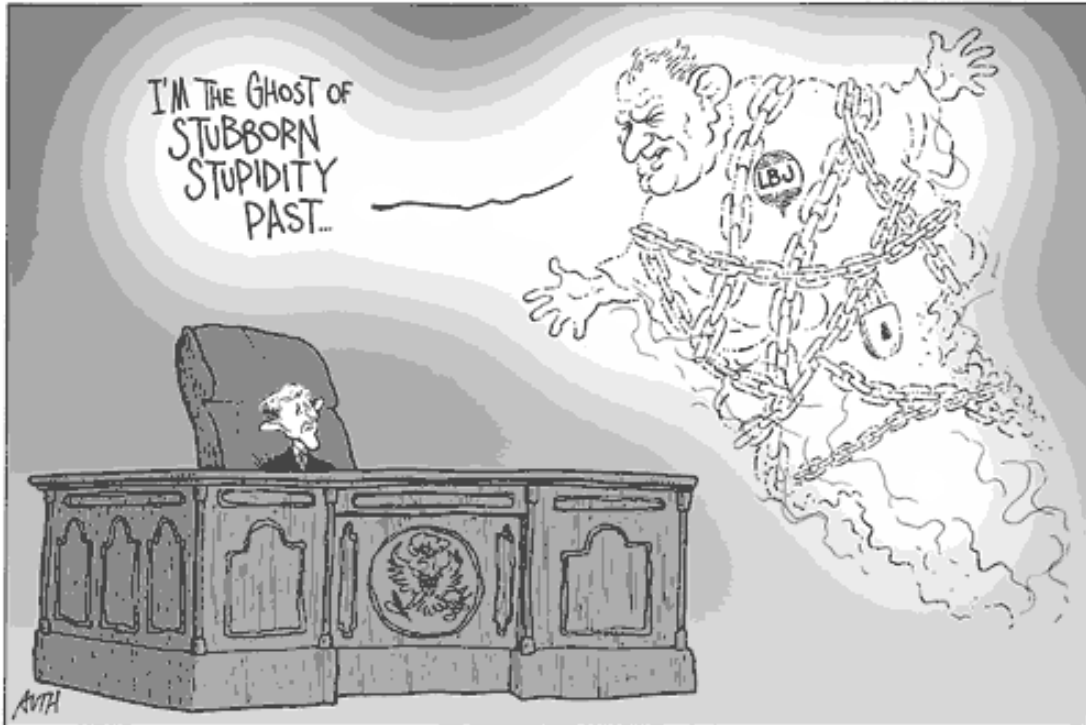


## GI SPECIAL 4L17:



12.15.06 BY PHILIPPA WILSON. ILLUSTRATION BY AVTH.

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

# **Volunteers Wanted Now! Vermont Marine Offers Troops Baked Goods & Way To Speak Out Against War; Civilians Can Help Get The Message Across**

December 19, 2006 By Shay Totten, Vermont Guardian

**QUANTICO, VA - A Vermont soldier at the center of a national effort to help active-duty military personnel find ways to tell members of Congress they want the United States to pull out of Iraq is now handing out care packages at several military bases around the country that make it easy for troops to speak out.**

The care packages include informational flyers and baked goods, as well as copies of the movie, *Sir No Sir*, a documentary about military resisters during the Vietnam War, and *The Ground Truth*, which follows soldiers from basic training to deployment to Iraq to their homecoming and reintegration.

“The main purpose of the care packages though, is to carry an appeal for redress in a pre-addressed envelope to the troops,” said Liam Madden, a Bellows Falls native, and U.S. Marine sergeant.

Madden said if 100 care packages can be distributed at each of the bases, he would consider that a success.

The idea was kicked around on a conference call regarding the appeal for redress several weeks ago.

**An “appeal for redress” is a legal means by which service members can appeal to members of Congress to urge an end to a U.S. military occupation. Under the Military Whistleblower Protection Act, active-duty military, National Guard and reservists can send a protected communication to a member of Congress regarding any subject without reprisal.**

“We saw the holidays as a great opportunity to reach out to the troops and simultaneously show our support and deliver our message to the active duty,” Madden said.

**There are volunteers working at the following bases: Fort Carson in Colorado; Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona; Dover Air Force Base in Delaware; Groton Naval Base in Connecticut; Norfolk Naval Base in Virginia; and the cluster of bases in southern California, as well as bases near Washington, DC.**

“We are working with a few dozen volunteers. Some are getting their first taste of this type of participation,” said Madden. “The project is a coalition of active service members who have submitted appeals for redress, veterans and veterans organizations, military families, and concerned citizens throughout the country.”

**Madden said he has not received any hostile responses from his fellow service members or his chain of command.**

“I’ve found that very few people support the occupation, but that many have reservations about us withdrawing too quickly or they feel we now owe the Iraqi people our help,” said Madden.

“I also get the impression that the idea of being socially and politically involved is something very foreign to most of the fellow service members I’ve encountered.”

Madden hopes the packages will be delivered before the new year, and hopefully before Christmas.

Madden, a 2002 graduate of Bellows Falls High School, is currently stationed in Quantico, VA, after serving in Iraq's Anbar province from September 2004 until February 2005. He currently has two months left on duty and does not plan to re-enlist.

To date, more than 1,200 U.S. servicemen and women have signed these appeals, which state: "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."

The idea for the redress appeals originated in January when Seaman Jonathan Hutto of Atlanta, GA, was deployed to Iraq.

An old buddy of Hutto's, who was a member of the G.I. movement to resist the Vietnam War back in the early 1970s, sent him a 30th anniversary copy of *Soldiers in Revolt* written by David Cortright. The book chronicles the movement within the military during the Vietnam War who advocated to end that war and bring the troops home. One of the avenues they used was appealing to political leaders in Washington.

By 1971 more than 250,000 of these active duty servicemen appealed to Congress. Reading this gave Hutto an inspiration to speak out.

**During the Vietnam War era, many credit the outspoken words of veterans and active-duty soldiers for bringing about an end to that war, rather than any politician or citizen-led movement.**

**Madden, and others, hope that their speaking out will help bring a quick end to the Iraq War.**

### **For More Information**

**The group is looking for contributions to help pay for the packages, and is looking for additional volunteers.**

**To donate, checks can be mailed to: Appeal for Redress Holiday Project, P.O Box 53052, Washington, DC 20009-3052, or at [www.appealforredress.org](http://www.appealforredress.org) .**

**The ingredients of the care packages are:**

- **An appeal for redress in a pre-addressed envelope;**
- **The "bait," otherwise known as baked goods and other treats;**
- **Where they are available we are incorporating DVDs of the films *Sir No Sir* and *The Ground Truth*; and,**
- **Each regional team is in charge of all other "gifts" in the care packages such as informational flyers about the supporting organizations.**

**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**

### **Roadside Bomb Strikes Baghdad Patrol On Clearing Mission Killing One And Wounding Two Other Soldiers**

20 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061220-10

BAGHDAD: An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol, killing one Soldier in a southern neighborhood of the Iraqi capital Dec. 20.

The combat patrol was conducting a route clearance mission in order to free the roads of any possible dangers. As they conducted their mission, a roadside bomb exploded near one of their vehicles, killing one and wounding two other Soldiers.

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### **Four Soldiers Wounded And One Killed By Baghdad IED**

20 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061220-12

BAGHDAD: An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol, killing one Soldier southwest of the Iraqi capital Dec. 20.

The dismounted combat patrol was on the way to investigate an explosion that occurred in the area when a roadside bomb detonated. As a result of the explosion, four Soldiers were wounded and one Soldier was killed.

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# One Marine Killed In Western Iraq

19 December 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory 19 December 2006

CAMP FALLUJAH: Iraq One Marine assigned to 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable died Dec. 18 from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin and release by the Department of Defense.

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## Local Mom Mourning Fallen Soldier



Marcia Self holds a photograph of her son, Philip Cody Ford, who was killed in action Sunday in Iraq. Houston Chronicle

December 12, 2006 By Karla Barguiarena, 11 News

**It wasn't just the cowlicks that made the Ford twins different. Tanner always dreamed of being a doctor -- Cody a soldier.**

**"He was fearless. He honestly was not afraid of nothing and that's what scared me the most," Marcia Self said of her son Cody.**

**Her fear began when Cody was just seven years old.**

**"Out of the clear blue sky, he jumped up to the front seat and asked, 'Mom' when I die in the war who is going to get my flag?" remembered Self.**

**It was a question she wasn't prepared for. Looking back now, it's as if the young soldier was foreseeing his own destiny.**

**Cody joined the Army after graduating from Brazosport High School in 2004.**

**Less than two months after arriving in Iraq, 21-year-old Cody Ford was killed Sunday in a roadside explosion.**

Just a week earlier, the Army specialist told his mother his mission was too boring.

"I was like thank God. Boring is good," said Marcia Self.

That sense of peace quickly faded when military officials came knocking on her front door.

Yet his twin brother was still hopeful.

"He thought they were recruiters or something," she said.

You could say the twins always wanted the best for each other.

Cody's last wish was to name his twin in his life insurance policy.

The \$400,000 will be enough to pay his way through medical school.

And with the ultimate sacrifice of a brother and a soldier, Tanner's dream will live on.

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## New Jersey Soldier Killed In Taji



Army Pfc. Joe L. Baines, Newark, N.J., 19, died Dec. 16, 2006, when his vehicle struck an explosive in Taji, Iraq, and was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

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## Soldier Who Grew Up In Springs Dies In Iraq

December 18, 2006 BRIAN NEWSOME, THE GAZETTE

A soldier who grew up in Colorado Springs died in Iraq over the weekend from injuries he suffered in a roadside bomb attack, his family said.

Pfc. Seth Stanton, 19, who was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, had been deployed just eight weeks, said his grandfather, Joe DeMello, of Woodland Park. Stanton was leading a patrol in a Humvee north of Baghdad when the vehicle struck a bomb. It was not immediately known if other soldiers were killed or injured in the attack.

Stanton was born in Woodland Park but spent most of his life in Old Colorado City. He was mostly home-schooled but spent his last year of school at Coronado High, DeMello said.

"He was the kind of person that if he met you, you were going to be his friend," DeMello said.

Stanton loved off-road vehicles and had a penchant for pushing the limits of four-wheeling, his grandfather said. He also enjoyed playing paintball and spending time with his friends and family.

Stanton suffered multiple broken bones and other injuries from the blast. The family was told he was in stable condition on Saturday, DeMello said, but on Sunday morning learned he'd died of his injuries before he could be transported out of the country.

Stanton's uncle, who served in Iraq during the first Gulf War, was exchanging instant email messages with Stanton on the computer just hours before the attack, DeMello said.

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## **Soldier From Gila River Community Remembered**



Cpl. Billy B. Farris, 20, a member of Gila River Indian Community, died Dec. 3 in Taji, Iraq, from injuries he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He enlisted in the Army in July 2004

Dec. 8, 2006 Kerry Fehr-Snyder, The Arizona Republic

Billy B. Farris, a 20-year-old soldier from the Gila River Indian Community, was remembered Friday as a likeable jokester with a ready smile and a fallen war hero after a bomb exploded by his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq.

"He was a good student and he was a jokester, he had good friends all throughout high school," said Sister Martha Carpenter, a nun at St. Peter Indian Mission School in Bapchule between Chandler and Casa Grande who has known Farris and his family since he was 5 years old.

Farris is among 2,925 U.S. soldiers who had died in the Iraqi war as of Friday, 8 a.m. Phoenix time.

Flags throughout the Gila River Indian Community are flying at half-mast in his honor.

Farris was killed Sunday after an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting escort operations.

"We're deeply affected by his death," Carpenter said. "His mother called us Sunday when she found out."

Farris' parents, Liz and Larry Anton, still live behind the mission in Farris' childhood home. His younger brother, Thomas Anton, attends the school where Farris also went.

"He (Thomas) knows his brother was a hero, and he's taking it very hard," Carpenter said.

Farris, who enlisted in the Army in July 2004 after graduating from high school, was a corporal in a battalion that was sent to Iraq in June. He called home every week to update his family on his whereabouts and the war.

"Thomas would tell us what he was doing, and just last Thursday, he said his whole unit was going up to Baghdad. When we heard about all these roadside bombings, we were worried," Carpenter said.

"Now those bombings have a face, and the war has become much more personal."

Although Farris was born in Wyoming as a Cheyenne-Arapaho Indian, he moved the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona when he was 2.

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## **Arizona Marine Killed While Serving In Iraq**

12/14/06 Associated Press

A 21-year-old Marine from Marana has been killed while serving in Iraq, U.S. military officials announced Wednesday.



Lance Cpl. Budd M. Cote died Monday. He reportedly was one of three Marines killed by an explosive device in Al Anbar Province while conducting combat operations.

The three were assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 stationed out of the Marine Corps Air Station at Miramar, Calif.

Several friends of Cote described him as a fun-loving person who was planning on moving to San Diego with his wife and starting a family after his tour in Iraq.

Cote would have celebrated his first wedding anniversary on Dec. 20. He and his 19-year-old wife, Zoraida, had no children.

Friends said Cote shipped out in September for his first tour of duty in the war-torn country.

"He loved his job. He was very proud of what he did," Zoraida Cote told The Arizona Republic. "He was the most positive, energetic, fun, lovable person. He was amazing. There was no one ever like him."

Cote attended both Marana and Mountain View high schools before moving temporarily to Las Vegas.

He returned to Tucson and attended Canyon del Oro High but dropped out and got his GED before joining the Marines.

Funeral plans were tentatively planned for Sunday in Las Vegas, according to Cote's parents who recently moved to Nevada to be nearer to their daughter.

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## Maryvale Graduate Killed In Iraq



Travis Krege

12/10/2006 By MICHAEL BEEBE and DAN HERBECK, Buffalo News Staff Reporters

A 24-year-old soldier from Cheektowaga, remembered by a former teacher as having one of the world's great smiles, was one of five servicemen killed last week when a roadside bomb destroyed their military vehicle in Iraq.

Army Pfc. Travis C. Krege was identified by the Defense Department on Saturday as a victim of an explosion in Hawijah, near the city of Kirkuk.

Authorities said the soldiers, members of the 25th Infantry Division headquartered in Hawaii, were killed by an improvised explosive device on Wednesday.

"At this point, the family would like to grieve in private and not make any comment," a family member told The Buffalo News.

**Krege is at least the 26th soldier with Western New York roots to be killed in combat since 2002.**

A 2000 graduate of Maryvale High School, Krege is believed to be the first Iraq War casualty from Maryvale.

"The kids at the school are very, very upset," said Kathleen Jacques, who had Krege in her global studies class. "Most of the students knew his younger sister, Shauna."

"He had the greatest smile," Jacques said. "I can still see his smile; he was the nicest boy."

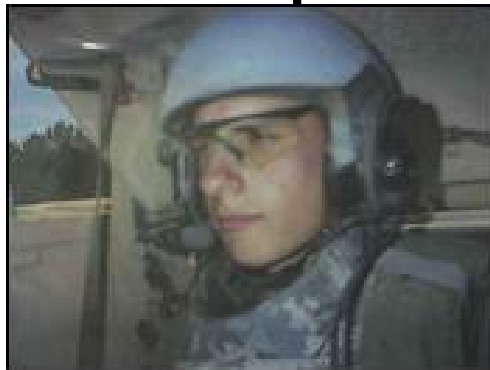
Joyce Cougevan, who taught Krege in her English class, agreed. "He was a very kind young man, very polite," she said.

The Honolulu Advertiser newspaper reported that a "massive bomb tore apart" a Humvee that Krege and four other soldiers were riding in.

The other soldiers killed with Krege were from Conover, N.C.; Sibley, La.; Pflugerville, Texas; and American Samoa, the Defense Department said. Krege was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

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## Roadside Bomb Kills Colorado Soldier In Iraq



Seth Stanton, 19 of Colorado City, was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. He died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 from injuries suffered in a roadside bomb attack in Iraq the day before. CBS

Dec 19, 2006 (AP)

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. A Colorado City man who had been in Iraq for about eight weeks has died from injuries suffered in a roadside bomb attack in Taji, north of Baghdad, his family said.

Funeral arrangements were pending next week for Pfc. Seth Stanton, 19, said his grandfather, Joe DeMello of Woodland Park.

The Defense Department said Tuesday that Stanton was one of three soldiers, including Staff Sgt. David Staats, 30, of Pueblo, who died of injuries suffered in the attack Saturday. Also killed was Spc. Matthew Stanley, 22, of Wolfeboro Falls, N.H. All three were assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

DeMello said his grandson suffered multiple broken bones and internal injuries. He said the Army had planned to transport Stanton to the United States for treatment, but his mother, Anna, was notified Sunday that he had died.

"He was the commander of a patrol in Taji and he was in the lead vehicle," DeMello said. "There were three other soldiers in the vehicle, and they were all killed."

Family members and friends had left messages on Stanton's MySpace.com profile remembering the soldier after news of his death.

"I have you to blame for making me a more outgoing person, for teaching me how to let go and have fun once in a while, for showing me that taking a risk not knowing the outcome won't hurt me," one post said.

Stanton wrote on his profile, "I'm all about fun, offroading, partying, camping, anything fun." The profile also includes pictures of his Jeep Cherokee, outfitted with oversized tires, camouflage paint and a roll bar.

DeMello said Stanton was inspired to join the Army by his uncle, Eric DeMello, who fought in the first Gulf War. Stanton left for basic training shortly after he graduated from Coronado High School in 2005.

Stanton's uncle said the two had exchanged instant e-mail messages with his uncle about the cold desert nights in Iraq and had traded stories about ways to keep warm.

Joe DeMello said Stanton had plans to go to college after the served in the Army, but didn't know what to study in.

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## **Oregon Soldier Killed By IED In Iraq**

December 13, 2006 Ashland Daily Tidings

EUGENE: A soldier from Springfield is the latest Oregon casualty of the Iraq war, his family said Tuesday.

Army Sgt. Brennan Gibson, a 1997 graduate of Thurston High School, was killed Sunday when a roadside bomb struck his Humvee, according to Ken Brown, a pastor and family spokesman.

Gibson, 26, was one of three soldiers killed in the attack on the outskirts of Baghdad. The soldiers had completed a patrol and were heading back to their base when the bomb exploded, Brown said.

"He loved being a soldier, and he was a good one," Brown said.

Brown said he was with the Gibson family when military personnel brought the news to them Monday morning.

They first learned of the death in a phone call from Gibson's wife, Corinna, late Sunday, he said.

Gibson, the son of John and Linda Gibson of Springfield, left for Iraq shortly after the birth of his son, Kaden, Brown said.

After high school, Gibson attended Oregon State University in Corvallis, graduating in 2003 with a bachelor of science in art, with a special focus on graphic design. He was a member of Theta Chi fraternity.

Brown said he believes that Gibson and his wife met as students at OSU.

Gibson was a member of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, based out of Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.

About 3,500 members of the division were deployed to Iraq in mid-October for a one-year tour of duty, an Army spokeswoman in Anchorage said.

John Gibson works as a building inspector, and Linda Gibson works in sales for an adhesives firm. Brennan Gibson is the youngest of their six children.

Brown described Gibson a "one of those guys that whatever he does, he equips himself to do it well," Brown said. "He was going to be a father, and he was so looking forward to that."

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **70% "Want The New Congress To Pressure The White House To Begin**

# Bringing Troops Home Within Six Months”

12.14.06 John Harwood, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Mr. Bush’s lost standing has ramifications across the political landscape.

**Seven in 10 say they want the new Congress to pressure the White House to begin bringing troops home within six months.**

**Just 19% of Americans now describe themselves as “more confident” the war will end successfully and only 16% favor continued use of U.S. troops in all aspects of the war.**

Just one in four Americans believe there is anything more the U.S. can do to quell violence among Iraq’s ethnic and religious groups; 65% say the U.S. is already doing all it can.

Americans express ambivalence about the Iraq Study Group’s report itself, as 49% say they don’t know enough about it. But they evince considerable support for its substantive recommendations; eight in 10 want U.S. troops either redeployed to secure bases to focus on training Iraqis, or removed from Iraq in a phased withdrawal beginning immediately.

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



The remains of Pfc. Albert M. Nelson, of Philadelphia at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 18, 2006. Nelson died Dec. 4 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

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**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR  
HEALTH;  
TIME TO COME HOME, NOW**



U.S. soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team stand guard on a street in Baghdad, October 27, 2006. REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud (IRAQ)

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***Broke Down Air Force:  
Personnel Given “A Couple  
Weeks” Basic Training And Sent  
To Ground Combat In Iraq:  
“Hostile Fire Has Killed More Of Its  
Ground Personnel Than Its Pilots  
And Airmen”***

About 5,000 Air Force personnel are doing traditional Army and Marine Corps jobs, such as driving or protecting supply convoys and disarming improvised explosive devices (IEDs) when they are detected.

December 19, 2006 By Richard Whittle, Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor  
[Excerpts]

Fresh from its successes in Kosovo in 1999 and its initial Afghanistan campaign in 2002, the US Air Force was riding high on the notion that air power could transform warfare. But the war in Iraq has changed that.

Now the service's planes are wearing out. It is so short of cash that it plans hefty cuts in personnel.

**And its combat mission has changed so that, for perhaps the first time in Air Force history, hostile fire has killed more of its ground personnel than its pilots and airmen.**

The average age of Air Force planes is now a quarter-century, and wear and tear from the wars are forcing the service to place limits on how some are flown.

"The Air Force is sitting on the oldest aircraft we've ever had," Moseley says. "There's no way out of that but to seek efficiencies in the personnel account."

Because the Army and Marines have been stretched so thin in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force, like the Navy, has been providing ground personnel.

**About 5,000 Air Force personnel are doing traditional Army and Marine Corps jobs, such as driving or protecting supply convoys and disarming improvised explosive devices (IEDs) when they are detected.**

**For that reason, the Air Force has added a couple of weeks to basic training to give recruits added lessons in ground combat skills and the use of personal weapons.**

That's a major change in the service's culture - and in the dangers that its ground personnel face.

**Of 51 uniformed Air Force personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, 25 died in aircraft that crashed or were shot down.**

**The rest have fallen to IEDs or other causes on the ground.**

"For years, the Air Force's tip of the spear has been the pilot in the cockpit," says one officer who served in Iraq and Afghanistan but wished to remain unidentified because he is not authorized to speak for the service. "A lot more airmen are being placed outside the wire in harm's way. That's a sea change for the Air Force - how we train, how we think."

So while the Air Force has been willing to provide ground personnel, "the real question is: How long do you do this?" Moseley says. "When do we reach a point that we say we don't have excess people to do this? And we're getting close."

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**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR:  
December 12, 2006: San Francisco**

## Iraq Veterans Against The War Travelling Bus.



[Photo by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist: jeff [at] paterson.net]



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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

***How's This For "Sovereignty?"***  
**Iraqi Resistance Has It's Own**  
**TV Station, 24/7**



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

December 19, 2006 By Borzou Daragahi and Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times Staff Writers [Excerpts]

**BAGHDAD — The men with laptops sat around an unadorned conference table, chatting amicably about their plans and operations.**

**The scene on the newly launched Al Zawraa satellite television channel could have been footage from the boardroom of any company, if it weren't for the ski masks the men wore and the subject of the meeting: future mortar attacks on U.S. bases in Iraq.**

**The renegade, pro-insurgent Al Zawraa channel, with a 24-hour diet of propaganda against U.S. forces and the Iraqi government, has become something of a sensation throughout the country.**

Most hours of the day it plays footage of U.S. soldiers in Iraq being shot and blown up in insurgent attacks, often with religious chants or Saddam Hussein-era nationalist anthems in the background. There are segments warning Iraq's Sunni Arabs to be wary of Shiite Muslims, and occasional English-language commentary and subtitles clearly meant to demoralize U.S. troops.

"Your new enlisting qualifications are kind of comical," an announcer says in slightly accented American English, over an image of a U.S. soldier in a field hospital, a bandage on his newly amputated arm. "I mean, what are you doing? Thirty-nine years old? That's the new age of recruiting? Are you recruiting nannies? I guess if we are patient, we might witness crippled people enlisting for the Marines."

The station attempts to present an alternative to images of the war appearing in U.S. and other Iraqi media. It shows footage of Americans abusing Iraqis and Baghdad government officials collaborating with the "occupier." Even Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 911," the 2004 documentary critical of the Bush administration's foreign policy, gets drawn into the commentary.

"After all, there are honest guys in America," the announcer says in comments directed at President Bush. "If Mr. Moore can talk to you like that, so can I."

**It's not clear how big an Iraqi audience Al Zawraa captures. But its very presence demonstrates the insurgency's abilities.**

**Despite 140,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and intense diplomatic pressure on Iraq's neighbors, the station is able to circumvent U.S. and Iraqi forces and stage round-the-clock broadcasts, complete with news bulletins, graphics and commentary.**

Al Zawraa started out several months ago as an aboveground hard-line Sunni channel, but it was shut down by the Iraqi government Nov. 5, the day Hussein received the death penalty. Iraqi police raided the station's headquarters after broadcasts criticized the verdict.

Broadcast staples include images of U.S. soldiers manhandling Iraqi women, photos from the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal and footage of Iraqi children burned and injured in alleged U.S. attacks.

The station also loops shaky, slow-motion footage of U.S. vehicles being blown up and American soldiers, often in crosshairs, crumpling to the ground after being shot by snipers.

**One question-and-answer segment with insurgents shows them installing Katyusha rocket launchers on cars and assembling weapons to fire rocket-propelled grenades.**

**"And you still using this tactic?" the announcer asks.**

**"Oh yes. With the will of God, we will never give up," an insurgent replies.**

They attempt to portray the insurgency as a powerful force to be reckoned with for years to come. "There will be no negotiating," an announcer states. "For us, it's straight and simple. We are fighting for our religion and for our soil. We will fight you while you are packing. We will fight you while you are sleeping. We will fight you as you are evacuating your last soldier."

Some of the images of Americans being attacked are available on the Web and in video shops in Iraq. Some U.S. military officers shrug off Al Zawraa, saying it rarely broadcasts anything new.

Some viewers acknowledge the station's sectarian biases but say it's no different from other new Iraqi channels beholden to political blocs.

After Iraqis held a reconciliation conference Saturday meant to heal wounds between Sunnis and Shiites, the station quickly broadcast denunciations of the meeting by the Muslim Scholars Assn., a leading Sunni clerical group.

A recent segment showed Shiite cleric Muqtada Sadr sitting among a group of clerics and ordering an unseen person to "send them in there as soldiers," a suggestion that his men had infiltrated the security forces and were taking part in death-squad operations against Sunnis.

An announcer alleged that Sadr, a critic of U.S. policies here, had stopped his fight against the Americans and was now focusing his efforts against Sunnis.

**Iraqi government efforts to track down the renegade station have come to naught. No one's quite sure where it broadcasts from or even who is behind it.**

**Iraqi national security advisor Mowaffak Rubaie and a senior U.S. military official said it was broadcasting from somewhere near the Kurdish city of Irbil at one point and recently signed a distribution deal with the Egyptian satellite company NileSat.**

There are indications that the Iraqi government is still looking for Al Zawraa. Police in the Sunni city of Hawija near Kirkuk raided the home of another member of Jaburi's

parliamentary bloc Sunday, arresting him and two others on unspecified security charges.

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

## **Assorted Resistance Action**



Iraqi collaborator soldiers take cover while being attacked Dec. 19, 2006 by insurgents 5 kilometers north of Baqouba. (AP Photo)

12.19.06 Reuters & By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press Writer & 20 Dec 2006 Reuters

Guerrillas shot dead a police major on the doorstep of his home in Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

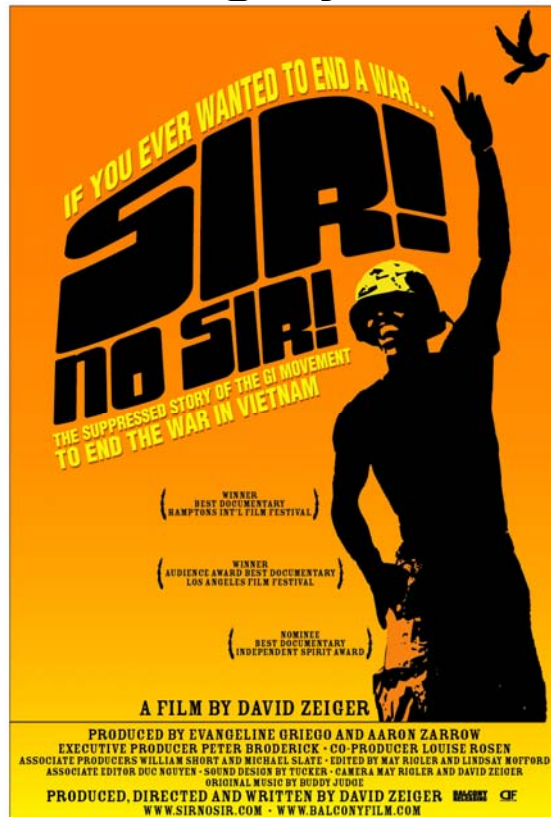
A roadside bomb wounded seven policemen when it exploded near the convoy of Lieutenant-Colonel Kamil Ahmed in southern Kirkuk, police said. Ahmed was not hurt in the attack.

In Baqouba, insurgents attacked a police patrol, killing two officers.

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**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# “The Real History Of The Armed Forces' Role In Ending The War Has Been Largely Overlooked”



Katherine Monk, The Ottawa Citizen

The protest movement has seen better days. It has also seen much worse, which makes for a sadly ironic truism: Peace breeds ambivalence.

**This explains why in the 20 years following the end of the Vietnam War, very little was said or chronicled in the mainstream media about the forces that helped put an end to the conflict.**

**Despite such big-name dramas as Born on the Fourth of July, Apocalypse Now, The Deer Hunter and Coming Home, which all depicted varying degrees of ground-soldier rebellion, the real history of the armed forces' role in ending the war has been largely overlooked.**

In David Zeiger's Sir! No Sir!, a great deal of lost and unappreciated history about the Vietnam GI movement is finally recorded. Filling in the gaps between the birth of the protest movement within the ranks of the armed forces and the fall of Saigon, Zeiger examines some of the long-held myths about the makeup of both sides of the debate.

Asserting that the United States was not as divided politically then as it is now, Zeiger's film shows how soldiers and hippie protesters were very much on the same page rather than sworn enemies. Zeiger interviews special forces veterans, GIs and an array of fighting men and women who were called on to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and did so readily until they began to question the justification for their mission.

**Then-president Richard Nixon didn't move to an air war in the latter stages of the conflict to save American lives. Zeiger's film suggests Nixon's tactics were the result of mass mutiny: He knew the soldiers wouldn't fight a ground war, so he was left with only one option -- incinerate from above.**

Using testimonials from West Pointers to grunts, Zeiger reorients our understanding of how the protest movement grew through an off-base speakeasy circuit and close to 200 soldier-run alternative newspapers.

The movement was so large, the Pentagon's own number of mutinous incidents and desertions within the forces numbered well over a half-million between 1966 and 1971.

As massive as this movement was within the military, it's a common misconception that soldiers and protesters were on opposite sides of the crowd-control barricades. In fact, the whole notion of protesters spitting on soldiers upon their return is an image that continues to inflame the far right even today.

**But Zeiger asserts that even in the fieriest days of the anti-Vietnam protest movement, GIs were not targeted as evil -- government apparatchiks were -- and he does a pretty good job proving it, thanks to archival footage showing brass-laden soldiers breaking ranks and hardcore protesters embracing and supporting the boys on the ground in Vietnam.**

Although we've often seen pictures of Bob Hope doing USO shows in Indochina, few have seen Jane Fonda and company's performances, which took place off base and generally attracted 10 times the number of uniformed people.

Zeiger goes to great lengths to not only collect compelling archival footage and sound bytes, but to base the whole documentary on fact. This makes the movie a little wordy and dry, but clearly Zeiger knew people wouldn't believe the history without firsthand testimony.

A perfect example of the postwar whitewash can be seen in the story of a protester allegedly spitting on a returning GI. According to the story, a poor grunt had just landed at San Francisco Airport, and waiting for him on the tarmac was a female hippie with peace beads and a placard who spat on him as he walked by.

Zeiger and his subjects walk through the story step by step and point out the improbabilities as they arise: First, women do not spit. Second, no GIs landed at San Francisco Airport; they arrived at the base airfield outside the city. Third, no civilians would be allowed on a military tarmac, and fourth -- and most important -- the protesters never blamed the GIs.

If all that's true, then how did we end up with such a distorted image of the protest movement? How did brave, well-intentioned and righteous people who spoke up, and broke ranks, for what they believed in become perceived as dirty, disrespectful hippie trash?

It's a great question, and one Sir! No Sir! has an articulate response to as it excavates the battlefields abroad and at home.

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

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

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

## LYING IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN WAR



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 19, 2006  
Subject: LYING IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN WAR

**LYING IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN WAR**

**3,000 American Soldiers Are Dead.**

**22,000 American Soldiers Are Wounded.**

**Family Trauma For Generations To Come.**

**250,000 Iraqi People Are Dead.**

**Millions Traumatized For Life.**

**Stop The War**

**Stop The Madness**

**No More Human Blood For Oil.**

**The Corporate Rich Are Killing All of Us.**

**WAR--Stands For, "Wealthy Are Richer"**

**Enough!!!**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 19, 2006**

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

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

# **Guess Who Doesn't Need U.S. Military Trainers? [Guess Who's Winning The War]**



An insurgent soldier patrols central Ramadi Dec. 8, 2006. (AP Photo)

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### ***So Much For That Sovereignty Bullshit; Armed Americans Free Thieving Politician From Iraqi Prison***

Dec 19 By Mariam Karouny, Reuters Limited & By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA,  
Associated Press Writer

Ayham al-Samarraie, an electricity minister in the former government of Prime Minister Iyad al-Allawi, has not been seen since Sunday, when he walked out of the police station where he was being held, in the company of a group of armed men.



He had been detained at a police station on the outskirts of the Green Zone, the heavily fortified compound that houses the Iraqi government and the U.S. and British embassies, to await trial in up to 12 corruption cases, a judge said on Monday. The charges concern an estimated \$2 billion in missing funds for contracts on rebuilding Iraq's electrical infrastructure.

The head of the police station and a second officer have been arrested, said Ali al-Shaboot, spokesman for Iraq's independent Public Integrity Commission, which is investigating nine cases of misuse of public money against Samarraie.

"The warrants of arrest were issued by the investigating judge," Shaboot told Reuters.

**The commission says Samarraie was taken from the station by plain-clothes Americans and that the minister had previously employed a private American security firm to protect him.**

A judge close to a trial in which Samarraie was convicted of corruption in October and sentenced to two years in jail offered a different version of events.

He said Samarraie's conviction in that case had been overturned on appeal and the Americans who arrived at the police station told police they had no right to continue holding him. But the judge said Samarraie should have remained in custody as he had other cases pending against him.

Al-Samaraie had been convicted of corruption and sentenced to two years in prison for ordering the purchase of a \$750,000 generator for the town of Kut, southeast of Baghdad, even though he had received a report that the equipment was broken.

**In October, armed Americans took Samarraie from court shortly after his conviction. He had expressed fears for his life and decried the "political" verdict.**

**After al-Samaraie's first escape, a few days after his conviction, Iraqi officials caught him at the Baghdad airport with a Chinese passport, Kareem said.**

He was handed over to Iraqi police to begin serving his sentence after the government objected to the interference.

His escape left "more question marks," said Ali al-Shaboot, spokesman for Iraq's Public Integrity Commission, which brought charges against al-Samaraie. "Why did the police only inform us after 12 hours?"

**Al-Samaraie is the only Iraqi official to have been convicted and jailed on corruption charges, although arrest warrants have been issued for about 90 former officials, including 15 ex-Cabinet ministers, according to the anti-corruption commission. His conviction was thrown out on appeal, but he faced a dozen other charges.**

Lou Finton, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy, which is in the Green Zone, said American officials had been in touch with al-Samaraie in prison to provide basic consular services for the U.S. citizen and were aware of the report that he was missing.

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

**“We Cannot Even Fire Iraqi Army  
Leaders Whom We Know Cooperate  
With Insurgents Or Are Incompetent”**

12.8.06 Wall St. Journal [Excerpt]

“Right now we cannot even fire Iraqi army leaders whom we know cooperate with insurgents or are incompetent,” said Lt. Col. David Coffey, who returned last month from Iraq, where he had served on a 10-man training team.

The supply system often fails to deliver Iraqi troops the fuel, food and bullets they need to carry out their missions.

**Several advisers said there is also pressure to inflate the capabilities of the Iraqi units in readiness reports.**

“There is tremendous pressure on the training teams to show steady progress in the abilities of the Iraqi battalions,” Col. Coffey said.

“This ignores the fact that many units actually get worse as key leaders are killed or go AWOL, as unit equipment degrades, as the enemy situation gets worse, or as combat operations prevent ongoing training.”

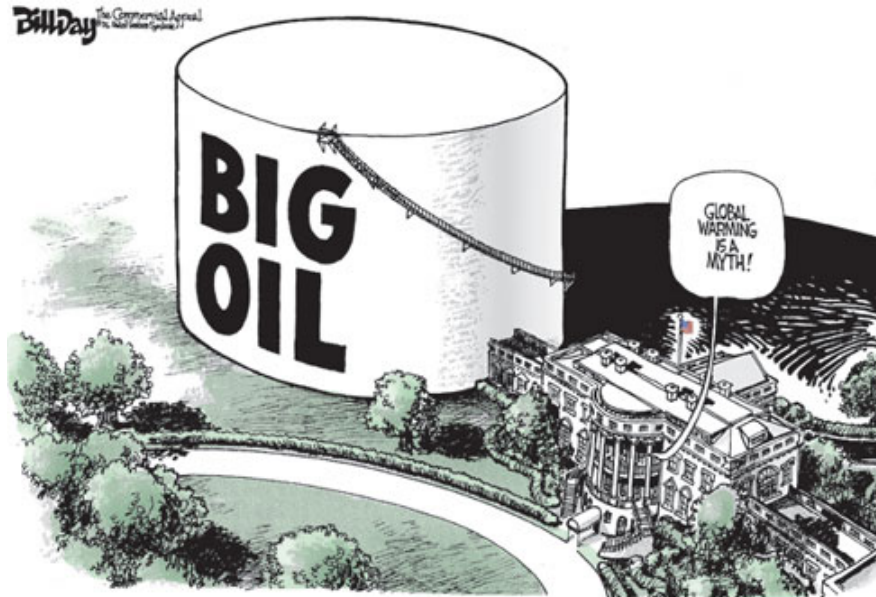
**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.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

**NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING  
SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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



12-10-06 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE.

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

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