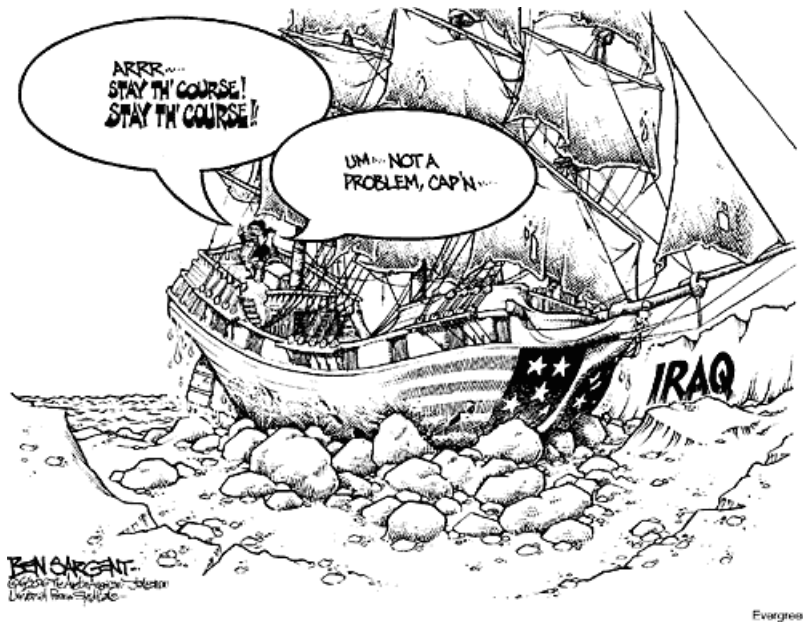


## GI SPECIAL 4L24:



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

# ***Stop-Loss?*** **Lt. Says “The Army Isn’t A Job Or Career; It’s A Domesticated Chain Gang”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
12.4.06

“Troop-level forecast may test patience” (Oct. 9) isn’t a very accurate depiction of the current state of the military.

It’s not meeting retention goals if people are forced to stay in due to stop loss.

This is how things go that I have seen.

A unit comes down on orders to deploy. If your ETS is within 90 days of that deployment, you are stop-lossed.

Then soldiers are offered the option to re-enlist while deployed. Since they are not back in the states to find a new job, they re-enlist because it is tax free — the lesser of two evils to them, struggle finding a job or stay in a bit longer. That's not retention.

**I know more people who are getting out when we return from Iraq, than I know are staying in. This includes noncommissioned and commissioned officers.**

**I'm waiting for everyone who makes the decisions in the U.S. to come over here and live in our conditions for a year, go home for 10 months and come right back here for another year, and when you go home this time, get ready to come back again in 10 months.**

**The Army isn't a job or career; it's a domesticated chain gang.**

1st Lt. Matthew Nichols  
Fountain, Colo.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Soldiers Killed, One Wounded By IED Near Baghdad**

Dec. 28, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061228-05

BAGHDAD: An improvised explosive device detonated near a dismounted Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol, killing two Soldiers southwest of the Iraqi capital Dec. 27.

The unit was conducting a dismounted security patrol on a well-traveled route when a roadside bomb exploded near them; another Soldier was also wounded in the explosion.

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### **Marine Killed In Al Anbar**

Dec. 28, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061228-18

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 was killed in action while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar Province December 27.

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# **Baghdad Dismounted Security Patrol Struck By IED; One Soldier Killed, One Wounded**

Dec. 28, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061228-20

BAGHDAD: An improvised explosive device detonated near a dismounted Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol, killing one Soldier north of the Iraqi capital Dec. 28.

The unit was conducting a dismounted security patrol on a well-traveled route when a roadside bomb exploded near them, killing one Soldier and wounding another.

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## **Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED, Two Wounded**

Dec. 28, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061228-06

BAGHDAD: An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi-National Division - Baghdad patrol, killing one Soldier in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital Dec. 27. The unit was conducting a route clearance mission when a roadside bomb exploded near them; two other Soldiers were also wounded in the explosion.

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## **Three N.C.-Based Troops Killed In Iraq**

December 28, 2006 Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Three North Carolina-based members of the military have died in Iraq, including two Marines who died while conducting combat operations, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

Marine Cpl. Joshua M. Schmitz, 21, of Spencer, Wis. died Tuesday and Marine Lance Cpl. William C. Koprince Jr., 24, of Lenoir City, Tenn., died Wednesday. Both were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune. The unit is based in Iraq's Anbar province, the military said.

Army Spc. Michael J. Crutchfield, 21, of Stockton, Calif., died Saturday in Balad of a non-combat related injury. His death is under investigation and additional information was not immediately available Thursday. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg.

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# Two Fort Richardson Paratroopers Killed In Iraq

December 28, 2006 Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Two Fort Richardson paratroopers have died in Iraq, U.S. Army officials said Thursday. Spcs. Douglas L. Tinsley and Joseph A. Strong, both 21, were killed Tuesday when their vehicle rolled into a canal, Army spokesman Maj. Kirk Gohlke said. The incident happened while they were conducting a mounted patrol in Baghdad.

Tinsley was from Chester, S.C. The medic joined the Army in September 2004 and was assigned to the Anchorage post in May 2005.

Strong was from Lebanon, Ind. He was an infantryman who joined the Army in January 2005 and was assigned to Fort Richardson six months later.

One other paratrooper was seriously injured in the incident, Gohlke said. He was evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq for treatment.

All three paratroopers were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at Fort Richardson.

Next of kin have been notified.

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## Boone Co. Man Dies In Iraq



Dec 28, 2006 Scott Swan, Eyewitness News

Lebanon - He wanted to serve his country like his father, uncle and grandfather, but now his family is planning his funeral.

Just one day after Christmas, a soldier from Boone County lost his life in the service of his country.

Terri Batts, mother of Private First Class Joseph Strong, offered memories of her son.

"He wanted to catch Osama bin Laden all by himself," she said, "That's what he wanted to do."

Pictures of Joey Strong hang in a Boone County home. They sit on a shelf right next to the army bears. Batts says, "I call this my Joey shelf."

It's a mother's tribute to a son who always felt called to serve his country.

"He always wanted to be in the military," said Batts, "His dad was Air Force. His uncle was Navy and his grandpa was Army."

Joey's sister, Vanesa Caldwell says joining the military was his primary goal. "He just loved everything about it. I mean he played with army men when he was a kid. He begged my mom when he was in high school to go and she said 'no.'"

After Strong graduated from Western Boone High School in 2003 he joined the army and went to basic training.

In September the family saw their son who was stationed in Alaska. His mom says it was the last time they saw Joey.

Within a month he was in Iraq. "He was infantry and he was a sharpshooter," says Batts.

Joey last talked with his mom within the last two weeks. Among other things, Joey wanted to know how the Colts were playing. He promised to call again the day after Christmas. That phone call never came. Instead, Tuesday night, there was a knock on the door with terrible news.

Specialist Joey Strong died from injuries suffered when his humvee rolled over in a canal. There is grief in this home, but there is also great pride.

"He loved his country," said Batts. "He would do it again in a heartbeat. I know he would. He thought that we needed to be over there to protect the United States."

The family learned it will take seven to ten days for their son's body to return to Indiana. A funeral is tentatively planned for January 8th at Western Boone High School.

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## **Wisconsin Marine Killed In Iraq; “There Was Really No Need For It,’ She Said”**

Dec. 27, 2006 TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. - A U.S. Marine from central Wisconsin died in Iraq Tuesday, according to family members and school officials.

The U.S. Department of Defense hadn't confirmed the death of Josh Schmitz, 22, of Loyal, Wednesday morning. But Joe Anderson, choir director at Loyal High School, and Schmitz's cousin, Kristie Schmitz, both said they had heard Schmitz had been killed.

"He was just such a good person," said Kristie Schmitz, 21. "I think he just wanted to do something for our country."

Kristie Schmitz said her cousin played linebacker for Loyal. Anderson, who doubles as team statistician, said Schmitz was tough on the field.

"Very intense love for football," Anderson said. "He was pretty good."

Schmitz played drums in band and, after some coaxing, sang in the choir his senior year, Anderson said.

The last time he saw Schmitz was July, when his former student stopped by the school to visit him. They talked for an hour about Iraq. Schmitz already had done one tour there, Anderson said.

"He knew he had a duty to perform. He was making sure he performed what he was asked to do and serve his country," Anderson said. "It's too bad. I feel really bad he's gone. That's one thing about being a teacher. It hurts a lot to see students pass on before you. It's very sad, for sure ... he was just an A-1 super kid."

**Kristie Schmitz said she supports the troops in Iraq, but doesn't agree with sending them there.**

"There was really no need for it," she said.

**Schmitz is the second Wisconsin soldier to die in Iraq this week. U.S. Army Pvt. Evan Bixler, 21, of Racine was killed Sunday in Hit, Iraq.**

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## **Local Marine Mourned; "He Told Me The Last Time He Came Home That He Knows He's Not Coming Back"**

12/23/2006 By Kelly Nankervis, Town News

Charismatic.

Mischievous.

Loyal.

All are qualities those who know Lance Cpl. Ryan James Burgess used to describe him Friday, a day after word of his death reached home.

Burgess died Dec. 21 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Another Marine, Lance Cpl. Ryan L. Mayhan, 25, of Hawthorne, Calif., died in the same incident. Both were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force out of Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Burgess, a 21-year-old from Hope Township, loved to have fun, a trait that gave his best friend since third grade, Brian Lincoln, many memories.

The pair came to age down the road and up the hill from each other, separated by a short distance that didn't do much to keep them apart.

"He's really adventurous," Lincoln said, remembering the times they'd go out hunting deer or ducks, building forts or riding quads together at Burgess' home.

"We never went to the mall, we were always out in the woods," he said. "He always wanted to be outside."

Lincoln is still coming to grips with the reality that his best friend is gone, and said Burgess knew he was in danger.

"He told me the last time he came home that he knows he's not coming back," Lincoln said.

"I think Ryan needed to find his place," said his first-grade teacher Billie Dush. She remembered him as a little guy who smiled a lot in his younger years. She reached a deeper understanding about him after tutoring him through school and becoming a close family friend.

Burgess could be impulsive, in her words "not always making the right decision but the one to have fun."

He also was the kind of kid who'd rather jump right to the test than mess around with homework.

"He drove his mother nuts," Dush said.

He was good with his hands, building with mountains of Lego bricks as a boy, then moving on to high school drafting classes and skilled trades training at the Bay Arenac Skills Center. He excelled so much there that he was awarded for his performance, but never told his mother, who was frustrated to be told by someone else, Dush said.

Burgess found the place he belonged when he joined the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Meridian High School in 2003.

"Ryan matured and he came into himself," Dush said. "I think he respected himself."

"He certainly seemed to find his niche in the armed services," Christopher Schram, a high school English teacher, said.

Schram and principal Denny Stine saw Burgess as an intelligent but not academically-motivated student who was in high school just to get it over with.

"He wanted to be out there so badly," Schram said. "He just had to go through high school to get there."

Burgess stopped by the school a few times to visit after graduation, giving Stine a chance to notice he'd come back from the military as a proud, respectful man. "He was very proud of what he was doing."

While details of what happened to Burgess had not been released by the military, Dush visited with his family Thursday night after they were contacted by officials and recounted a short version of the story.

**Burgess was injured about a month ago when the Humvee he was riding in drove over an improvised explosive device. He suffered a severe concussion and leg injuries, and was only out of the hospital about two days when the same thing happened again.**

This time, he didn't make it.

"He had just earned a Purple Heart," in connection with the first incident, Dush said.

Burgess served as a sniper, a squad leader for special forces, who won top honors for marksmanship in boot camp, she said. Not even Lincoln is sure of the timelines of how his buddy moved up in ranks, or the name of the special school Burgess attended for training with guns.

"It was something different all the time," Lincoln said.

"It's been a matter of time," Stine said, with so many students joining the armed services after graduation. "You can't be lucky all the time."

Burgess' death is especially tragic because was so young.

"He just started to experience the life he wanted to experience," Schram said.

His smiles, caring and thoughtful nature, courage and fun-loving heart won't be forgotten anytime soon, especially by those who loved him the most.

Lincoln has already found a way to honor his most loyal pal.

He and his wife are awaiting the birth of their son, due on Jan. 17. Lincoln said they had planned to name the baby after family.

Instead they are naming him after Ryan.

Burgess' family has asked for privacy following his death.

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# **“Those Shedding Blood In Battle Are Young Enlisted Troops” “Relatively Few Are Officers” Explosive Devices Wounded 11,233 US Troops**

Dec 26 by Jim Mannion, AFP

Though nearly 3,000 US troops have been killed in Iraq, medical advances mean the number is a lot lower than would have been expected.

**For every servicemember who has died in Iraq, more than seven others have been wounded in action, according to statistics compiled by the Pentagon.**

**As of December 9, explosive devices wounded 11,233 US troops, according to statistics compiled by the Defense Manpower Data Center.**

Artillery, mortar and rocket fire accounted for wounds suffered by 1,969 other troops.

Injuries from "weapons effects" -- which can include falling debris or ricocheting bullets, or hearing loss from weapons noise -- accounted for 1,579 of the wounded.

Another 1,358 troops were wounded by gunshots, according to the statistics.

**Aerial bombs dropped by coalition forces accounted for 663 US wounded in action and five deaths, according to the Pentagon.**

Air crashes accounted for 39 wounded but 76 deaths as of December 9.

Smaller numbers of troops were wounded by "blunt force," falls or jumps, parachute accidents, vehicle accidents and grenades.

**The statistics also reflect another reality of the war: that those shedding blood in battle are young enlisted troops.**

**Relatively few are officers.**

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## ***Great Moments In U.S. Military History:***

# ***The Murder Of Sahib Al-Ameri: “Najaf Police Chief General Abdel Karim Mustapha Blamed Ameri’s Death On The US Military” “They Entered The House Like Animals And Killed Him In Front Of His Wife And Children”***

2006-12-27 NAJAF, Iraq (AFX)

**Tension was mounting in the Iraqi city of Najaf today after an American soldier killed a senior ally of radical Shiite cleric [translation: anti-occupation nationalist] Muqtada al-Sadr during a raid on his house.**

**Sadr supporters and local police told Agence France-Presse that US and Iraqi soldiers last night stormed the family home of Sahib al-Ameri, the president of a pro-Sadr political foundation in the holy city of Najaf, and shot him dead.**

Sheikh Abdul-Razzaq al-Nadawi, a member of Sadr's office in Najaf held a press conference at the cleric's house in Najaf and accused the Americans of seeking to provoke a confrontation in a hitherto largely peaceful city.

"We condemn this heinous crime," he declared. "Security in the city is back to square one. Targeting Al-Ameri means targeting the whole Sadr trend.

"They always claim that the trend is undermining the political process. We tell them that Najaf is secure and stable. This escalation and provocation is meant to drag us into a comprehensive and open confrontation," he declared.

**"Al-Ameri was not from the military, or political cadres or even the Mahdi Army. He was a man running a cultural institution that is in charge of issuing a newspaper," Nadawi said.**

**Najaf police chief General Abdel Karim Mustapha blamed Ameri's death on the US military, as did a senior lawmakers from Sadr's party.**

The assault was carried out by Iraqi soldiers of the 8th division and coalition advisers, it added.

This cut no ice with Sadr's supporters, however, and they called a news conference at the Iraqi parliament in Baghdad to condemn the raid and accuse the US military of deliberately attempting to provoke a reaction.

**"They entered the house like animals and killed him in front of his wife and children," declared Sadrist lawmaker Baha al-Araji.**

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## **STUCK IN THE MUD: REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from Company B of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, part of the 3rd Stryker brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division guard an armored Stryker vehicle that became stuck in the mud during a mission in New Baghdad Dec. 24, 2006 (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **British Soldier Killed In Helmand Explosion, Three Wounded**

12.28.06 LONDON (CNN)

An explosion in southern Afghanistan Wednesday killed a British soldier, the British Ministry of Defense said Thursday.

The incident took place south of Garmsir, in Helmand province, during a reconnaissance mission, according to the ministry and NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

ISAF said an explosion caused a vehicle to crash, killing the soldier and wounding three others, including one seriously.

The Ministry of Defense said, "at this stage it is too early to say what caused the explosion but there were no Taliban in the vicinity and there was no follow on contact."

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The body of Staff Sgt. Robert Lee Love Jr., of Meridian, Miss., waiting hearse for interment in Russell, Miss., Dec. 20, 2006. Love died in Iraq when an improvised explosive device blew up near his vehicle during combat. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

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# **Marine General “Fears” Americans Won’t Allow War To Keep Going**

12.27.06 Los Angeles Times

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Conway told troops fighting in western Iraq that more time, rather than more Marines, is needed to bring order to the region.

**"I fear there are two timelines out there," Conway told an audience of about 2,500 troops gathered in a base chapel at Camp Fallujah.**

**"One is how long it's going to take us to do the job; one is how long the country is going to allow us to do the job. And they're not syncing up."**

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## **“Our Troops Are Over-Deployed And Much Of Our Equipment Is Worn Out”**

December 28, 2006 By Rick Maze, Army Times Staff writer

The incoming chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, just back from a trip to Iraq for the holidays, said it is becoming clear that “time is not on our side.”

“Right now, our troops are over-deployed and much of our equipment is worn out,” he said. “Solutions to these problems are urgently needed.”

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

### **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

**GUESS WHO DOESN'T NEED U.S.  
MILITARY “ADVISORS” TO TELL  
THEM WHAT TO DO OR BILLIONS  
PISSSED AWAY ON “TRAINING”**



**Armed anti-occupation fighters take up defensive positions on the side of a road on the outskirts of Baqouba, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, Dec. 28, 2006.**

**Dozens of masked gunmen paraded in the Gatoun district of Baqouba, a city that often has considerable amounts of insurgent activity. (AP Photo)**

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**



**Dec. 28, 2006: An oil pipeline linked to the al-Dora refinery was blown up by guerrillas in Al-Adwanyaa district in Youssifiyah. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)**

28 Dec 2006 Reuters & Aljazeera & Agence France Presse

Insurgents attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing two soldiers and wounding one in Tikrit, 175 (110 miles) north of Baghdad, army sources said.

Four anti-occupation fighters wearing Iraqi army uniforms opened fire and killed a policeman and seriously wounded another in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said.

Anti-occupation fighters killed a police captain and wounded two other policemen in a drive-by shooting in Baquba, 65 km north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded three policemen in Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed when a booby trap exploded on the highway between the oil refinery depot of Baiji and Tikrit, said the local Iraqi-US coordination centre. Another three soldiers were wounded in the explosion, which destroyed an Iraqi military vehicle, the source said.

In Diyala province north of the capital, a police captain was killed by resistance fighters.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“Speak To A Soldier”  
“Do You Think All Of Them Want To  
Return To Iraq 3 Or 4 Times?”  
“That Is What Ultimately Ended The  
Vietnam War, Troop Resistance”**

**This Government made a mistake. They trained our military to operate in small, tight platoons together "All for one and one for all" mentality. But when they decide to put their weapons down, it will be the group mentality that will cause an erosion unit by unit and they will lay down their arms together.**

December 28, 2006 by Elaine Brower, Opednews.com. **[Elaine Brower is the mother of an Iraq combat veteran.]**

March 19th, 2007 will mark the 4th anniversary of our invasion of Iraq, a war that was a pre-emptive strike based on lies to the American people, and the world by the Bush

Regime. It is impossible to imagine that we will mark 4 years of this atrocity even after the anti-war movement has expended so much money, energy and time in ending this war even before it begun. So what does that tell you?

The Bush Regime decided a long time before the events of 9/11 to invade Iraq. The "Project for a New American Century" clearly delineates the push to remove Saddam Hussein from power. Our Government took the horrible events and deaths of innocent people on 9/11 by those dubbed the "evildoers" or "Al-Queda", and with that fear, drove this Country into a disgusting mess. George Bush, Condi Rice, Colin Powell, Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle and the masterminds of destruction were beating on the war drums from the moment the chatter started prior to 9/11, we just didn't know it. The American people were lulled into complacent sleep mode prior to that day, and subsequently were jolted into fear mode, never to regain their power to reason.

On that fear, this Regime has focused for 5 years. Every single anniversary of 9/11, those in power prepare for photo ops at "Ground Zero", the site where buildings should now be standing. However, as a reminder and to keep us fearful, a hole in the ground remains. You don't see them in front of the Pentagon, or in the fields of Pennsylvania. It is not as fearful an image to the American people. Every year the family members of those killed that day stand up on a podium in front of that "hole in the ground" and read the names of those who lost their lives by the Towers' destruction. Every year every single media outlet in the Country reminds us of how we should remain fearful.

As we reflect upon the last 5 years, we see our military, the most lethal and well equipped force in the world; descend upon those "terrorists". First was Afghanistan; to capture "America's Most Wanted", only to come up short. After enough of that smoke screen, the Commander-in-Chief decided to attack another sovereign nation to end "the reign of terror" and get the imaginary weapons of mass destruction from another of "America's Most Wanted", Saddam Hussein. In both cases, the ruling governments in Afghanistan and Iraq were put there by the American Government, but I digress.

After 2,000 days of the announcement of "Mission Accomplished", and after 96% of all deaths in Iraq are accounted for after that same statement, we plan for the upcoming anniversary of this invasion. We also mark the grim reality of 3,000 military deaths over 25,000 wounded, and an appalling 650,000 Iraqi deaths accounted for, and we are still an occupying force with no end in sight.

**Commissions are formed and issue "reports"; meetings are held to discuss possible game plans to end this war; our elected officials banter about policy and decisions, and people keep dying by the 100's in Iraq every single day.**

**Does anyone see something wrong with this picture? What strategy meeting does it take to say bring them home now? Stop the killing of innocent people.**

**Enlightening details are as follows, none of our elected officials or anyone in the White House for that matter, wants a withdrawal of our troops from Iraq!**

Permanent military bases have been established with our taxpayer dollars, heavy duty equipment, massive weaponry, satellite connections, computers and networks installed by the thousands, permanent military structures to house military personnel, countless restaurants like McDonald's, Starbucks, Subway, Wendy's and Quiznos have been



constructed all over the "Green Zone". Troops have to pay the same amount if not more for a Mocha Latte as we do. They have pools, game rooms, movies and actually go for R & R. Will we now admit that we are there for good? Or do you need further convincing?

War profiteers such as, of course, Halliburton, KBR, Exxon, Mobil, Blackwater, and many others have been given no-bid government contracts worth billions also thanks to the taxes of the American people. Mercenaries and private contractors are making 4 times what our men and women in uniform are, and live in relative luxury, while drilling for oil. Billions of dollars are being poured into these operations, do you think anyone in D.C. isn't getting rich off of this war?

Most if not all of our politicians are stalling.

A smokescreen has been thrown up in front of the anti-war movement and peace activists by these same people who are now supposedly representing us.

They no more want to end this war than the Saudi Princes, Jordan's King, or the Iranian President. Did we not learn yet that being at the top has its rewards. Those that are power and greed driven could care less about the death and destruction beneath them. Just because they walk and talk and look human, do not mean that they are.

**So how do we end this war? Several ingredients, and they don't include our Congress.**

**(1) Massive mobilizations in the streets. Yes, we have to get our hands dirty, and put our butts on the line, no laziness accepted.**

Cause disruptions around this Country, end the business as usual days of our cities. Hard, you better believe it! If you review the history of any successful movement in our entire existence, it took the masses in dissent loudly protesting to get what they wanted. Sometimes it turned ugly; sometimes it was scary; and, there were very dark grim moments. In this movement, we must ALL join forces and step forward. Not on one day here or another day there. It means constant struggle, every where, every day.

**(2) Do not trust the politicians and their promises.**

You are wasting time. We must find those companies that are profiting and boycott them. The anti-war movement must direct lots of energy and massive amounts of people protesting at the headquarters, subsidiaries and affiliates of all of those companies getting filthy rich off the dead. Hit them where it counts, in the wallet. Or else, they will keep making billions. It can be done, and has been done in the past. Weed out those specific companies and hit them hard. Let the American people demand that these companies who have been involved in war profiteering pay reparations to the Iraqi people. As well as boycotting, once we get their attention, file lawsuits on behalf of all of those damaged by an illegal occupation. Not so far fetched. If you can sue McDonald's for a hot cup of coffee, just imagine what we can do for Iraqi people and those American families who have been destroyed.

**(3) Speak to a soldier. Outreach.**

Spend time in towns that have military families and troops. Do you think all of them want to return to Iraq 3 or 4 times?

They need support and to be listened to.

That is what ultimately ended the Vietnam War, troop resistance.

This Government made a mistake. They trained our military to operate in small, tight platoons together "All for one and one for all" mentality.

But when they decide to put their weapons down, it will be the group mentality that will cause an erosion unit by unit and they will lay down their arms together.

That's impressive and will make a strong impact.

Peace activists need to recognize this sooner rather than later to be the support mechanism when this upsurge reaches large proportions. It has already begun.

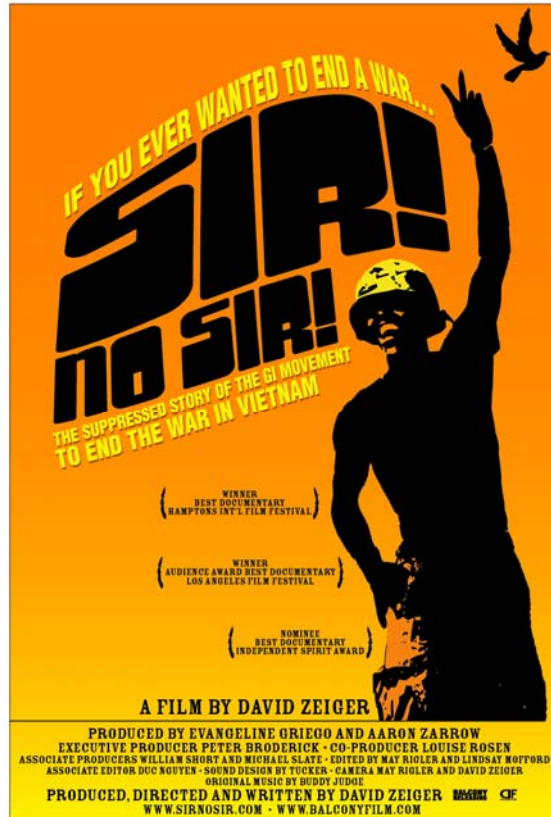
Until we in the movement to stop all atrocities in our name band together not only at rallies, marches, protests, letter writing, petition signing and every other activity pursued in our frustration to be heard, get to the basic ingredients of power and greed driven death and destruction around this planet, we will NEVER end anything.

Those who watch us only laugh all the way to the bank.

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.

**“It Was Soldiers, Not Hippies, Who Spearheaded Protest Of The Vietnam War”**

**“Protest Begins On The Front Lines, With Men Whose Moral Outrage Is Stronger Than Their Willingness To March In Step”**



May. 23, 2006 Gregory Epps, Portfolio Weekly

**To my surprise, it was soldiers, not hippies, who spearheaded protest of the Vietnam War. And before it was over, America would witness her own veterans tearing off their medals and throwing them on the capitol steps.**

Long before the troops began to refuse night patrols and protest rallies at home revealed the division in our ranks, a few soldiers unintentionally planted the roots of a movement by following their conscience and saying Sir! No Sir!

Director David Zeiger's documentary reveals how the soldiers who initially protested acted alone, fully aware that court-martial and prison awaited them.

Like their fathers and grandfathers, they went to war "gung ho," assured they were doing the right thing. But it soon became clear that, along with the American people, the soldiers were being lied to.

Dr. Howard Levy was sent to Vietnam to help "win hearts and minds" by providing free dermatology to villagers, curing common skin problems. But he became aware that our bombers were attacking villagers with a new napalm that was specially formulated to stick better to human skin.

Levy's tale is one of many in which horrific irony and bitter disappointment in their leadership play a role in a man or woman's transformation from soldier to protestor. In

the words of Special Forces veteran, Donald Duncan, "It was personal. There was no movement."

Army medic Randy Rowland rebelled only after experiencing gravely wounded American soldiers begging for death on a daily basis, none of whom thought that their sacrifice was justifiable.

**Director Zeiger does a fine job tracing the military roots of the peace movement, starting with these early incidents and taking us through the organized growth of protest within the ranks.**

By the time Navy nurse, Susan Schnall made headlines by getting arrested for protesting in uniform, an "Underground G.I. Press" was already filtering newspapers through our bases. Men were organizing in coffeehouses, and even within the walls of the Presidio, where detained soldiers were outraged by the killing of 19-year-old Michael Bunch, shot dead while trying to escape a work detail.

**In Sir! No Sir!, Zeiger goes on to provide a fascinating timeline of events (in combat and at home), which paint a fairly thorough picture of how we lost the war in Vietnam, why there were over 550,000 incidents of desertion, why some soldiers killed their own officers, and others refused to fight.**

We also see how talk of peace was portrayed as unpatriotic, and how Nixon responded to his protesting troops by shifting to a vicious air war that attempted to bomb Vietnam "Back to the Stone Age."

Critics of this film could point out that not all veterans are represented by Sir! No Sir!. Many who proudly stood by their oath to "support and defend" the orders of the president will never forgive those who dodged the draft or mutinied in the field. Nor will they ever forgive public figures like Jane Fonda, whose attempt to side with "the people" was interpreted as giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

But Zeiger's film patriotically stands behind the equally brave soldiers on both sides of this divide, containing elements with disturbing relevance to the Iraq War, the death toll of which currently stands at 2,437 military and 35-40,000 civilians killed.

**Sir, No Sir! shatters myths about the origins of war protest, and the way memory of the Vietnam war has been reconstructed. It also reveals how protest begins on the front lines, with men whose moral outrage is stronger than their willingness to march in step.**

**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."

***Great Moments In U.S. Military  
History: December 29, 1890:  
Massacre At Wounded Knee;  
“Many Women And Children Standing By  
Their Tipis Under A White Flag Of Truce  
Were Cut Down By Deadly Shrapnel  
From The Hotchkiss Guns”***



**A mounted soldier rides among the dead Indians at Wounded Knee**

[Via Peace History December 25-31 By Carl Bunin]

English.uiuc.edu

From Momaday, "The American West and the Burden of Belief" in Geoffrey C. Ward, The West: An Illustrated History. Copyright © 1996 by The West Book Project, Inc. (Little Brown, 1996).

On December 15, 1890, the great Hunkpapa leader Sitting Bull, who had opposed Custer at the Little Bighorn and who had toured for a time with Buffalo Bill and the Wild West show, was killed on the Standing Rock reservation. In a dream he had foreseen his death at the hands of his own people.

Just two weeks later, on the morning of December 29, 1890, on Wounded Knee Creek near the Pine Ridge agency, the Seventh Cavalry of the U.S. Army opened fire on an encampment of Big Foot's band of Miniconjou Sioux.

When the shooting ended, Big Foot and most of his people were dead or dying.

It has been estimated that nearly 300 of the original 350 men, women, and children in the camp were slain. Twenty-five soldiers were killed and thirty-nine wounded,

Sitting Bull is reported to have said, "I am the last Indian."

In some sense he was right. During his lifetime the world of the Plains Indians had changed forever. The old roving life of the buffalo hunters was over. A terrible disintegration and demoralization had set in. If the death of Sitting Bull marked the end of an age, Wounded Knee marked the end of a culture.

**"I did not know then how much was ended.**

**"When I look back now from the high hill of my old age, I can still see the butchered women and children lying heaped and scattered all along the crooked gulch as plain as when I saw them with eyes still young.**

**"And I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud, and was buried in the blizzard. A people's dream died there. It was a beautiful dream...." -Black Elk-**

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**Indian Bodies on the ground at Wounded Knee**

Paula M. Robertson: From Encyclopedia of North American Indians. Frederick E. Hoxie, Ed. Copyright © 1996 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

**Many women and children standing by their tipis under a white flag of truce were cut down by deadly shrapnel from the Hotchkiss guns.**

**The rest fled under withering fire from all sides.**

**Pursuing soldiers shot most of them down in flight, some with babes on their backs.**

One survivor recalled that she was wounded but was so scared she did not feel it. She lost her husband, her little girl, and a baby boy. One shot passed through the baby's body before it broke her elbow, causing her to drop his body. Two more shots ripped through the muscles of her back before she fell.

The warrior Iron Hail, shot four times himself but still able to move, saw the soldiers shooting women and children.

One young woman, crying out for her mother, had been wounded close to her throat, and the bullet had taken some of her braid into the wound.

A gaping hole six inches across opened the belly of a man near him, shot through by an unexploded shell from the guns.

**Others told of women, heavy with child, shot down by the soldiers. Bodies of women and children were found scattered for three miles from the camp.**

On New Year's Day, a pit was dug on the hill that the Hotchkiss guns had been on, and the frozen bodies of 146 men, women, and children were thrown into the pit like cordwood until it was full.

The whites stripped many of the bodies, keeping as souvenirs the Ghost Shirts and other clothing and equipment the people had owned in life, or selling them later in the thriving trade over Ghost Dance relics that ensued.

One member of the burial party remarked that it was "a thing to melt the heart of a man, if it was of stone, to see those little children, with their bodies shot to pieces, thrown naked into the pit."

Besides the 146 buried that day, others who had been wounded died soon afterward, and relatives removed many of the bodies before the government burial party arrived.

Estimates of the number of Lakotas slain vary, but many authorities believe that the figure is around three hundred men, women, and children.

Not many escaped.



The mass grave at Wounded Knee

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***Taking The Long Way***  
**The Dixie Chicks' Newest CD**  
**“The Music Is Melodic But The Lyrics**  
**Are Defiant”**

December 15, 2006 Review by Sharon Smith, Socialist Worker

TAKING THE Long Way, the Dixie Chicks' newest CD, is perfect for every rebel on your gift list.



The music is melodic but the lyrics are defiant in songs such as “Lubbock or Leave it” and “Not Ready to Make Nice” that describe their forced exile from country radio since 2003 -- for publicly rebuking Bush and the Iraq war.

“It’s too late to make it right,” Natalie Maines sings, adding, “I probably wouldn’t if I could.”

But revenge has been sweet for the Dixie Chicks. This album, more rock than country western, earned the Chicks six Grammy nominations and is undoubtedly their best.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### ***Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!***

### **U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



An elderly Baghdad citizen in a wheelchair is forced out of his home into the street while foreign occupation soldiers from Company A of the 5th Battalion, 20th U.S. Infantry Regiment search his home and personal possessions in New Baghdad, an eastern neighborhood in Baghdad. Dec. 27, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

[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?]

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## **OCCUPATION HAITI**

# **An Imperial Christmas Present To Haiti:**

## **The Massacre Of The Men, Women And Children Of Cite Soleil; “Troops From Brazil, Chile, Uruguay And Bolivia Took Part”**

### **“I Don't Think They Really Killed Any Bandits, Unless They Consider All Of Us As Bandits”**

[So much for the silly bullshit floating around about how Brazil and Bolivia have “progressive” governments. The only difference between the filth running the governments in Bolivia and Brazil and George W. Bush's Imperial government is this: the Imperial dreams and armed forces of Bolivia and Brazil are smaller. They agree perfectly with Bush on the basics: if your occupation of another country is opposed, drown the opposition in blood; men, women and children. The people who proclaim the governments of Bolivia and Brazil “progressive” are nothing more than apologists for mass murderers: loudmouthed scum of the earth. T]

Dec 28, 2006 Via New York City Labor Against The War Digest Number 608

### **Urgent Action Alert From The Haiti Action Committee: December 24, 2006**

In the early morning of Friday, December 22nd, starting at approximately 3 a.m., 400 Brazilian-led UN occupation troops in armored vehicles carried out a massive assault on the people of Cite Soleil, laying siege yet again to the impoverished community. Eyewitness reports said a wave of indiscriminate gunfire from heavy weapons began

about 5 a.m. and continued for much of the day Friday -- an operation on the scale of the July 6, 2005 UN massacre in Cite Soleil.

Detonations could be heard for miles, AHP reported.

Initial press accounts reported at least 40 casualties, all civilians. According to community testimony, UN forces flew overhead in helicopters and fired down into houses while other troops attacked from the ground with Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs). People were killed in their homes.

UN troops from Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia took part in the all-day siege, backed by Haitian police. UN soldiers once again targeted the Bois Neuf and Drouillard districts of Cite Soleil -- scene of the July 6th massacre.

While reports are still coming in, this is what we do know right now:

A Reuters photographer "counted 9 bodies, and eyewitnesses counted 4 others dead. As many as 30 people were wounded, humanitarian workers said. All of the casualties are believed to be civilians." (Reuters)

One Haitian human rights observer personally counted at least 17 dead bodies on the ground. This eyewitness also reported: A woman 6-months pregnant was shot in the stomach, killing the unborn child.

A man and his 8-year-old boy were in their beds when a helicopter rained bullets into their house, wounding both. A man named Jacquelin Olivier was killed in his bed when bullets pierced the walls. He leaves a wife and 3-year old boy.

"The foreigners came shooting for hours without interruption and killed 10 people," said Bois Neuf resident Johnny Claircidor, quoted by Reuters.

**"They came here to terrorize the population," Cite Soleil resident Rose Martel told Reuters, referring to UN troops and police. "I don't think they really killed any bandits, unless they consider all of us as bandits."**

**"Local residents say the victims were ordinary citizens whose only crime was that they live in the targeted neighborhood." (AHP) UN soldiers block Red Cross vehicles from coming to aid the wounded:**

According to Pierre Alexis, the Haitian Red Cross coordinator for Cite Soleil, the UN soldiers prevented the Haitian Red Cross from treating children injured during the assault. Alexis said that many children were suffering serious injuries, but that UN soldiers blocked Red Cross vehicles from entering Cite Soleil. AHP reported that "residents were outraged that soldiers refused to allow medical care...for people they had injured." Despite this, St. Catherine's Hospital in Cite Soleil reported receiving many wounded.

Why this latest assault on the people of Cite Soleil?

**UN occupation authorities in Haiti claim it is part of their fight against "bandits" and "kidnappers," scapegoating the 300,000 residents of Cite Soleil.**

However, it is widely known throughout Port-au-Prince that kidnappers are coming from all sectors, including corrupt police officials and the wealthy. Does the UN lead military assaults on affluent neighborhoods where kidnappers are known to operate? Of course not.

A more plausible explanation comes from grassroots activists in Cite Soleil.

**They argue that this is "punishment" for their ongoing protests demanding an end to the UN occupation, restoration of full democracy, return of President Aristide, and the release of political prisoners.**

Additionally, the people of Cite Soleil have been vigorously protesting the December 3rd municipal elections, in which there were widespread allegations of fraud and many from the popular neighborhoods were prevented from voting.

**Just recently, on December 16th, the people of Cite Soleil led a massive protest throughout Port-au-Prince marking the anniversary of Jean-Bertrand Aristide's first election as president in 1990.**

**They marched despite the UN shooting up the district the night before, in what was widely viewed as a UN attempt to intimidate the populace on the eve of the march. In the week following the march, tensions continued to escalate, culminating in the December 22nd assault by UN forces under Brazilian command.**

Enough is enough!

**Join us in denouncing the ongoing UN terror attacks on the Haitian people!**

Now is the time for people in the US and throughout the world to step up our solidarity efforts with the people of Haiti. Our protests, calls and letters after the UN massacre in Cite Soleil on July 6th, 2005 -- and the many UN attacks since then -- need to be updated, expanded, intensified.

**Demand an end to the UN's repeated, brutal assaults on this besieged community.**

Email or fax the UN official below. Keep it brief.

Denounce the massive, heavy-caliber assault on the citizens of Cite Soleil by UN occupation forces on Dec. 22, 2006. Demand reparations for the victims and their families. Demand prosecution of the UN officials, commanders and soldiers responsible for this latest UN atrocity in Haiti.

TO: Edmond Mulet, UN Special Representative in Haiti -- [mulet@un.org](mailto:mulet@un.org); fax 011-509-244-3512

cc to: Thierry Fagart, UN Human Rights chief in Haiti -- [fagart@un.org](mailto:fagart@un.org); fax 011-509-244-9366

cc to: Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights -- [ngochr@ohchr.org](mailto:ngochr@ohchr.org); fax 011-41-22-917-9011

For more information: 510 483 7481 or email [haitiaction@yahoo.com](mailto:haitiaction@yahoo.com).  
[www.haitiaction.net](http://www.haitiaction.net) and [www.haitisolidarity.net](http://www.haitisolidarity.net)

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Terrorist Rats Meet In Texas: Plans To Kill More U.S. Troops “Making Good Progress”**



112.28.06: Bush, Cheney, SecDef Gates, Rice and JCS Chair Pace meet in Crawford, Texas. Bush said he was "making good progress" in meetings aimed at hammering out new policies to kill more U.S. troops and Iraqis for oil and Empire in occupied Iraq. (AFP/Tim Sloan)

**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**

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

**Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more**

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

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

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