

GI SPECIAL 4L14:

**No Bullshit Excuses:
Get Off Your Ass And
Reach Out In Person
To Some Troops For The
Holidays:
“A Christmas Push For
Conscience”**



10.26.06: Liam Madden of Bellows Falls, Vt., said he doesn't think he would've joined the Marines if he had known the government would lie to start a war on Iraq. The 22-year-old sergeant, who spent seven months in Iraq, is part of a group of service members who organizing a Christmas holiday outreach around the Appeal for Redress to get our troops out of Iraq: [Appeal for Redress Initiative](#).
(AP Photo/Courtesy of Liam Madden)

From: Liam Madden
To: GI Special
Sent: December 10, 2006 11:56 PM
Subject: A Christmas push for conscience

Happy Holidays fellow service members,

Greetings, my name is Liam Madden, one of the founders of the Appeal For Redress campaign.

As the Christmas season approaches, the alliance of MFSO (Military Families Speak out) IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War), and the Appeal for Redress initiative are coordinating a drive to deliver holiday care packages to the Active Duty community near you on the 18th-20th of December.

These Care Packages will bring troops some delicious treats, but more importantly they will be filled with information about the sponsoring organizations and "locked and loaded" with an Appeal For Redress ready to be mailed off to congress.

We believe for every one of you who have learned about the appeal and were eager to let your voice be heard, there are hundreds more waiting to discover our movement.

We are asking for your help in reaching out to your fellow service members; if you can lend a hand please contact me at Maddenlm@gmail.com.

Once we have your responses we will put you in contact with each other and the supporting network of family members and veterans participating.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,
Liam Madden
Sergeant USMC**

MORE:

**Iraq Veterans Against The War
Say:
“Support For Our Troops By
Handing Out Care Packages To**

Them Outside The Gates Of Active-Duty Bases Just Before Christmas”

“Reaching Out To Active-Duty Men And Women Is One Of The Most Crucial Steps To Ending The War In Iraq”



www.ivaw.org

December 11, 2006 IVAW Holiday Bulletin

We at IVAW know that reaching out to active-duty men and women is one of the most crucial steps to ending the war in Iraq.

IVAW will be working with members from the Appeal for Redress, appealforredress.org, Veterans for Peace, and Military Families Speak Out to show our support for our troops by handing out care packages to them outside the gates of active-duty bases just before Christmas (Dec 18-20).

Besides treats like cookies and candy, these care packages will include information on the anti-war movement and resources so that they can become directly involved in ending the war and caring for their brothers and sisters as they return home.

Suggested items for the care packages include: the Appeal for Redress, Iraq Veterans Against the War flyers, “Iraq for Sale,” and “Sir, No Sir!” postcards telling soldiers how to get their free copy, information on Vets for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Courage to Resist, and the GI Rights Hotline, as well as cookies, candy, and other holiday treats.

To make this work, we need teams of at least six people to go and stand in front of the gates (on the public right of way) of active duty bases prior to the Christmas holiday. Team members can hold signs such as, “Happy Holidays” and “Free Care Package for Active Duty” while they hand out the packages.

This is a great way that you can help support our troops and bridge the gap between the peace movement and those serving in the military.

If you are interested in participating with compiling and/or delivering the care packages, please email maddenim@gmail.com with your name, organization, and the military base nearest you.

Peace and Joy over the holiday season and into the New Year,
Kelly Dougherty,
Executive Director IVAW

MORE:

Gold Star Families For Peace Say: “Help Spread The Word By Delivering Care Packages Filled With Tasty Treats & Information About The Appeal To Military Bases”



A *peal* *For* **Redress** *Troops Home*

'Tis the Season to Support the Troops.

Many active duty, reserve, and guard service members are concerned about the war in Iraq and support the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The [Appeal for Redress Initiative](#), sponsored by active duty service members based in the Norfolk area, provides a way in

which individual service members can appeal to their Congressional Representative and US Senators to urge an end to the U.S. military occupation. Almost 2000 active duty members have signed onto the appeal. [Click here](#) to read a note from one of the co-founders of the Appeal for Redress Initiative, Liam Madden.

GOLD STAR Families for Peace is proud to support their effort! This holiday season we are joining a coalition of groups including Iraq Veterans Against the War & Veterans for Peace in a campaign to help spread the word by delivering care packages filled with tasty treats & information about the appeal to military bases. Although this is a campaign that will be on-going, we are working to help gather as many signatures as possible before the new year since the appeal will be delivered to Congress in January of 2007.

Get on Santa's nice list by taking some goodies to troops in your community. It's as easy as one, two, three.



Find a base near you to spread some holiday cheer.

For a map of U.S. military bases [click here](#).



Sign up & let us know you'll be in on the action.

Once you sign up we'll send you a copy of the petition & updates about the action. Be sure to let us know what base you'll be visiting & the number of care packages you'll be taking. [Click here](#) to sign up.



Plan your merrymaking.

A few suggestions to make your action a sure-fire success:

Invite your friends and family to join you, the more the merrier!

Pick a high traffic time like early morning or late afternoon when troops are coming and going from the base.

Scout the base before your day of delivery. Since every base has several entrances, make sure you're at the busiest gate and pick a spot to stand that is visible to traffic and people walking in/out of the base.

You don't have to be Martha Stewart to make a care-package for delivery. A simple brown paper lunch sack can be decorated with messages of support and filled with cookies, candies and other holiday goodies. Homemade is always best, but store bought treats will do the trick. (Don't forget to include a copy of the Appeal for Redress.) The important thing is reaching out to the troops in a way that is friendly and supportive.

Be sure that your signs and banners are supportive and don't seem aggressive towards the military – remember we are trying to communicate with them not put them on the defensive.

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

ENOUGH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Troops assist platoon commander 2nd Lt. Samuel Joiner, 23, from Knoxville, Tenn., to safety after he was wounded by an improvised explosive device in Anah, in Anbar province, Iraq, Dec. 7, 2006. (AP Photo/Lance Cpl. Nathaniel F. Sapp, U.S. Marines)

IED Kills Three Baghdad Soldiers On Clearing Mission, One Wounded

Dec. 17, 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20061217-01

An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol, killing three Soldiers north of the Iraqi capital yesterday.

The combat patrol was conducting a route clearance mission in order to free the roads of any possible dangers so that a follow-on unit could move through the area without harm. As they conducted their mission, a roadside bomb exploded near one of their vehicles, killing three and wounding a fourth Soldier.

Minnesota Guard Announces Another Death



Spc. Nicholas Turcotte was killed in Iraq on Monday. (Minnesota National Guard)

December 6, 2006 by Toni Randolph, Minnesota Public Radio

St. Paul, Minn. — Nicholas Turcotte, 23, of Maple Grove died Monday night. Military officials say he was in an armored vehicle that was escorting a logistics convoy when his vehicle rolled over on a road near Al Nasiriyia. They say the accident was not caused by hostile military activity and remains under investigation.

Turcotte enlisted in the National Guard in 2004, three years after he graduated from Maple Grove High School. One of his teachers there was Giuseppe Mendolia. Mendolia, who is now principal of Brooklyn Junior High School, says he immediately recognized Turcotte's name when he heard the news, and he pulled out the the Maple Grove yearbook to recall his former student.

"I remember Nick as being a happy-go-lucky student who was always quick with a smile and seemed pretty happy about life and relaxed and easy-going," he said.

One of Turcotte's classmates agrees. Jackie Arnold was involved in several of the school's bands with Turcotte.

"He was just really a nice kid all-around. He talked to everybody, was really approachable, really friendly with everybody," she said.

Arnold says, for a time, she and Turcotte were assigned to load up the band's instruments and uniforms. "We had five minutes to get 500 people's instruments packed up into a truck and ready to go," she said.

Arnold described Turcotte as a team-player and a problem-solver recalling that he found a way to load the truck more efficiently.

Turcotte was very involved in the school's music department. Eric Bitterman, the Maple Grove High School band director, says Turcotte was a gifted trombonist who played in the jazz ensemble, was a section leader in the marching band and also sang in the choir, among other activities. But Bitterman says, Turcotte had other good qualities. He says the young man liked to cheer people up.

"I think what I'll remember best about Nick is he was always good at making light of dark times in his life or anyone's life. He had a quick wit, and always able to offered a joke to lighten the moment," he said.

Bitterman says he didn't know that Turcotte had enlisted in the National Guard, but he says it's not surprising that he did.

"In our marching band he was high-spirited and highly self-disciplined in his own practice. He'd be able to motivate others around him to rise to the occasion as well," he said.

Nicholas Turcotte was ranked as a specialist at the time of his death, but the National Guard says he'll be promoted posthumously to sergeant. He's survived by his wife, Jennifer.

Knox Community Mourns Local Hero Killed In Iraq

12.6.06 Macpherson Internet Utilities

KNOX - Members of the Knox community on Wednesday declared one of their own a true hero - the combat soldier Ross A. McGinnis who was killed in Iraq.

McGinnis, 19, represents the first death of a Clarion County resident serving in Iraq.

He was the son of Tom and Romaine McGinnis.

No formal plans for a memorial service have yet been announced. A casualty assistance officer with the Department of Defense is handling the arrangements.

Those in Clarion County responded quickly to the news announced Tuesday, offering the family their immediate support and helping hands.

McGinnis died from injuries he suffered when a grenade was thrown into his vehicle in Baghdad.

McGinnis was a 2005 graduate of Keystone High School, and his love of country was clear.

High school Principal Vicky Walters, who is acquainted with his family, said he had enlisted early in his senior year.

"Ross was a homegrown hero," she said. He was focused on completing the requirements for graduation and then going to basic training.

McGinnis returned to Keystone in uniform after completing the training. "It was apparent that he wore his country's uniform with pride," Walters said.

McGinnis was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Walters said McGinnis was a gunner on a humvee.

"A grenade was dropped into the humvee from a rooftop," she said. "Ross was aware of the location where the grenade landed. He did not have time to throw the grenade out of the vehicle. Instead, Ross threw himself onto the grenade to prevent further loss of life of the four other individuals in the vehicle."

Tom McCoy, who serves as commander for the Knox American Legion, taught McGinnis when he was in ninth grade.

McCoy has since retired and currently serves on the school board.

"He was always happy and had a smile," the commander said. "I was saddened" to hear the announcement.

And Clarion County Career Center automotive technology instructor Brent Johnson remembers McGinnis as an outstanding student who participated in the student compass and performed secretary/treasurer duties for the automotive department.

"Ross was the type of student that made me proud to be a teacher," Johnson said. "He will be greatly missed." "May we all continue to appreciate the efforts of Pfc. Ross McGinnis and for all of our soldiers and troops defending freedom," she said.

New Zealand Mercenary Killed

Dec 17, 2006 TVNZ

A New Zealand man working for a private security firm in Iraq has been killed in a violent attack on the convoy he was guarding.

Steve Gilchrist, 33, who moved to Brisbane in 2001, was killed instantly when his armoured vehicle was hit by an armour-piercing shell as he was escorting a convoy of trucks.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. troops following an explosion in Baghdad Dec. 5, 2006. Two car bombs exploded near one another in western Baghdad. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

1 Occupation Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded In Mehtar Lam Blast; Nationality Not Announced

12.16.06 KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

A roadside blast killed one NATO soldier and wounded two others in eastern Afghanistan, a statement from the alliance said Saturday.

The explosion occurred in Mehtar Lam district of the eastern Laghman province on Friday while the troops were conducting an operation, the statement said.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to a NATO hospital for treatment.

The statement did not identify the nationalities of the dead and wounded soldiers. Most of NATO troops in the country's east are American.



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

TROOP NEWS

**Anti-War Activists Open
'Coffeehouse' Near Fort Drum:
"The Opposition To The War Is Very
Deep. And No One Knows Exactly How
It Will Come Out"**

Dec 10, 2006 By John Catalinotto, Workers World

When the news broke that anti-war organizers had set up the Iraq War's first "coffeehouse" near Camp Drum in upstate Watertown, N.Y., Workers World contacted Tod Ensign of Citizen Soldier, one of the founders of the "Different Drummer Cafe."

Ensign has organized GIs and veterans since the Vietnam War. Citizen Soldier provides legal and organizational support for resisters, veterans and anyone fighting grievances against the Pentagon.

During the Vietnam days the anti-war movement created an extensive GI coffeehouse and counseling network, starting first in Ft. Jackson, S.C., in late 1967 and spreading to 20 other major U.S. bases within a year. In the same period resistance grew inside the barracks with the spread of groups like the American Servicemen's Union. The troops became a formidable force that played a dynamic role in ending the war.

Ensign notes that while there is growing opposition to the Iraq occupation within the military; a Stars and Stripes poll reported that 72 percent want the U.S. out within a year and 29 percent want them out yesterday; "it would be a mistake to draw the parallels too closely to the Vietnam period."

"We opened the Different Drummer Cafe at 1 Public Square in Watertown this fall," said Ensign. It's in one of the oldest shopping arcades in the country, right in the middle of town, close to a bar, a pizza shop and an espresso-type shop.

An eight-year Army veteran, Cindy Mercante, keeps the cafe open afternoons and evenings from Wednesday to Saturday. Five military veterans help out as volunteers. The Different Drummer offers free counseling, but so far "GIs aren't asking for help to refuse or for help in changing their status," said Ensign.

"The troops show us no hostility, but they have a realistic fear of repression and a confusion about what to do. Pay and benefits are more than what the troops would get if they left the service. It's not like back in 1970, when enlisted troops were paid next to nothing.

"In the 1960s the troops came to coffeehouses to find books, especially Black GIs inspired by Martin Luther King or the Panthers and George Jackson. We don't find that now.

"But if we hire bands that people in the area know, the GIs come in for Saturday night dance parties.

"We show films every Saturday afternoon. We showed 'Iraq for Sale' last Saturday. We showed 'Poison Dust' about depleted uranium, and discussed a bill providing testing for veterans who suspected DU poisoning. We showed 'Sir, No Sir!,' the film about the Vietnam GI movement.

"Fort Drum is no longer just a training base for National Guard troops. It's now the home base for the 12,000-plus troops of the active-duty 10th Mountain (Light Infantry) Division,

a highly mobile but not airborne division intended as a rapid intervention force, the kind Donald Rumsfeld likes. It has the highest rate of deployment of any Army division.

“Our project has potential,” said Ensign. “The troops face a grinding, vicious war and a military obligation much longer than in the Vietnam period. Troops coming home in March are back from second full-year deployment, and whatever the Iraq Study Group and Bush agree to do, these troops may face redeployment by the end of 2007. The issues are real to them. They are getting killed and maimed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We will build links with the troops and their families. The opposition to the war is very deep. And no one knows exactly how it will come out.”

For more information, see www.differentdrummercafe.org.

600 From Minnesota Air National Guard Off To Bush’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

December 6, 2006 by Toni Randolph, Minnesota Public Radio

At noon Wednesday, the Guard announced that more than 600 members of the Minnesota Air National Guard from units in Duluth and St. Paul would deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan nearly next year.

About 450 of them will come from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing, which will fly missions over Iraq. The unit provides close air combat support with its F-16C fighter jets.

From the 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul, 160 members will use their C-130H cargo aircraft in missions to drop supplies into remote areas of Afghanistan.

About 7,780 Minnesota National Guard soldiers have deployed in southwest Asia since the Sept. 11 attacks, including about 3,000 from the Air Guard and 4,780 from the Army National Guard.

Fundamentalist Fanatics Infiltrate Pentagon Leadership:

Traitors “Punish Those Who Do Not Accept Evangelical Beliefs By Stalling Their Careers”

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Dec 11 By Kristin Roberts

A watchdog group that promotes religious freedom in the U.S. military accused senior officers on Monday using their rank and influence to coerce soldiers and airmen into adopting evangelical Christianity.

Such proselytizing, according to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, has created a core of "radical" Christians within the U.S. armed forces and Pentagon who punish those who do not accept evangelical beliefs by stalling their careers.

"It's egregious beyond the pale," said Mikey Weinstein, president and founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. "We apparently have a radicalized, evangelical Christian Pentagon within the rest of the Pentagon."

The group asked the Pentagon's inspector general to investigate a video in which some Army and Air Force officers discuss their faith while in uniform.

According to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, the video played for reporters was a promotional tool for Christian Embassy, a group that describes itself as a ministry helping national and international leaders blend faith and work.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation said the officers on the video violated military rules by wearing their uniforms while discussing their religious beliefs, giving the appearance of official participation in a religious organization.

That appearance, according to the group, is particularly damaging in the military, where rank carries great influence. "It associates the power of office with sectarian ideology," said MeLinda Morton, a Lutheran reverend and former Air Force chaplain who said her military career was hurt because she did not adopt evangelical views.

The religious freedom group also raised issues with the content of the video, including a comment from Air Force Maj. Gen. Jack Catton that he would discuss his faith with people who came to his Joint Staff directorate within the Pentagon.

"When we're facing a global war on terror against what we call Islamic extremists, it certainly doesn't help when we have apparently a viewpoint from the cognoscenti and glitterati, the leadership of the Pentagon, pushing a particular virulent worldview down the throats of people who are helpless to argue against it," Weinstein said.

“It’s A Breach Of Our Liberties,” Said One Soldier

December 18, 2006 Army Times

British troops have been banned from surfing the Internet to try to figure out how to spend their combat bonuses, according to Britain’s The Sun newspaper.

The ban was ordered by the British Ministry of Defence after its technology staff said Web surfing, particularly on the auction site eBay, was found to be slowing the military’s computer system. The ban applies to the entire defense computer network, including 100,000 civilians and 180,000 uniformed men and women.

Troops are not happy, particularly those deployed to Iraq.

“It’s a breach of our liberties,” said one soldier.

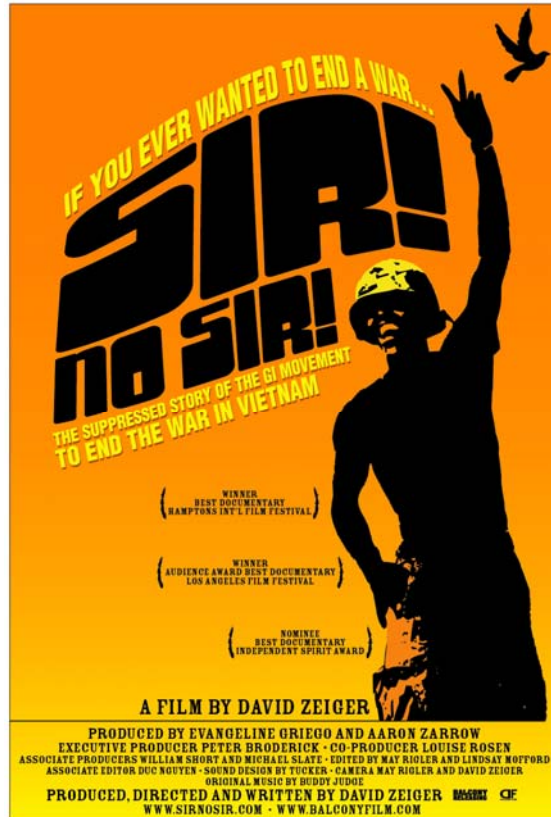
“First, they give us a tax-free bonus, then they stop us spending it how we want. Most of us only get the chance to use the (Internet) in our free time anyway. When you are on ops in the Middle East, you can hardly pop down to the local Internet café.”

A Defence Ministry spokesman said: “As with many other employers, the MoD does not allow its networks to be used for private transactions on commercial auction sites.”

[“As with many other employers,” perhaps soon there will be a strike by your employees, which is what people do when they get shit on by idiots in suits once too often.]

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“The Under-Publicized History Of Dissent Among The U.S. Military’s Rank And File During The Vietnam War”



Jason Anderson, The Globe and Mail [Excerpts]

"I was doing it right," one ex-GI says of his stint in Vietnam, "but I wasn't doing right." Trained to follow the orders of their superiors and counter communist aggression in Southeast Asia, the interview subjects in *Sir! No Sir!* describe their growing misgivings about the war and the many different ways they chose to express them.

David Zeiger's informative and swiftly paced documentary reveals the under-publicized history of dissent among the U.S. military's rank and file during the Vietnam war.

In so doing, his film highlights the efforts of soldiers like the "Nine for Peace," nine servicemen turned protesters who chained themselves to clergymen before being arrested by military police in 1968, and Howard Levy, an army doctor who was sentenced to three years in prison for refusing to give medical training to Green Berets.

***Sir! No Sir!* also charts the proliferation of unrest-fomenting GI coffeehouses and underground zines with monikers like *WORMS* (We Openly Resist Military Stupidity).**

There's even a brief account of Jane Fonda's infamous travelling theatre group, whose anarchic spirit was meant to counter the more gung-ho nature of the USO. Interviewed for the film, Fonda expresses her admiration for the soldiers who resisted all that military stupidity.

As much as it lauds people who didn't kowtow to the ruling order, Sir! No Sir! could have used a little more discipline itself.

Yet Zeiger does draw attention to many important elements that have been less prominent in the history of this war, such as how the civil-rights struggle at home amplified racial tensions abroad.

The film also floats the compelling notion that president Richard Nixon's decision to scale down the ground war in favour of raining death from the skies was greatly influenced by officers' worries that they were about to get fragged by their own men.

However, Zeiger is wise not to spend time drawing specific parallels between the conflict in Vietnam and America's current military imbroglio.

He leaves it up to the audience to make those connections and perhaps wonder whether similar stories of resistance are currently unfolding.

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

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.**

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

Take This War and Shove It

From: Ron Jacobs
To: GI Special
Sent: December 16, 2006

Ron Jacobs is an anti-imperialist who currently lives in Asheville. NC. His first novel, Short Order Frame Up is forthcoming from Mainstay Press in early 2007. He can be reached at rjacobs3625@charter.net

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." -President Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 16, 1953

Talk about stepping into the abyss.

George Bush and his Pentagon allies are considering increasing the number of troops in Iraq by 40,000. The idea is supported by some members of Congress, although John McCain is the only one so far to express his support publicly.

This is despite the fact that over 60% of US residents want the troops out of there sooner rather than later.

Not only does the Bush position represent another blow to the idea that the people of the US run the country, it is a blatant kick in the voters' face.

Yet, as long as Congress continues to give the White House and Pentagon whatever monies they want to fight the war, any other legislative actions mean less than zero.

In a reversal of Bush's domestic initiatives like the No Child Left Behind act, an act which demanded individual states to follow certain mandates from the federal government without providing any funding, Congress provides unlimited funding of the war effort without asking for any guidelines, much less requiring any show of success.

It's not like this is unusual.

Certain funding requests rarely get a careful examination in Congress. Two of the most obvious ones both concern the Middle East.

One is the constant funding that Tel Aviv gets no matter what they do or how they do it. The other is the budgeting that concerns those countries that contain big oil's profit source.

Sometimes the money for the latter is to prop up a regime friendly to Washington's interests and sometimes it's used to destroy a regime with different ideas.

In Iraq, the former is taken to its historical extreme. In other words, a regime that appears to be barely holding on to its power is being supported with unabashed US military power -- to the tune of approximately 180 million dollars per day.

This is only the financial cost, of course. Human costs are immeasurable, but here are some raw numbers regarding them: over the course of the war, US troops have died on the average of more than two per day; somewhere around a half million Iraqis have died (probably more rather than less), over 20,000 US troops have been wounded, along with unknown numbers of Iraqis.

Despite these statistics, the war continues.

In fact, as noted above, it may very well escalate.

The Democrats squeak a lot about their frustration with the war and say they will do things differently, yet very few have made any genuine indication that they will refuse to fund the war.

Instead, a good number have signed on to the suggestions of the essentially irrelevant Iraq Study Group, whose report suggested a continuation of the war by renaming the mission of the troops on the ground and eventually withdrawing the combat troops: a move that a Washington Post report said would leave 75% of the troops in country.

In addition, not a single Democratic Senator voted against the appointment of CIA man and war apologist Robert Gates as Secretary of Defense.

Now, I don't know about you, but that sounds like more business as usual.

The Democratic Congress' first test will come soon after they are seated. It will come in the shape of a \$100 billion request for continuing the Iraq war. Other than a few noises from the left wing of the party, mostly from Congressman Kucinich of Ohio, there has been no indication that this request will not be granted.

Indeed, a cursory reading of newspaper reports on regarding the request leads me to believe that the only problem the Democrats have with the administration's war funding request is the manner in which he requests them. Instead of the emergency requests Messrs. Bush and Cheney tend to prefer, the Democrats want the war funding requests to be included in the annual budget.

Recently, antiwar vet Mike Ferner, speaking for the groups Voices for Creative Nonviolence and Veterans For Peace, announced their call to antiwar protesters around the country to occupy the hometown offices of Representatives and Senators who have voted money for the war. These actions will take place in February, since Congress convenes in late January and the aforementioned funding request will be one of the first pieces of legislation on its agenda.

This is a good idea. Indeed, I say let's go even further. Let's take up the call for the mass march on the Pentagon scheduled for March 17th and stage a sitdown protest there. Take over the lawn and refuse to leave.

Sure, the upcoming antiwar marches on January 27th and March 17th are important, but, if all indications are correct, manifestations such as these have so far only succeeded in getting our elected officials to say they oppose the war, but not to do anything concrete about it.

It's up to us to make them stick to their words. Sitting in their offices until they answer our questions or call the police is a logical next step. So is the idea of a massive sit-in on the Pentagon lawn. It's called heightening the contradictions. The United States could use some of that. Think about it.

If these ideas don't work for you and your people, perhaps another one will., or a combination of other ones. If we recall the protests in Seattle in 1999 against the WTO, we will remember how effective they were in raising the level of awareness and opposition to the aims of global capitalism.

We will also remember how effectively the protests were organized. Everything was done on a local level. Sure, the actual protests took place in Seattle (and several other places in the following years), but if we are to believe the polls, there

are enough US residents opposed to the war that we can sit in on the Pentagon lawn AND take local actions.

It's in our interest to stop this war now. We have to make it in Congress' interest, too.

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:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

Soldiers In Pill Bottles



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: December 15, 2006
Subject: Soldiers In Pill Bottles

Soldiers In Pill Bottles

**I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom.
I served Big Business in America for the cause of profit.
Betrayal is the lethal dose that destroys countless Veterans.
Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.**

**I
R emember
A nother**

Quagmire

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

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

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



An armed insurgent in Ramadi, Iraq Dec. 5, 2006. (AP Photo)

Insurgents Form Own Study Group: War 'Going Great,' Report Says

December 11, 2006 The Borowitz Report

Just days after the Iraq Study Group issued their downbeat assessment of the war on Iraq, Iraqi insurgents announced that they have formed their own study group and have released their own report, one that offers a much rosier picture of the Iraqi conflict.

The Insurgents Study Group, a collection of ten elder insurgents charged with the duty of assessing the war from the insurgents' point of view, today issued a 147-page report which became an instant bestseller among insurgent readers across Iraq.

"The war in Iraq is going great and is improving every day," the Insurgents Study Group's report begins.

In contrast to the Iraq Study Group's report, which advocates that the United States and its allies change their strategy in Iraq, the Insurgents Study Group recommends "not changing a thing."

"As insurgents, our strategy could be summarized in three words," the report concludes. "Stay the course."

In addition to its upbeat assessment of the war in Iraq, the Insurgents Study Group report reserves some choice barbs for its American rivals, the Iraq Study Group.

"The Iraq Study Group's report suggests that Iran and Syria might somehow help the U.S. out," the report says. "With so-called brilliant ideas like that, they don't deserve the name Study Group."

In response, Iraq Study Group co-chair James A. Baker III said, "Oh yeah? I'd like to see their Study Group say that to my Study Group's face."

OCCUPATION REPORT

"His Men Are Outgunned By The Insurgents"

December 18, 2006 By Andrew Scutro, Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpt]

But the Iraqi army has a long way to go in a short amount of time.

It is still dependent on the U.S. for medical service, it does not have a maintenance capability or combat service support units, it's short on personnel, and it can't get the equipment and ordnance it needs.

Staff Col. Noaman Ali, 7th Division chief of staff, said his men are outgunned by the insurgents, who have the explosives his men lack. He blames the Iraq Ministry of Defense.

“The biggest challenge is the shortage of personnel,” he said during an interview in his office at Blue Diamond. “But even our weapons are limited. If you compare, the insurgents’ weapons are more powerful than we have.”

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Iraqi children gather in front of a home that was wrecked during a U.S. Army raid and air strike in Baghdad's Sadr City Dec. 16, 2006. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

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

OCCUPATION HAITI

“Stand Up To The US/UN Occupiers Of Haiti” Demand Release Of Jailed Democracy Fighter René Civil! Free René And All Political Prisoners!

From: Tom Condit
Sent: December 15, 2006
Subject: Haiti: Rene Civil still in jail

Urgent Action Alert From The Haiti Action Committee

René Civil, one of Haiti's most well respected grass roots activists, is still in jail. Despite massive protests in Haiti calling for the release of all political prisoners, René and hundreds of others remain locked down in Haiti's jails.

It is past time for their release.

We call upon the government of President René Preval to stand up to the US/UN occupiers of Haiti and release these political prisoners.

WHO IS RENÉ CIVIL?

Mr. Civil is a leading grassroots activist with Haiti's Lavalas movement. He was a founding member and leader of Jeunesse Pouvoir Populaire or JPP (Youth/People's Power), a youth movement founded after the 1991-94 coup when President Aristide returned to Haiti. The JPP organized young people in the struggle for democracy, mainly in the poor neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince. The JPP provided financial support to encourage the youth to pursue their studies in school or learn a trade, and set up centers where young people could get a hot meal and political education.

Two days before his arrest, René Civil addressed the 3rd Solidarity Encounter with the Haitian People, at the Aristide Foundation in Port-au-Prince. He denounced the system "which causes economic, political, military and social war on the people of the world", and which is preventing poor nations like Haiti from exercising their independence. "The people of Haiti," he said, "who believe in freedom, who have tasted freedom, will never accept this criminal, slaving system."

1. The Illegal Political Arrest: Late in the night of August 25-26 Mr. Civil was illegally arrested by Haitian police without a warrant. On August 28, Civil was interrogated by the new prosecutor of Port-au-Prince, Claudy Gasant, a well-known opponent of Lavalas, and thrown in the notorious National Penitentiary. Brother René remains incarcerated today, one of hundreds of political prisoners languishing in Haiti's prisons. According to a report on HaitiWebs, when Mr. Civil left the court building after his hearing he defiantly thrust his manacled hands in the air and said: "Liberty or death. I have been arrested unjustly, with false accusations, because I defend democracy and the return of President Aristide. This is a political arrest."

2. The Fake Charges: René Civil was originally arrested on three charges - all bogus. The first, "use of a stolen vehicle," involves a car Civil has owned for six years and had registered with the police. (While Civil was in exile, the police themselves seized the car and used it for two years. Civil had only recently reclaimed his car.) The second charge relates to two pistols in the possession of others in the car, not Mr. Civil.

The third charge, "association with wrongdoers," is a vague conspiracy charge often used to keep democracy activists in prison - including former political prisoners Father Gerard Jean-Juste and former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune - without a shred of evidence that they committed any crime.

3. The Hounding of René Civil: After the February 29, 2004 kidnapping and coup d'état that overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, René Civil went into exile for two years in the Dominican Republic. On his return to Haiti on May 12, 2006 he was arrested at the border and jailed for two weeks - on an earlier set of trumped-up charges. Those charges were dropped on August 14. Barely two weeks later, he was arrested and jailed again!

4. "The Coup regime people are the ones responsible for my arrest." Visited in prison by San Francisco writer Ben Terrall, Civil said his arrest was a provocation directed at the base of Lavalas. He said the people responsible for his arrest are the same people behind the 2004 coup, who hate President Aristide and any expression of popular democracy.

Your action now can make the difference.

Write to Haiti's Minister of Justice René Magloire. Letters can be sent directly to Maitre Magloire by regular mail. Or, you can send them to René Civil's lawyers by fax at 206-350-7986 (a U.S. number) or by email avokahaiti@aol.com. His lawyers will see they are promptly delivered. In your letter, very simply state (in any language) that this was an unjust political arrest of a pro-democracy activist, and demand the immediate release of political prisoner René Civil.

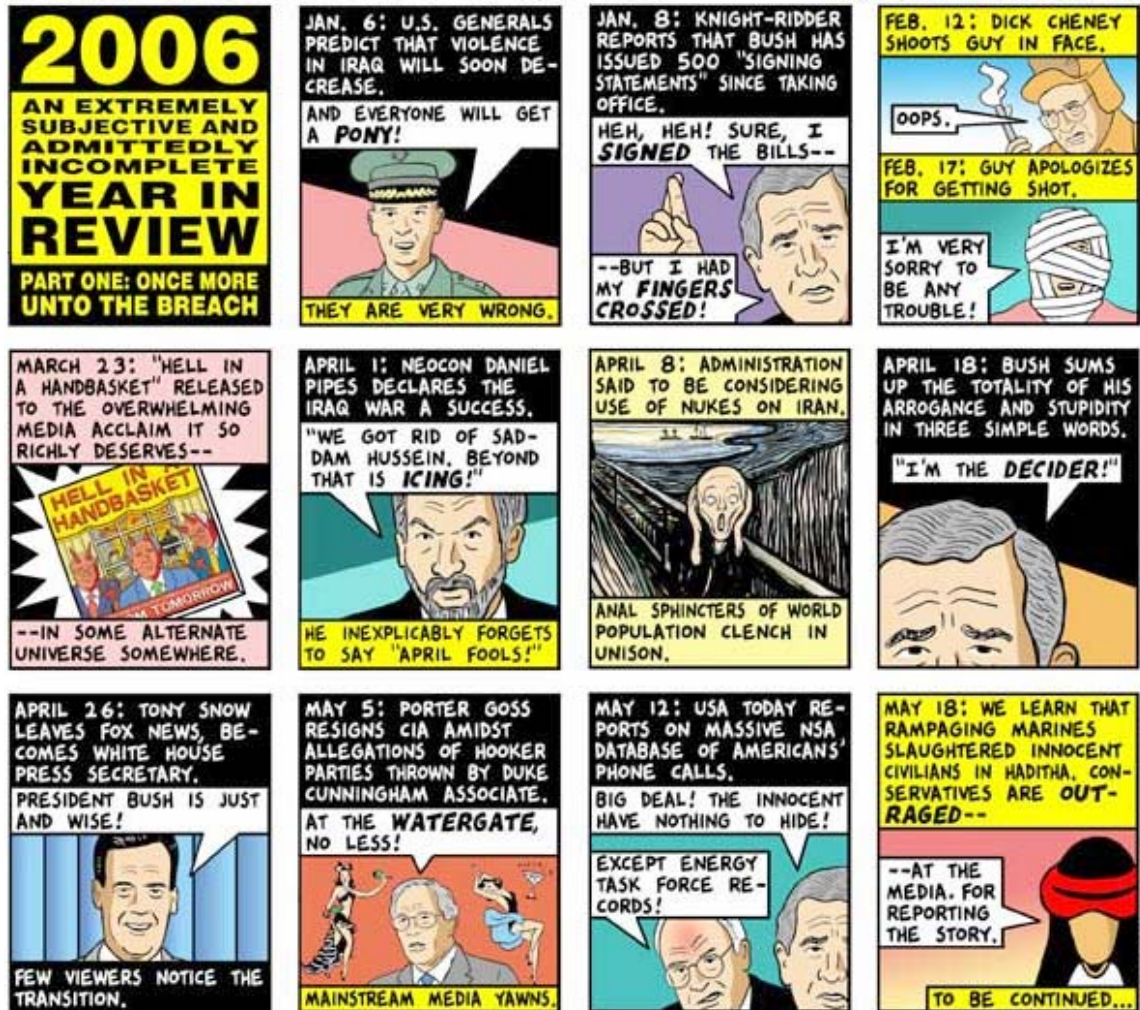
Address your letter to: Maitre René Magloire, Ministre de la Justice
At: Ministère de la Justice, 18 Avenue Charles Sumner, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

For more information: www.haitiaction.net, 510-483-7481

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Bush Refuses to Set Timetable For Reading Study Group Report: Finishing Report Would Send 'Wrong Message' to Enemies, President Says

December 12, 2006 The Borowitz Report

In a press conference at the White House today, President George W. Bush flatly refused to set a timetable for reading the Iraq Study Group's report, telling reporters that doing so "would send the wrong message to our enemies."

When the Study Group issued its report last week, many in Washington assumed that the president would move the book to the top of his reading list, but today's press conference left little doubt that Mr. Bush has no intention of being pressured into finishing the 160-page volume.

"If I were to announce that I planned to finish reading this book by summer of '07, or early '08, or some other artificial deadline, that would be giving our enemies exactly what they want," Mr. Bush told reporters. "And so I am going to stay the course and finish the book I am currently reading: 'Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog.'"

According to Professor Davis Logsdon, who teaches a course in the president's reading habits at the University of Minnesota, anyone who expects Mr. Bush to finish reading the Iraq Study Group's report any time soon will be "sorely disappointed."

"When President Bush says he's going to take his time reading something, he means it," Dr. Logsdon said. "Remember how long it took him to finish 'My Pet Goat.'"

Aussie Man Wearing Anti-Bush T-Shirt Not Allowed To Board Flight By Virgin Blue

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: Look what I found on All Headline News: Apparently there is no freedom of speech in the UK or Australia? Are we next?]

December 14, 2006 Nidhi Sharma, All Headline News Staff Writer

An Australian man was denied permission to board a connecting flight within Australia unless he removed the T-shirt titled "World's #1 Terrorist" with a picture of U.S. President George W. Bush.

The incident occurred on December 2 when Allen Jasson, who lives in London, was stopped by security personals at an airport while he was en route to meet his family. He was at the terminal hoping to catch a connecting flight from Adelaide to Melbourne when his ordeal began.

According to ANI, Jasson was first stopped at London's Heathrow Airport and forced to remove the T-shirt because it caused "security problem in light of the present situation."

He faced a similar situation at the Adelaide Airport and felt that both incidents were attempts to prevent him from exercising his freedom of expression of his feelings. "I told her I had the right to express my opinion. I felt I had made my point and caved in," Jasson said.

However, the Aussie passenger wore his Bush T-Shirt again but was yet again banned from boarding a subsequent connecting flight.

"It was argued other passengers could be offended. I said it was most offensive that I would be prevented from expressing my political views," said the Aussie traveler.

However, a Virgin Blue spokeswoman said "Most people use common sense and don't go out of their way to offend people." [Obviously they have no problem offending people. Sounds like a very unsafe airline to fly, with their heads up their collective ass and all.]

CLASS WAR REPORTS

As Billions Pissed Away On Lost Wars In Iraq, Afghanistan: More Americans Go Hungry: "Folks That Have Jobs That Don't Have Enough Money To Feed Themselves"

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: Apparently our British cousins at Reuters have not gotten the memo that the federal government is no longer using the term "hunger."

[They prefer to call it "low food security." The change is in line with the renaming of body bags as 'transfer tubes', as if being KIA for lies in an illegal war is some sort of adverse personnel action? I guess that explains why the Whitehouse is the only one still insisting that there is no civil war in Iraq. Will poverty now become 'low wealth security' also?]

Dec 14 By Lisa Lambert, WASHINGTON (Reuters)

More Americans went homeless and hungry in 2006 than the year before and children made up almost a quarter of those in emergency shelters, said a report released on Thursday by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"The face of hunger and homelessness right now ... is young children, young families," said the conference's president, Douglas Palmer, the mayor of Trenton, New Jersey.

The survey of 23 cities found civic and government groups received, on average, 7 percent more requests for food aid in 2006 than in 2005, following a 12 percent jump in 2005. Requests for shelter rose by an average of 9 percent in 2006, with requests from families with children rising by 5 percent. More than half the cities said family members often had to split up to stay in different shelters.

As the numbers who could not buy their own food grew, more than half the cities, including Los Angeles and Boston, said groups spread resources farther by giving less food to individuals or cutting the number of times people could receive help. The group estimated 23 percent of requests for emergency food assistance simply went unmet.

Franklin Cownie, the mayor of Des Moines, Iowa, who worked on the study, said he was troubled that more than a third of the adults asking for food aid were employed.

"If you look at the data, you'll find folks that have jobs that don't have enough money to feed themselves," he told reporters.

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)

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