is wrong with Sean, Bobby, Willie, Jerry, Marvin,  
Mike, Colleen, Kelly, Suzanne, Don, Bud, Brian,  
Cliff, Robert, Jim, David, Linda, John, Steve, Don,  
and a thousand other veterans I know. Their names  
should all eventually be put on the same headstone.  
And, the inscription in bold letters should read:  
Here Rests In Emotional Silence, American  
Soldiers Know But To God.  
I have to constantly remind myself, that the word  
WAR stands for: Wealthy Are Richer.  
I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom,  
I served Big Business in America for the cause of profit.  
Defending the Constitution of the United States, is all  
about protecting American corporate interests.  
He or she died in the interests of protecting the Rich. That's  
what needs to be put on the headstone.  
That is the dying truth. This is what every high school  
student in America needs to know. This is the kind of  
truth that might keep them out of a funeral home.  
This truth makes a liar out of every military recruiter.  
Pay attention class ---- the life you save may be your own.  
So, I will close with a couple of brief paragraphs that are  
dedicated to every high school student across America.  
For when I speak in high schools, I consider their classes  
sacred ground.**

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**When the survivor returns from the shallow grave to finally take the witness stand,  
he or she often speaks with the artless skill of a severely abused child who has  
just**

blurted out some blatant fact of honesty. It is the kind of honesty that catches people off guard, leaving them speechless. What they have to say will shock the most vulnerable--the naive. The survivor exposes the truth with such simplistic detail, that it becomes an indictment against all those who had knowledge of its criminal existence. The survivor's testimony can be so riveting, that it reveals the ultimate evidence: **Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.**

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I was so filled with rage after returning from Vietnam, that for years I wanted to take every political hawk in America and rub their faces in the reality of the Vietnam War, just like someone would rub a puppy's nose in the carpet after it wet on the floor.

The only difference is, the wet area on the carpet would be the blood of teenage boys.

I was a pawn in a deadly chess game, so America would continue to have a high standard of living. I would be brutally betrayed in Vietnam, and later returned to an unfamiliar home in a coffin draped with deceit, so the corporate Godfathers of our country could fill their greedy coffers with enormous war profits.

Once I understood this untouchable truth, I understood the lies behind the Vietnam War. Forty years ago, if someone had told me what I have written in a couple of paragraphs, I would have told them they were a damn liar.

That was forty years ago, long before I ever unzipped the truth or a body bag.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71

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58,000 Americans were killed in Vietnam, their average age was 19. From the senior prom to Vietnam. In memory of hundreds of thousands of innocent Vietnamese civilians, who were killed in their own country for the cause of Freedom.

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)

**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.

***Iraq Is Vietnam -  
And You'd Better Believe It;  
"Nothing Destroys Troop Morale  
Faster Than Being In A War You  
Know Is Pointless"***

**More years of American training could not possibly make a difference in the outcome of the war because what was lacking in the South Vietnamese Army was not just combat skills but belief in a cause worth fighting for.**

**But none of that was the point. Vietnamization was not a military strategy. It was a public relations campaign.**

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

12.14.06 by John Graham, President, the Giraffe Heroes Project

I was a civilian advisor/trainer in Vietnam, arriving just as US troops were going home.

I wasn't there to fight, but I hadn't been in country a week when I learned that the word "noncombatant" didn't mean much where I was posted, fifty miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that then divided South Vietnam from North.

I got the message when a sniper's bullet whistled past my ear on the main highway twenty miles south of Hué. Joe Jackson, the burly major who was driving, yelled at me to hold on and duck as he gunned the jeep out of range, zigzagging to spoil the sniper's aim.

**Snipers or not, in 1971 it was the U.S. Government's policy not to issue weapons to civilian advisors in Vietnam, even to those of us in distant and dangerous outposts. The reason was not principle, but PR-and here begin the lessons for Iraq.**

**Sometime in 1969, the White House, faced with unrelenting facts on the ground and under siege from the public, had quietly made the decision that America couldn't win its war in Vietnam.**

**Nixon and Kissinger didn't put it that way, of course. America was a superpower, and it was inconceivable that it could lose a war to a third rate nation whose soldiers lived on rice and hid in holes in the ground.**

**So the White House conceived an elaborate strategy that would mask the fact of an American defeat.**

**The US would slowly withdraw its combat troops over a period of several years, while the mission of those who remained would change from fighting the North Vietnamese and Vietcong to training the South Vietnamese to carry on the fight on their own.**

At the same time, we would give the South Vietnamese a series of performance ultimatums which, if unmet, would trigger a total withdrawal and let us blame the South Vietnamese for the debacle that would follow.

**This strategy was called "Vietnamization." Implementing it cost at least 10,000 additional American and countless more Vietnamese lives, plus billions of dollars.**

**It was a rigged game from the start.**

**All but the wildest zealots in Washington knew that the South Vietnamese would not and could not meet our ultimatums: an end to corrupt, revolving-door governments, an officer corps based on merit not cronyism, and the creation of a national state that enjoyed popular allegiance strong and broad enough to control the political and cultural rivalries that had ripped the country's fabric for a thousand years.**

**During the eighteen months I was in Vietnam, I met almost no Americans in the field who regarded Vietnamization as a serious military strategy with any chance of success.**

**More years of American training could not possibly make a difference in the outcome of the war because what was lacking in the South Vietnamese Army was not just combat skills but belief in a cause worth fighting for.**

**But none of that was the point. Vietnamization was not a military strategy. It was a public relations campaign.**

**The White House hoped that Vietnamization would keep the house of cards upright for at least a couple of years, providing what CIA veteran Frank Snepp famously called a "decent interval" that could mask the American defeat by declaring that the fate of South Vietnam now was the responsibility of the South Vietnamese. If they didn't want freedom badly enough to win, well, we had done our best.**

**To make this deceitful drama work, however, the pullout had to be gradual.**

**The plan (Vietnamization) had to be easily explained to the American people.**



**And the US training force left behind had to be large enough and exposed enough to provide visual signs of our commitment on the 6:00 news. Pictures of unarmed American advisors like me shaking hands with happy peasants would support the lie that Vietnamization was succeeding.**

Living in the bulls-eye, we understood the reality very well, especially when, as public pressures for total withdrawal increased in 1971-72, most of the "force protection" troops went home too.

That left scattered handfuls of American trainers left to protect themselves. As the very visible US advisor to the city of Hué, I was an easy target for assassination or abduction, anytime the Viet Cong chose to take me out. I kept a case of grenades under my bed, I slept with an M-16 propped against the bedstead, and I had my own dubious army of four Vietnamese house guards whom I hoped would at least fire a warning shot before they ran away.

In April 1972. North Vietnamese forces swept south across the DMZ, scattering the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) defenders and driving to within six miles of Hué. I and a handful of other American trainers and advisors could only watch as a quarter-million panicked people gridlocked the road south to Danang, in a terrifying night reverberating with screams and explosions. We knew that any choppers sent to save us would be mobbed by Vietnamese eager to escape.

I'm alive because American carrier jets caught the advancing North Vietnamese just short of the city walls and all but obliterated them.

**Now we have the Iraq Study Group Report, advising that the mission of US forces shift from fighting a war to training Iraqi troops and police. The Report calls for the US to lay down a series of performance conditions for the Iraqis, including that the Iraqis end their civil war and create a viable national state.**

**I've lived through this one before.**

Deteriorating conditions on the ground soon will force President Bush to accept this shift in mission strategy.

It is Vietnamization in all but name. Its core purpose is not to win an unwinnable war, but to provide political cover for a retreat, and to lay the grounds for blaming the loss on the Iraqis. Based on what I saw in Vietnam, here's what I think will happen next:

The increased training will make no difference. It could even make things worse since we will be making better fighters of many people who will end up in partisan militias. What the Iraqi military and police need is not just technical skill but unit cohesion and loyalty to a viable central government. Neither can be taught or provided by outside trainers.

When US troops pull back from fighting the insurgents, most Iraqi units will lack both the military skills and the political will to replace them. More soldiers and police we've trained will join the militias. Violence and chaos will increase across the country.

As the situation continues to deteriorate in Iraq, anti-American feelings will increase. Cursed for staying, we will now be cursed for leaving. Iraq will become an ever more dangerous place for any American to be.

At home, political pressure to get out of Iraq completely will increase rapidly as the violence gets worse.

The military force left behind to protect the US trainers will be drawn down to-or below-a bare minimum, further increasing the dangers for the Americans who remain.

Military affairs commentator General Barry McCaffrey issued this sober warning in the December 18 Newsweek: "We're setting ourselves up for a potential national disaster in which some Iraqi divisions could flip and take 5,000 Americans hostage, or multiple advisory teams go missing in action."

**Nothing destroys troop morale faster than being in a war you know is pointless. At this same stage in Vietnam, drug use among Americans became a serious problem.**

Our ultimatums and conditions won't be met. As the situation gets worse, whatever remains of a central government in Baghdad will be even less able to make the compromises and form the coalitions necessary to control centuries of factional and tribal hatreds.

The civil war will spiral out of control, giving us the justification we need to get out, blaming the Iraqis for the mess we've left behind. Then we will face the regional and global ramifications of a vicious civil war whose only winners will be Iran and al-Queda.

US leaders may decide, as they did 37 years ago, that we must again create a "decent interval" to mask defeat and that the PR benefits of that interval are worth the cost in lives and money.

If they do, however, they should-unlike the Iraq Study Group-not lie to us that such a strategy has any military chance whatsoever of success.

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## **Poll Finds Big Increase In Negative Attitudes Toward US Among People In Middle East**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: Wow. What a surprise.]

14 Dec 2006 By David Alexander, (Reuters)

A new survey shows Arab attitudes toward American people, products and culture grew increasingly negative last year, a finding that underscores the need for a change in U.S. Mideast policy, a leading expert on the region said on Thursday.

James Zogby, the head of the Arab American Institute, said the annual survey of opinion in five Arab countries found that U.S. policy toward Iraq and the Palestinian conflict were the main issues driving deteriorating Arab opinion.

"Our policies have not only had a worsening impact in terms of attitudes towards us but also in dampening confidence in the prospects for development and political stability and are therefore, I think, a real concern to countries in the region," Zogby said.

In previous years, Americans themselves had been viewed positively in most Arab countries, his group said.

**The survey released by the Arab American Institute found that more than 80 percent of people in Saudi Arabia and Egypt had negative opinions of the United States, similar to previous years, but attitudes worsened in Morocco, Jordan and Lebanon.**

**The biggest increases were in Jordan, where negative U.S. ratings climbed to 90 percent from 62 percent and Morocco, where they grew to 87 percent from 64 percent.**

Attitudes toward American people, movies and democracy were more negative than positive in most of the five countries.

Notably, residents had negative attitudes toward most U.S. policy in the region.

Opinions were most negative about the Iraq war and the Palestinian conflict.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

**90% Of Iraqis Say Life Better Before U.S. Invasion;  
“66 Per Cent Of Respondents To The Iraqi Survey Thought Violence Would Decrease If US Forces Were To Leave”**

More than 90 per cent of Iraqis believe the country is worse off now than before the war in 2003, according to new research obtained by Al Jazeera.

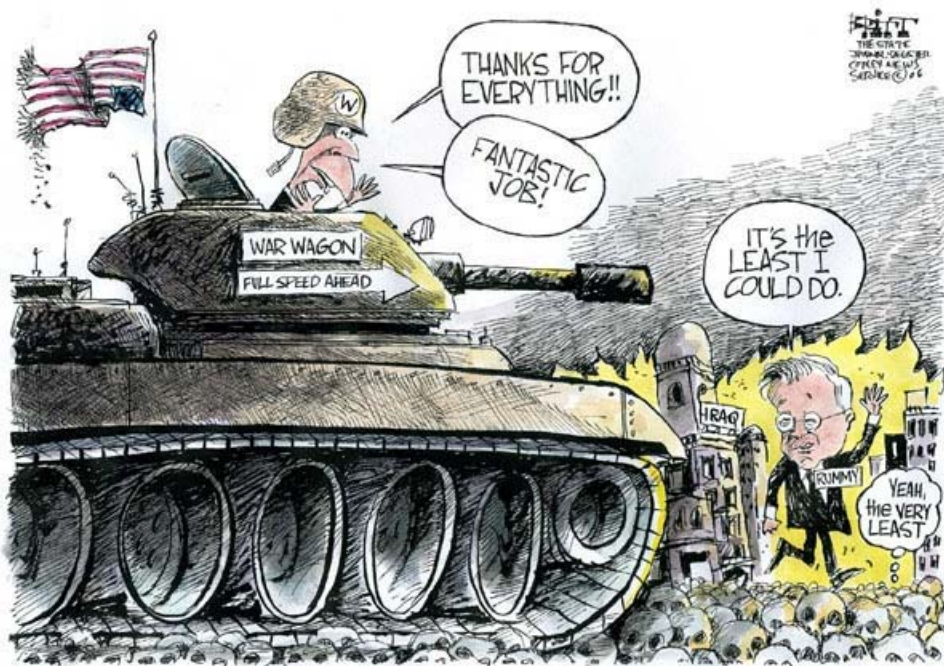
A survey of 2,000 people by the Iraq Centre for Research and Strategic Studies found that 95 per cent of respondents believe the security situation has deteriorated since the arrival of US forces.

**Nearly 66 per cent of respondents to the Iraqi survey thought violence would decrease if US forces were to leave.**

Thirty-eight per cent were also "unconfident" that Nuri al-Maliki, the Iraqi prime minister, would be able to improve the situation in Iraq and nearly 90 per cent described the government's implementation of its commitments and promises as very poor.

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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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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