

## GI SPECIAL 4L3:



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

# “Morale Starting To Circle The Drain”

## “I’m Not Going To Be The Last Fucking Person To Die Here”

People are becoming more and more pissed off about the senior leaderships (civilian and military) general disconnect with the reality of what is happening on the ground here.

From: From: SSG XX, Iraq  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 01, 2006  
Subject: Morale starting to circle the drain.

Here are my thoughts on the state of troop morale.

Just saw an interview with General Peter Pace's (JCS) Sgt Major for troop morale who said he had recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan after speaking with "the troops".

He maintained that "everyone I spoke with said they knew they needed to be here and wanted to get the job done"(paraphrased).

I am unsure of who or where he spoke with these people but it was not at [Base xxxxx] here in Iraq, (one of, if not the largest single base in Iraq).

I was in the Army from [xxx] '68 until [xxx] '71, (Viet Nam [xxx] '69 to [xxx] '70), during the decline of the military at that time.

I see the beginnings of the same mind set among the young troops here.

Statements like "I'm not going to be the last fucking person to die here", and "these politicians need to have their medications checked".

These are the more optimistic that I hear daily.

People are becoming more and more pissed off about the senior leaderships, (civilian and military) general disconnect with the reality of what is happening on the ground here.

I have a hard time finding anyone who does not understand that this is a "civil war" bordering on anarchy in the streets and alleys of Baghdad.

The command structure has degenerated to issuing orders that people have to wear boots or tennis shoes to the shower and carry shower shoes.

This is done with the threat of punishment with Article 15 and loss of rank and pay.

When this type of bullshit happened in Viet Nam, the senior NCOs and Officers became the targets of attacks which became known as "fragging".

I hope that someone in charge gets a clue before this sort of thing starts to get out of hand.

When people forget their fuckups of the past, they will come back to haunt them.

SSG XX, Iraq

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

### **Soldier Killed In Al Anbar Province**

02 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061202-04

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Soldier assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Armored Division died Dec. 1 from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

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### **Soldier Who Grew Up Near Omaha Dies In Iraq**

12/02/06 KOTA

OMAHA, Neb. An Army career soldier who grew up near Omaha has been killed in Iraq.

Dixie Heisner of Omaha said yesterday that her brother, 35-year-old Staff Sergeant Jeremy W- Mulhair, died Thursday.

She says an explosion hit his vehicle near Taji, Iraq.

He had grown up northwest of Omaha and, as a child, loved to play soldier. Heisner says "All he ever wanted to do since he was a kid was serve his country."

He had been in Iraq since October on his second tour of Iraq duty.

His sister says Sergeant Mulhair's wife and three children all live near his duty station at Fort Hood, Texas.

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### **Mount Zion Marine Wounded**

December 1, 2006 By HUEY FREEMAN, Herald & Review, Decatur, IL,

MOUNT ZION: When a Marine Corps Reserve officer called Mike Watson at work to tell him his son had been seriously injured in Iraq, he asked the officer if his son would survive.

The officer told him only that he would tell him more later, during a home visit.

"That scared me to death," Mike Watson said in an interview at his home in Mount Zion. Perhaps that scare helped the Watsons to receive the grim truth in a softer light.

Lance Cpl. Chad Watson, 23, had his right leg amputated above the knee Wednesday after the Humvee he was riding in on patrol in Fallujah was blasted by a bomb, apparently detonated as the vehicle passed over it.

During the attack, Watson also broke his left ankle and suffered shrapnel wounds to his face, including his eyelid and his right arm. The three other Marines in the vehicle also were injured, some suffering broken bones.

After being treated in Fallujah, Watson was flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. He will remain there until next week, when he is expected to be transferred to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

Chad Watson, a 2001 graduate of Mount Zion High School and quarterback of its football team, joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 2004 while attending Indiana University on a partial wrestling scholarship. He was deployed to Iraq in September, serving with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

Just 14 hours after the incident, Watson called his parents. Mike Watson said he was amazed that he was more concerned about how they were feeling than about himself.

When Mike Watson said to him, "They told me they took off your leg," his son joked, "Huh, they told me that, too."

Chad Watson, whose high school football coach calls him "one of the toughest guys we've had here," is also known for his positive attitude.

"They're going to strap some high-tech crap on me, and we're going to take off running," the Marine told his father.

Chad's 22-year-old girlfriend, Jill Kinsella, a graduate student at Eastern Illinois University, said she also talked to Chad, and he is in high spirits.

"If he still wants to run a marathon, I'm right there beside him," Kinsella said. "He can probably still outrun me. He said he wants to dance at some of the weddings we are going to. He's looking forward to the future, walking and dancing."

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## **Fighting Rages In Baqouba: Panicked U.S. Command Caught Lying About It**

Dec. 2 AP

**U.S. and Iraqi forces began an offensive operation in Baqouba, the capital of Diyala province about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where fierce fighting has raged for a week between Sunni insurgents and police, the U.S. command said.**

**Saturday's operation was launched two days after the U.S. military said Baqouba was fully operational, despite media reports that fighting had cleared its streets of cars and pedestrians.**

Ahmed Fuad, a senior morgue official in Baqouba, said the morgue had received 102 bodies since Nov. 22, only 20 of which had been retrieved by their families.

"We do believe that there are many bodies in some areas of Diyala province, but neither police nor ambulance could fetch them," he said.

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

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



U.S. soldiers patrol a road in Baghdad October 25, 2006. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Troops Aid Resistance: Kill Collaborator Cop, Wound Another; Occupation “Spokesman” Tells Stupid Lie**

December 2, 2006 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan: An Afghan policeman was killed and another injured when a U.S. convoy fired on a group of officers in waning daylight in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Saturday.

**A NATO spokesman said a policeman in civilian clothes first fired on the soldiers in Ghazni province late Friday, prompting them to return fire. The district police chief, who was shot in the right hand in one of two exchanges of gunfire, disputed that account.**

The chief, Raz Mohammad Wardak, said a U.S. convoy passed by a security post in a district bazaar marked by Afghan flags. Three police were stationed at it, including two in civilian clothes, he said.

He said the U.S. convoy opened fire, killing one of the officers. The other two ran away and hid under a nearby bridge, he said.

About 45 minutes later, the convoy again passed by. Wardak said he stood on the security post roof and tried to shout at the Afghan translator who would have been riding with the U.S. soldiers. But the soldiers again opened fire, wounding Wardak.

Wardak said he knew most of the U.S. soldiers who patrol past the bazaar, and he thought this convoy had soldiers who were new to the area. He said no policeman fired at the convoy.

**"We are not stupid. Why would we fire on them? It's a completely wrong accusation," he said.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Army Sgt. 1st Class Schuyler B. Haynes at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Nov. 29, 2006 in New York. Haynes died Nov. 15 in Baquba, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

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## Mom Of KIA Says: “They Obviously Don’t Want Us There If They Are Killing Us”

02 December 2006 By Terri Judd, Belfast Telegraph

**Army officials have admitted that Iraqi police may have been implicated in the death of a British sergeant, but no one is likely to be brought to justice.**

Sgt Jones's mother, Carol, 60, said she was devastated by a covering letter from the Army's directorate of personal services, which added: "The jurisdiction for the case was handed over to the Iraqi Police. As yet, no one has been detained in connection with your son's death.

Mrs Jones continued: "Tony Blair tells us that our soldiers are protecting the Iraqi people but they obviously don't want us there if they are killing us.

"John loved the Army but I don't think he would have joined if he thought that he would die like this."

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# **Army Drugging Troops To Keep Them In Combat: “Thousands Of Soldiers Returning From Iraq And Afghanistan Are Seeking Treatment For Substance Abuse” “It Took Nearly Two Years For Him To Get An Appointment At The Closest Veterans Hospital”**

**But some experts say the drug problem remains obfuscated by a key motivation in any war: to keep the troops on duty.**

**Adam Reuter, a 23-year-old former Army specialist from Atlanta who was stationed near the Syrian border, said a medic simply handed him a plastic bag filled with pills with no instructions after he was tossed out of a Humvee in an accident.**

**The bag contained Percocet, Vicodin, Tylenol with codeine, a muscle relaxant, Motrin and Naproxen. He said he went back for more and developed a dependency that he is still trying to shake.**

Nov. 26, 2006 By ANNE USHER, Cox News Service

It was a particularly intense firefight, recalled Ben Schrader, a former cavalry scout in Iraq.

"It lasted all day - bullets whizzing by your ear, seeing people with AKs," said the 26-year-old from Denver, Colo.

He remembers firing his M4 rifle at insurgents and watching them drop to the pavement.

"It's something you have to live with every day."

In the few hours of rest between 20-hour patrols, he said his comrades drowned out the combat stress with a variety of substances at their disposal, from alcohol to hashish to pills.



"It got so bad that some people were drinking Listerine," said Schrader, adding that he kept clean. Others sniffed household products such as Dust-Off, he said.

TV footage of soldiers openly getting high became an iconic image of the American experience in Vietnam.

Drug use in Iraq is not described on such a large scale - nor the insubordination that marked many drafted soldiers in Vietnam.

But soldiers and veterans groups say drug use is an increasing problem in Iraq, where illicit drugs and alcohol are readily available on the streets and prescription medications are generously handed out by medics.

Reliable numbers of soldiers using banned substances are hard to come by. In Afghanistan, just 75 drug cases have been reported - half involving marijuana or hashish and half involving Valium - since the U.S.-led invasion in October 2001, data from a Freedom of Information Act request shows. The Pentagon has not answered a separate request for figures in Iraq.

**But veterans support groups report that thousands of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are seeking treatment for substance abuse, and that repeated deployments are taking a toll.**

"Troops who were on a first deployment were following rules, but it seems to be that your second and third deployments over there you start doing things like this," said Ray Parrish, a counselor in with Vietnam Veterans Against the War who has spoken with hundreds of Iraq vets.

The military's current zero-tolerance policy means soldiers who abuse drugs or alcohol tend to do it in solitude.

**"Guys try to lock themselves in a room or a Port-A-Potty, or they'll hide it in regular rolled cigarettes laced with opium," said 31-year-old former Army sniper Garrett Reppenhagen, who served in Iraq through May 2004 with the 263rd Armored Battalion of the 1st Armored Division.**

"It's more challenging to get high because there are more precautions that the military is taking - but, then again, soldiers will find a way if they want to self-medicate or get high," he said.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Carl S. Ey said the Pentagon is reviewing its drug-testing regimen "to see if a better deterrence program can be provided."

Drug use or distribution severely hurts readiness, he said, and "will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately."

**But some experts say the drug problem remains obfuscated by a key motivation in any war: to keep the troops on duty.**

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**filled with pills with no instructions after he was tossed out of a Humvee in an accident.**

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**He said he went back for more and developed a dependency that he is still trying to shake.**

[M]any soldiers seeking treatment for combat stress when they return say they face steep hurdles getting help from the government.

Jesus Bocanegra, a 24-year-old former Army sergeant, says he is haunted by countless shots he fired at Iraqis while serving as an infantry scout in Tikrit in 2003-'04.

The McAllen, Texas, native says he lost track of how many innocent civilians he killed.

"How the hell was I capable of that?" he asks now.

Back home and plagued with anxiety attacks, he said he tried to close himself off from the world by drinking to the point of passing out.

He progressed to marijuana use and then cocaine.

Eventually, he stopped taking drugs.

**But he said it took nearly two years for him to get an appointment at the closest veterans hospital, a four-hour drive, because it was overbooked.**

He was diagnosed with PTSD and given pills, but with no VA therapists in the area, he sought help from a group called Vets for Vets. "It's good to have someone to talk to," he said. "It's the only thing that keeps me going."

Medical experts say mental health and substance abuse problems are intertwined. And drugs ranging from marijuana to prescription anti-depressants are easily accessible in Iraq, according to interviews with more than a dozen soldiers.

John Crawford, a 28-year-old former Florida National Guardsman with the Army's 101st Airborne Division, said soldiers in his unit drank alcohol, some took steroids, "pretty much everyone took Valium" and "some did all three."

Crawford said he bought 200 to 300 Valium pills on the street in Baghdad for \$2 as a way to catch some sleep between patrols. After eight months, he built up a tolerance and was taking seven or eight at a time.

Army Maj. James Weeden, who directed a team of 200 specialists dealing with combat stress in Iraq, says senior officers recognize the strain their troops are under and have begun assigning some specialists to remote forward operating bases.

Weeden and other medical specialists say that they can only treat the symptoms of combat stress - with anti-depressant drugs and rest, for example - and that soldiers are sent out of Iraq only when they have clearly disabling cases of PTSD.

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## ***VA Clinic Rated “Dismal”*** **“A Veteran With Mental Problems Goes (Into The Evansville Clinic) To See A Doctor And He Talks To One On TV”**

November 19, 2006 By BYRON ROHRIG, Courier & Press

Employees of the Evansville [Indiana] Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic have given the institution, administered by the Marion, Ill., veterans hospital, a dismal review on job satisfaction, management quality and institutional “culture.”

In an all-employee survey last spring and in on-site interviews this fall, employees gave “filling physician vacancies” priority while citing a long list of deficiencies portrayed as compromising the quality of patient care at the Walnut Centre facility.

A report was not released, but a summary of survey and interview results was obtained by the Courier & Press. Notable about the survey, said local veterans official Mark Acker, was that there were no surprises.

“These are the issues we've been talking about for the last two years,” said Acker, the Vanderburgh County Veterans Council's service officer.

“This only confirms what we've been saying all along about the clinic.”

Part of the physician understaffing issue is lack of a full-time psychiatrist, Acker said.

**“So a veteran with mental problems goes (into the Evansville clinic) to see a doctor and he talks to one on TV.**

**“They've put in this \$25,000 TV system so psychiatric patients can talk to a psychiatrist via closed-circuit in Marion. It's not the way you do business when you're talking to people with mental problems who need close personal contact.”**

Employees in Evansville generally portrayed medical staff as “dedicated,” “knowledgeable” and “hard-working.” But a “priorities for employees” section of the survey cited the “poor reputation of (the Veterans Affairs health care) in the community as contributing to the difficulty (in) recruiting physicians.”

**The large patient load per physician, or “panel size” - estimated at 1,800 patients per month against a national VA average of 1,200 - was scored by a large proportion of employees as difficult to manage.**

Among other perceived deficiencies, employees also cited:

A poor institutional relationship with administration of the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Marion.

**High work demand, “fear of retribution,” lack of “responsiveness” and “positive feedback” and short-circuiting any autonomy at the Evansville clinic.**

***Forcing sick patients to make a 180-mile round trip to the Marion hospital for treatments once routinely administered at the local clinic.***

**Inadequate space and need for a new building.**

On a five-point scale from “not at all satisfied” to “very satisfied,” among the largest spreads between Evansville's clinic and the Veterans Health Administration average were in supervision, senior management and promotion opportunity.

In Evansville, supervision and senior management were in the “not very satisfied” range, but in the “somewhat satisfied” range nationally. Promotion opportunity was in the “not at all satisfied” range in Evansville, compared with “not very satisfied” nationally.

Becca Shinneman, spokeswoman for the Marion facility and for its director, Robert Morrel, said the survey was “still being reviewed” and declined to discuss it.

**Acker said he believed Morrel asked the Veterans Health Administration to conduct the survey.**

**“We're victims of budget-cutting and people wanting to look good on paper,” said Acker.**

He noted demand on veterans' health care is increasing with return of wounded from the Iraq war. “And,” he added, “it's only the beginning.”

A contingent of local veterans organization leaders have continually complained about the quality and availability of medical services.

**Overloading a dwindling staff of Evansville VA physicians with patients, stripping the local clinic of services and making staff changes without explanation have ravaged morale at the clinic, veterans leaders say, and amount to the government's failure to keep faith with the men and women who have served in the nation's military.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

***No Joy For Bush In Friday  
Sermons:  
“Iraqi Officials Must Choose Between  
Their Loyalty To The U.S.  
Government And To The Iraqi  
People”  
“The Politicians Are Helping The  
Occupier”***

December 2, 2006 Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times

"The wicked American administration is the basic reason for these seditions happening among our peoples," Sheikh Abdul Zahra al-Suwadi told worshipers at Hikma Mosque in Sadr City, the capital's largest Shiite neighborhood, which was hit hard by car bombs that killed more than 150 people just over a week ago.

Iraqi officials must choose between their loyalty to the U.S. government and to the Iraqi people, he said.

If they choose the United States, he said, they can expect more rebellion.

Sheikh Abdullah Hassan, a Sunni preacher in Fallujah, told worshipers the Iraqi government has become dysfunctional, its leaders divided by ethnic and religious ties and under the sway of foreign powers.

"We have reached a point where we are required to tell the government that you have failed to provide services and security to Iraqis," he said.

"... What I see is that the politicians are helping the occupier and putting their hands between the hands of foreigners to create sectarian sedition."

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

01 Dec 2006 Reuters & Dec. 2 (Xinhua) & AP

At least two policemen was killed and 3 wounded in clashes between Mehdi Army fighters and police in Samawa, 270 km (168 miles) south of Baghdad, on Thursday evening. Police said the clashes continued on Friday.

Clashes erupted between guerrillas and the Iraqi army in central Baghdad in which one soldier was killed and five wounded, the Interior Ministry said.

Militants attacked a police checkpoint outside a hospital in western Baghdad on Saturday, killing a policeman and wounding another.

Guerrillas killed an Iraqi military construction contractor in the northern city of Mosul.

A roadside bomb hit a police patrol in Youssifiyah, 12 miles south of Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding six.

Attackers armed with heavy machine guns sprayed the main gate of Yarmouk hospital, killing one policeman and wounding three in western Baghdad.

Iraqi police said Friday that one Iraqi soldier was killed in the fighting at al-Fadhil, Baghdad

Guerrillas killed police Captain Hayder Mousa in the district of New Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas ambushed a vehicle carrying Iraqi soldiers in civilian clothes, killing five and wounding one in the town of Balad north of Baghdad an Iraqi security source said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen in Mosul, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852**

**“The GI Resistance Rapidly  
Expanded To Installations  
Throughout The World”**



Fall 2006 By Dave Kettenhofen (Reviewer) The Veteran, Vietnam Veterans Against The War. Dave Kettenhofen is a Vietnam veteran (1970–71), a VVAW national coordinator, and a member of the Milwaukee chapter of VVAW.

**Wow, this film must be subversive! How dare anyone challenge the popular, ongoing efforts to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War?**

Writer, producer, and director David Zeiger does just that.

**He has put together a comprehensive, tightly woven look at the GI resistance to the war, and one that doesn't cast the dissenting soldiers as traitors.**

Most of those who came to resist the war effort were disillusioned young people who initially felt they were doing the right thing. Donald Duncan, ex-Green Beret, sets the tone early on by stating, "I was really proud of what I thought I was doing. The problem I had was realizing what I was doing was not good. I was doing it right, but I wasn't doing right."

What many troops experienced or witnessed forced them to follow their consciences and take stances against the war. There were others who came to this realization even before going to Vietnam. All are portrayed here.

Dave Cline, after relating a very traumatic combat experience, says, "When you just went through an experience of that nature, and you find out that it's all lies, and that it's lying to the American people, and your silence means that you're part of keeping that lie

going, I couldn't stop. I mean, I couldn't be silent. You know, I felt that I had a responsibility to my friends and the country in general and to the Vietnamese."

Many returning soldiers, like Cline, went on to educate new recruits to the reality of the war. They took part in rap sessions at the coffeehouses located outside military installations and published underground newspapers.

**Through these and other efforts, the GI resistance rapidly expanded to installations throughout the world.**

The film touches all the bases.

It covers the prosecution of those who refused to go to Vietnam, the deserters, the jail inmate rebellions, fraggings, mutinies, GI coffeehouses, underground newspapers, Jane Fonda's FTA tours, VVAW's Winter Soldier Investigation and Dewey Canyon III, the black soldiers' solidarity movement, general insubordination, and more.

Various landmark events are highlighted as the war resistance grows larger and more powerful through the years.

Also shown is the government's reaction and often violent response to the movement.

This history has been largely ignored. Commenting on the foggy memory of many historians for events of this period, Jerry Lembcke says, "This is an important piece we're talking about. How memory about the war has been rewritten, has been reconstructed. This is gone. This has been erased. This has been displaced."

Zeiger's award-winning documentary is a collection of film and photos from Vietnam and other locales interspersed with present-day interviews of veterans who were part of the antiwar movement.

The editing job is wonderful; the film flows effortlessly and is never boring. Though not stated, this film draws very obvious parallels to the war in Iraq and the growing GI and veteran resistance to it.

A powerful counter-recruiting tool, this movie should be mandatory for anyone considering a venture into the military ranks.

Also included on this DVD is a largely animated short, the Ruckus Society's Punk Ass Crusade.

It is a counter-recruiting video that compares statistical data from the Vietnam and Iraq wars, urging us to "starve the beast," with great hip-hop accompaniment by the Coup.

**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."**

## **The Silence Of Horror**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 03, 2006  
Subject: The Silence Of Horror

### **The Silence Of Horror**

**Leaving Vietnam--I Thought.  
Welcome Home--I Thought.  
When the plane landed, I  
brought my secrets back.  
We were escorted to the  
back door of the terminal.  
Terminal, that's appropriate.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
December 2, 2006**

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

# ***Response to Sgt. Sander: #1 “Invasions Of Innocent Nations 'Down-Rates' MY Service To Our Nation, As It Does ALL Veterans Service”***

[This is a reply to a letter carried in GI Special 4L2, accusing GI Special of “Down-Rating” U.S. troops by opposing Bush’s wars.]

[Sgt. Sanders wrote:

[We are out here every single day trying to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are building schools and providing medical care in addition to constantly rooting out the dangerous terrorist cells that are scattered throughout these lands.

[We are extremely proud of the sacrifices we are making to keep America safe and comments like the ones you are making are working against us and down-rating our service.

[The entire point I'm trying to make is that many of us would love to come home, but not until we know the mission is accomplished. Our mission here and in Iraq have not been accomplished yet sir so please stop trying to "bring us home now!" We are not quitters and we will come home when the job is finished!]

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From: Ward Reilly  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 02, 2006  
Subject: Response to Sgt. Sander

Dear Sgt. Sander,

I recently read your criticism of the "GI Special" online news service, and I just had to comment.

I am a disabled Infantry veteran, having served as a volunteer infantryman from 1971-1974 in the First Infantry Division, including 32 straight months overseas.

Sarge, YOU just don't seem to realize how discouraging it is for our "Commander in Chief" to invade innocent nations, such as Iraq & Afghanistan, and for those illegal invasions to have killed upwards of 650,000 completely innocent people (not to mention 3000 innocent U.S. troops), all in MY name.

If ANY war is started through lies and deceit, as Iraq for example, NO amount of "honorable" actions by the troops can EVER make the cause just or right.

Please remember that the crime that the Nazi's were found guilty of at Nuremberg, after WWII, was the crime of INVADING INNOCENT NATIONS in violation of the international rules of warfare.

75% of the Afghan people, and 85% of the Iraqi people, want the U.S. OUT NOW.

In that we are supposed to be promoting "democracy and freedom" in Afghanistan and Iraq, shouldn't we be obeying the will and wishes of those citizens? Isn't that what freedom and democracy means?

The people of Afghanistan had ZERO to do with 9-11. The people of Iraq had ZERO to do with 9-11.

**Invasions of innocent nations "down-rates" MY service to our nation, as it does ALL veterans service, and those invasions are doing irreversible damage to MY Constitution and MY nation, both of which I served, and any hopes we had of winning over the BEAUTIFUL people of the Middle East to "our" way of thinking was lost the second we invaded them with our military.**

**The veterans anti war movement wants you home safe and sound, where you can protect OUR nation from all enemies "both foreign and DOMESTIC", such as Bush and Cheney, 2 certified war criminals.**

We love you, but we HATE the insane policies of the neocon/industrial war machine and your CIC and his administration.

The "mission" of this administration is to steal the oil of the Middle East, and to create perpetual war so that their friends at KBR, Blackwater, and Halliburton can make immense war profits, at the cost of GI's lives.

I just spent Thanksgiving here in south Louisiana with 25 Iraq and Afghan war veterans from the organization called "Iraq Veterans Against the War".

They were all there where you are, or in Iraq, and they are ALL against the war(s) there...can you argue with them?

**Come home soon and help us save OUR nation...we need you here.**

**ALL U.S. Troops OUT of the Middle East, NOW!**

Ward Reilly  
RA-11C40-Weapons Platoon  
Co. "C" 1st Bn., 16th Infantry  
First Infantry Division (Forward)  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Veterans For Peace

**MORE:**

***Response to Sgt. Sander:  
#2:  
“You Know That You Have Just  
Kicked The Military, With Their  
Lies, In The Balls Really Hard And  
It Hurts Them”***

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 02, 2006  
Subject: GI Special

I know that when my plant closed in Kalamazoo, I had to transfer to Flint at Buick City Assembly.

It was there I joined UAW New Direction's Caucus backed by Victor Reuther. We had to fight Management and the UAW fat cat's mostly Company Union.

We knew we were doing nothing unless one or the other Attacked us.

When they Attacked us in the Union Newspaper that came out once a week or if Management came down on one of us for "Not Working Jointly With Them" and called us trouble makers, it was then that we knew that we had just kicked them in the balls really hard and we hurt them.

So if Sergeant Gung Ho comes down on GI Special, you know that you have just kicked the Military, with their Lies, in the balls really hard and it hurts them.

In other words, you are doing a damn fine job.

**[Dennis Serdel is the author of many hard-hitting poems that have run in GI Special. Here's one you may have missed from GI SPECIAL 4125: 9.25.06. T]**

# The Devil



(AFP/Jim Watson)

**From: Dennis Serdel**  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 23, 2006

***By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan***

\*\*\*\*\*

**the devil**

**the 4 star death generals drip blood  
from their eye teeth like little children  
with their halloween masks  
as they shout trick or treat ba-a-a-by  
many ugly americans with w  
jump up and down with stars and stripes  
in their bully mouths  
crying kill kill kill like laughing hyenas  
awol-ing this war with sulfur yellow  
support the war stickers plastered**

on the backs of their cars trucks  
suv's on backs of the soldiers  
overseas fighting for other people's land  
the rabble wearing their death t-shirts  
that bark america bless god  
huge statues of jesus on the cross  
are being used as hammers  
to slam the muslims flat  
killing mohammed everybody  
loving dripping blood  
and the devil in the white house  
gurgling lies every time he speaks  
kills 24 hours a day  
horns hoofs and tail dragging hell  
on earth torturing missing arms  
legs children women old men  
young men putrid air sand gunpowder  
oil exhaustion sweat  
i don't care bombs guns landmines  
the devil is at his ranch making money  
killing anyway he can

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## “The GI Revolt Proved To Be One Of The Great Civil Movement Of American History”



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

By Paul, Allempires.com [Excerpts]

For any human being the desire to live one's life without taking the life of another would seem not only to be an admirable desire but a basic human right.

Between the 1965-75 the government of the United States tried to take this right away from many of its citizens.

**However totally unexpectedly in one of the great civil disobediences, organised at grass roots level, in the barrack rooms, boot camps, stockades, military towns, West Point itself and even on the battlefields of the Vietnam. GI's fought back and won, this is their story...**

From modern movies anyone with even the most basic knowledge of the Vietnam War will know that there was some dissent amongst the ranks of the masses of conscripted GI's. In these movies the anti-war ranks of the army are usually portrayed as hippies, peaceniks, druggies and drop-outs, drafted reluctantly into the army while clean cut volunteers from good families get on with the job.

In reality it is from neither of these places that the GI revolt began but somewhere even more unlikely, the most elitist of all US military units, the Green Berets.

For both the left and the right this has strong political ends. The right being able to distinguish between the professional military and a few hippy conscript troublemakers and the left wishing to see the rebellion of the people not the elite forces who were lackeys of the oppressive the state they oppose.

But contrary to the political agendas of both, the GI Revolt began long before any conscripts had been deployed in Vietnam and surprisingly amongst the ranks of the Green Berets.

In 1964 these professional oppressors were deployed in Vietnam to perform a dual purpose, of enacting a Hearts and Minds policy and advising the South Vietnamese Military.

However for many Green Berets the hypocrisy of the policy began to become apparent. Green Berets were given basic medical training and deployed in villages giving crude medical treatment, while there the USAF was carpet bombing the villages. The deployed Green Berets equipped to treat minor fungal infections in a few children instead were being given the shattered bodies of dozens from bombing raids.

Meanwhile other Green Berets deployed as advisors with the South Vietnamese Army were encountering different problems.

Decorated Green Beret Donald Duncan who later sat on a War Crime Tribunal described many incidents when American lead patrols arrested people who may or may not have been VC sympathisers who were routinely handed over the South Vietnamese interrogators who used extreme and brutal methods of torture on them.

Duncan who initially supported the war explains how this contravened everything he was brought up to believe in. In 1966 he quit the Green Berets to become one of the most outspoken opponents of the war.

Howard Levy a Green Beret doctor also took a stand, refusing to train any more people because he considered what he was doing immoral. The Levy case demonstrated how widespread and early the revolt began in the professional army.

**In 1967 he was court marshaled and spent 3 years in prison. What was remarkable about his case was each day he attended the court marshal he was cheered by hundreds of GI's on the base who regarded him a hero.**

The stand of the Green Berets hadn't gone unnoticed and it was as early as 1966 when the first mass refusals by soldiers to go to war occurred.

The first such case to come to public attention was the Fort Hood 3 who publicly refused to go. The Fort Hood 3 chose to publicise their case nationally, whereas many other chose a different method, the Underground Railway. This was movement set up to smuggle deserting GI's and draft dodgers overseas, mostly Canada and Sweden.

The US military's reaction to these early signs of revolt was to try and stamp it out by ever increasingly draconian sentencing. The Fort Hood 3 were court marshaled and received 5 year jail sentences. A Lieutenant Henry Hal received a 2 year sentence for merely carrying placard at a demo and 2 Marines received 6-10 year sentence for organising a meeting to discuss whether it was right for black people to fight in Vietnam.

In 1968 the Vietnamese launched the TET offensive, for many of the half a million US soldier deployed in Vietnam this came as an awakening. The ease in which the Vietcong and NVA moved across the country and the widespread support they found in the south, brought home the total failure of the Hearts and Minds policy and the lies of their own leaders that they were there to protect the south Vietnamese who clearly saw them as an occupying enemy.

Most deserters headed for the sanctuary of Canada, but a few moved to the hippie communities of California. The Nine for Peace were a small group who called the press and publicised their resistance. They sought sanctuary in a church and chained themselves to the ministers.

Many deserters were sent to the military's stockades, however this was becoming a major problem for the military as they quickly became overcrowded, some having as many as 3 times their capacity staying there.

**In the most audacious act so far, soldiers in San Francisco began planning the first open GI anti-war demonstration.**

**One of the problems facing them was how to publicise it without getting arrested.**

**Susan Schnall a military nurse and came up with a solution. In Vietnam the USAF was dropping leaflets in North Vietnam encouraging the people to defect. She**



## **proposed hiring private plains and flying over military bases dropping similar leaflets on the GI's.**

Her flight was successful and thousands of GI's learned of the protest, however the military were to get their revenge on her. She wore her uniform on the demo and was later court marshaled for making a political statement while in uniform.

In the wake of the arrests following the demo and the further overcrowding of the stockades, tensions rose.

At Presidio Stockade a prisoner was shot for refusing work detail. Quickly a protest over this started in the prison. Several GI's organised a sit down protest at role call. They were read the riot act by the army and then put on trial for treason facing the death sentence. The military's continued over reaction to the protests had further and further been isolating them from the public, but it was the Presidio 27, proved the final nail as the scandal went countrywide.

With the rising in popularity of the revolt across America a series of ant-war coffee houses began to appear. The coffee houses fulfilled a multiple roles. Acting as places free from the military where GI's could unwind, chill out and avoid any talk of the military and war they also acted as nexuses for GI's opposed to the war to meet and exchange ideas without repression on there ideas by the military

One of the ideas to emerge from the increased organisation of the revolt was the underground newspapers than started to circulate at military bases. Baring names such as The Last Harass, Fun Travel and Adventure, Four Year Bummer and Fatigue Press. The newspapers mocked the officers and military establishment as well as told first hand stories of veteran's real experiences in Vietnam.

The military as soon as it realised what was going on banned them but it was a futile effort and the phenomena exploded until almost every military base in and outside the country had one. Draconian methods were used to stamp them out. GI's suspected of involvement had drugs planted on them and were arrested.

In 1968 in one of the most notorious events in the protest against the war occurred where police attacked demonstrators at the Democratic Party Conference in Chicago.

Deployed in the area were soldiers from Fort Hood who were originally intended for the job. However days before the troops deployment a midnight protest had broken out amongst the soldiers who objected to being used against fellow soldiers at the demo.

A battalion of MP's had to be sent in to break up the protest and imprison the ringleaders. Even then the military chose to handpick the men they sent to Chicago leaving out suspected peaceniks.

Despite this when hostilities broke out at the demo between protestors and police the troops were never sent in, the army were now unsure which side the GI's were on.

In 1968 the soldiers of Charlie Co 11th Brigade cold bloodedly murdered 500 innocent villages mostly women and children in the village of My Lai. The US military managed to

cover it up for a year before it was exposed by the press. When the army finally had to answer for it, they swept it under the carpet calling it an "isolated incident".

In reaction a groups calling themselves Vietnam Veterans Against the War held a public enquiry into the conduct of the US army in Vietnam. The enquiry exposed that far from an isolated instance testimony after testimony by veterans showed that My Lai was just one of a multitude of similar event, but when much deeper as GI after GI confirm. The orders they had been given were the same ones as had created My Lai.

**The next move of the GI Revolt was on the militaries most sacred day, Armed Forces Day. The GI's organised an alternative parade, Armed Farces Day. Steadily each year the parade gained moment until by 70-71 it was attracting thousands.**

Increasingly a new phenomena grew throughout the army known as 'fragging'. Where soldiers in a unit would kill NCO's or officers who they considered would get them killed. The most popular method was a fragmentation grenade. Effectively the most competent leaders the army were being killed and the most timid and incompetent left alive

**Colonel Robert Heintz made the statement "By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam, is in a state approaching collapse. With individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non-commissioned officers, drug ridden, dispirited, where they are not mutinous".**

In 1971 a company from the 1st Cavalry Division was deployed protecting two US artillery batteries on the border. Two North Vietnamese Regiments were moving in on the batteries. The commander of the Cavalry troops ordered them to venture out and organise a night ambush on the advancing NVA.

The GI's refused the order but went a stage further when they sent a petition to the press announcing they were refusing to fight. The petition stated they would rather face court martial than fight and in the event of mass prosecution their only defence would be public opinion

By now the heavy handed responses of the military was being replaced by a broad sweep under the carpet. The company was quickly redeployed from the front line and no further action taken. Instead another unit was ordered in to replace them. However the new unit hearing what had happened to their predecessors immediately refused to fight too, and within weeks the whole US army was refusing to fight.

Effectively the US army had ceased to exist as a fighting unit.

Nixon's hand was forced, he had to make the pledge American ground troops would no longer engage in offensive actions.

All American units were withdrawn from the frontline, fighting the war was left entirely in the hands of the South Vietnamese. The war was now simply a matter for the politicians to hide the state of the army and spin doctor the history books to play down the GI revolt.

**The GI Revolt proved to be one of the great civil movement of American history, and demonstrated it impossible in an open society to conduct an unjust war with a conscripted army.....**



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

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### X-Ray Of George W. Bush



New Jersey Veterans For Peace 12.1.06

## **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))

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

### **Received:**

## **Counseling Help????? “He Was Recently Called Up AGAIN And Does Not Want To Go Back”**

From: Mitchell C  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 02, 2006  
Subject: Counseling help??????

Would you send me a list of counseling organizations for vets that would be helpful here? I received a message from a friend of mine who is a college teacher who wrote that he has a student who returned from Iraq and is a reservist.

**He was recently called up AGAIN and does not want to go back.**

### **Reply:**

Two experienced organizations specialize in this work: non-profit, and with attorneys available:

**The GI Rights Hotline**  
**(800) 394-9544**  
**(510) 465-1472 (also for international calls)**  
**Fax (510) 465-2459**  
**405 14th Street Suite 205**

Oakland, CA 94612  
www.objector.org/girights/

MILITARY LAW TASK FORCE  
318 Ortega Street, San Francisco, CA 94122  
(415) 566-3732  
(619) 233-1701  
www.nlg.org/mltf

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The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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

<http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/); <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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