

## GI SPECIAL 4L4:



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

# **“Building Trust, Solidarity, And Alliances With Troops Is Possible” [Some Things I Saw When I Was In Iraq]**

[Prepared by an Iraq veteran for the meeting “Resistance Where It Counts: Hear Soldiers Who Served In Iraq Report How They Organized Against The War On The Front Lines” sponsored by The Military Project, IVAW and NYCLAW.]

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Some Things I Saw When I Was In Iraq:**

I apologize but I could not attend because tonight I have drill duty in [xxxx] with my national guard unit.

In the winter of 2003-2004, my national guard unit was training to go to Iraq at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Myself and a friend went around the barracks and hung up flyers on the bulletin boards. They said "Bring them Home Now" and they had a picture of National Guard soldiers in a truck riding down the highway in Iraq. The truckers had a sign that said, "One weekend a month my ass."

Nearly a year later, while we were in Iraq getting ready to come back home my commander threatened to keep our unit in Iraq. Someone stole the Battalion Flag and a wooden plaque of our unit crest. My commander thought one of us in the unit did it and told us we would stay in theater until he had his items back. It was a bluff and we secretly called him on it.

**Myself and a friend sent anonymous emails to the White House, Hillary Clinton, Charles Rangle, The New York Times, The LA Times, The Washington Post, The Village Voice, The Daily News and a few other people. All the emails had the same message: that explained our situation, and started, "We are soldiers of Alpha company and we are being held hostage in Iraq by our lieutenant colonel."**

**Less than 24 hours later my lieutenant colonel's boss informed us that we would be going home as scheduled.**

A few months before that, in October of 2004, 19 members of 3rd Platoon 343rd Quartermaster Company refused a mission to deliver fuel. It was the first mutiny of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I ran a couple of missions with people from the 343. One of the leaders of the refusal — Scott Shealy, ended up in my tent when they separated him from his platoon. From them I learned the untold story of the 343rd:

When the 3rd platoon openly said no and refused that mission in October 2004 it was their third attempt.

Once, around summer of 2004, they tried a sick out.

All of 3rd platoon went to see the triage clinic (sick call for military folk) instead of rolling out for a mission.

The sick out didn't work.

Their commander simply changed the mission time and ordered them to roll out once all the soldiers moved through triage. They couldn't get in trouble because you can't formally punish someone for going to sick call in the military.

Another time, the 3rd platoon took cables out of all their trucks so they wouldn't have to go on a mission.

That didn't work either.

When their commander realized they would miss their roll out time he got trucks from another platoon and sent them packing. They didn't get in trouble because the command couldn't prove who did it.

The next time I heard about 3rd platoon was when they openly refused a mission. That worked.

When the story of their unit broke out my girlfriend and activist friends started sending me snail mail about the 343. There was a petition from Staten Island Peace Action, a statement of support from a radical communist group, and a story about New Jersey anti-war activists with a sign reading, "Support the 343rd Troops."

My girlfriend had no idea I knew the 343rd soldiers. Scott Shealy happened to be on his bed across from me in his tent when I got this package. I handed over the petitions and articles to him and he said, "Holy Shit!" Later Staff Sergeant Butler, another 3rd platoon refusal leader, came by to visit Scott. Butler saw the petition and stories and said, "That's wild man." Over several days, he secretly passed them around to the rest of his platoon.

I told my girlfriend to keep sending me stuff and over the next few weeks I handed some five packages over to the 343 with stories and statements of support.

From what I heard, most of 3rd platoon read everything they could get their hands on. Later they all received article 15s — the lowest disciplinary charge they can receive from their commanders — partially because of the support they had from people back home.

**To get to the point of all these stories: Building trust, solidarity, and alliances with troops is possible.**

**Peace and anti-war activists should not be scared of building long term face to face relationships with troops and sharing movies, flyers, petitions, events, and information.**

**Soldiers will find their own ways to resist if they're motivated to do so.**

**The point is to motivate them to do so and to let them know you'll have their backs if they do.**

**Specifically, you can reach troops in the New York metropolitan area.**

**There are at least 6 major armories in the five boroughs. Once a month, on a weekend like this one, they're filled with hundreds of soldiers.**

**Ft. Dix, New Jersey, a little more than two hours from here, is now swelling with 5,000 to 10,000 national guard troops training to go to Iraq, many for the second time. They're in the 5900 buildings.**

Activists can go to armories and military bases with information of how to sign the regress of grievances asking congress for “prompt withdrawal.”

Activists can ask National Guard and Reserve to sign the petition for the government to compensate for their civilian salaries if they’re deployed.

Both are legal under UCMJ military law. Both allow activists to engage troops in conversation.

You can give soldiers your contact information, be available to hear what they have to say, and you can offer to write them while they’re in Iraq.

You can also reach out to troops you know personally and talk to their friends clandestinely.

These activities are legal but the risks are greater than the risk of doing vigils and peace marches in empty streets.

You should be cautious but not scared.

The risks are only greater because doing active concrete work to raise the consciousness of troops, and backing them if they take action on that consciousness, threatens the war makers more than marching in empty streets and standing around holding candles.

The authorities take these activities seriously but most of the time, it is not been the authorities that has prevented anti-war activists from reaching the troops.

It has been anti-war activists themselves.

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**

### **Three U.S. Troops Killed In Anbar**

03 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061203-03

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: Two Soldiers assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group and one Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Saturday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

---

## **Two 13th SC(E) Soldiers Killed In Al Anbar**

03 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061203-02

LSA Anaconda, Iraq: Two Soldiers assigned to the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting a security patrol in the Al Anbar province of Iraq Dec 2.

---

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



A U.S. soldier in Diwaniyah September 16, 2006. (Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Price/U.S. Air Force/Handout/Reuters)

---

## **Soldier Killed In Baghdad**

03 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061203-04

BAGHDAD: A Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations in the Iraqi capital Dec. 3.

---

## **Soldier Killed By Taji IED**

03 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20061203-01

BAGHDAD: A Multi-National Corps Iraq Soldier died from injuries sustained when the convoy he was traveling in struck an improvised explosive device near Taji, Iraq, at approximately 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three British Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Kandahar**

December 03, 2006 Brian Hutchinson, CanWest News Service & BBC & Telegraph  
Media Group

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: Three ISAF soldiers riding in a military convoy Sunday morning were wounded in a bombing attack, on the same busy road where two Canadian soldiers were killed by a bomb on Monday.

Today's explosion took place at 11 AM local time, on the eastern edge of Kandahar city.

The MoD confirmed that the three British service personnel - from 45 Commando Royal Marines - had been injured. One was described as "seriously ill", while the others are in a stable condition, a spokeswoman added.

The three have been airlifted to Kandahar Air Field and are being treated by medical staff there.

#### **British ISAF forces fired at civilians after the blast.**

Essa Mohammad, 20, says he was riding his bicycle in the area when he heard the loud explosion. He was struck in the eye by shrapnel and ended up in hospital.

**"Everybody was running here and there, and the British were screaming and shooting people," Mohammad told CanWest News Service.**

Witnesses and a doctor spoke of at least five people suffering from gunshot wounds.

The blasts damaged a NATO armoured vehicle and left debris scattered over a wide area, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

---

## The Smell Of Defeat

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: THE RAT SMELLS DEFEAT]

Nov 26 By TOM RAUM, Associated Press Writer

Retired Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston, a former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, said that "events in Afghanistan are reaching a critical juncture, and European politics and perceptions, as well as U.S. commitments in Iraq may prevent NATO from getting the assets necessary to ensure victory."

"A military failure in Afghanistan would be catastrophic for the alliance," Ralston said.

---

## \$1.1 Billion Sucked Up By War Profiteer To Not Train Collaborator Cops

**The report says that management of the DynCorp contract by United States government officials in Afghanistan has fallen into a state of disarray; conflicting military and civilian bureaucracies could not even find a copy of the contract to clarify for auditors exactly what it called for.**

December 3, 2006 By JAMES GLANZ and DAVID ROHDE, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

**Five years after the fall of the Taliban, a joint report by the Pentagon and the State Department has found that the American-trained police force in Afghanistan is largely incapable of carrying out routine law enforcement work, and that managers of the \$1.1 billion training program cannot say how many officers are actually on duty or where thousands of trucks and other equipment issued to police units have gone.**

In fact, most police units had less than 50 percent of their authorized equipment on hand as of June, says the report, which was issued two weeks ago but is only now circulating among members of relevant Congressional committees.

In its most significant finding, the report said that no effective field training program had been established in Afghanistan, at least in part because of a slow, ineffectual start and understaffing.

Police training experts who have studied or had first-hand experience with the American effort in Afghanistan said they agreed with the report's findings, and some said they had warned for years that field training was the backbone of a strong program.

But they said additional problems needed to be investigated, including the quality of private contractors and the cost and effectiveness of relying on them to train the police officers.

**In particular, the experts questioned why the report focused on United States government managers and only glancingly analyzed the performance of the principal contractor in Afghanistan, DynCorp International of Virginia.**

Efforts to respond to some of the issues that the report identifies are already under way. Afghan and American officials recently announced that they had instituted an "auxiliary police" program at the end of the summer, which aims to hire 11,200 officers in parts of the country beset by Taliban attacks, primarily in the south.

But these officers receive only two of the standard eight weeks of training, and the police training experts say the program could worsen the situation. They say the new hastily created program could place ill-trained and poorly vetted officers in the field and allow militias and criminals to infiltrate the force.

The training experts say the United States made some of the same mistakes in training police forces in Afghanistan that it made in Iraq, including offering far too little field training, tracking equipment poorly and relying on private contractors for the actual training.

At the same time, these experts say, the failure to create viable police forces to keep order and enforce the law on a local level has played a pivotal role in undermining the American efforts to stabilize both countries.

In Afghanistan, the failure has contributed to the explosion in opium production, government corruption and the resurgence of the Taliban.

**Most of the \$1.1 billion the United States has spent on the training program in Afghanistan has gone to DynCorp, a technical services company based in Falls Church, Va., with 14,000 employees in about 33 countries.**

DynCorp also won the largest part of the training work in Iraq; it received \$1.6 billion for its training and security work in Iraq and Afghanistan in the 2004, 2005 and 2006 fiscal years, according to Gregory Lagana, a company spokesman.

The work accounted for roughly 30 percent of the company's revenues during those years. In May, the company raised \$375 million in an initial public offering of its stock.

Under orders from the Defense Department, the company has deployed 377 police advisers to Afghanistan, roughly half the number the United States has deployed in Iraq.



Police training experts say far more police advisers are needed in Afghanistan, which is roughly the same size as Iraq.

**The report says that management of the DynCorp contract by United States government officials in Afghanistan has fallen into a state of disarray; conflicting military and civilian bureaucracies could not even find a copy of the contract to clarify for auditors exactly what it called for.**

Afghan officials have complained about the high cost of the advisers and have said that some have too little experience.

**Ali Jalali, an Afghan-American military historian who served as interior minister from 2002 to 2005, said the expertise level of some DynCorp advisers sent to his ministry was mixed.**

**He said he rejected the first group he was offered because their résumés were unimpressive. When a second group arrived, some were retired officers not up to the demands of working in Afghanistan, he said. Others knew virtually nothing about the country.**

**“They were good on patrols in Oklahoma City, Houston or Miami,” said Mr. Jalali, now a professor at the National Defense University in Washington. “But not in a country where you faced rebuilding the police force.”**

Seth Jones, an Afghanistan expert at the RAND Corporation who has made eight trips to Afghanistan since 2003 to study army and police training, called for a review of the company’s performance.

He said he had repeatedly heard complaints from both Western and Afghan officials in Afghanistan about the quality and experience of DynCorp’s advisers.

**“I was surprised, based on what I have seen on the ground, that DynCorp was let off the hook so easily,” he said of the report. “I think a very frank assessment of DynCorp needs to be done.”**

**The report concluded that the official figure of 70,000 trained police officers was inflated and that only where American advisers were present was the counting reliable to some degree.**

As a best estimate, the report said that 30,395 Afghan officers — fewer than half the official total — were “trained and equipped to carry out their police functions.”

In April 2005, the Defense Department took over police training in Afghanistan and drastically expanded the number of American police advisers; the number is 377 today. Still, police training experts said the Afghanistan effort remained far too small, with small teams of advisers each expected to field train thousands of Afghan policemen.

**The small corps of advisers also makes it more difficult to track equipment, and the report said that just 3,000 of 5,000 vehicles issued to the police nationwide could be accounted for. Although the report does not explicitly connect its**

warnings on corruption to the loss of equipment, the two appear to be closely related.

## **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))

## **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 Nov. 28, 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)

---

# How GIs Organized In Iraq Against The War; “Our Big Campaign Was Pasting The Sticker, ‘Bush Lies, Who Dies?’ All Over The Base”



From left, anti-war Iraq War veterans Garrett Reppenhagen, Jeff Englehart and Joe Hatcher, Nov. 17. [Workers World Photo: John Catalinotto]

Nov 26, 2006 By John Catalinotto, New York, Workers World

**U.S. Army veterans of both wars against Iraq and from the Vietnam War period and supporters of resistance inside the U.S. military filled the Judson Memorial Church here on the evening of Nov. 17 to hear an update on current military resistance.**

Featured speakers were Garrett Reppenhagen, Jeff Englehart and Joe Hatcher, who were stationed with the First Infantry Division in Diyala Province in Iraq during 2004-2005 and spoke out, while there, against the war and occupation.

Now members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), the three took turns describing the difficult atmosphere for dissent. “We had the sense of overwhelming power over our heads,” said Reppenhagen, “which made it hard to openly resist. We couldn’t go to the latrine without our sergeant knowing about it.”

“There was no ‘behind the lines’ and no sidelines,” said Englehart. “We were at very small bases and under the constant scrutiny of commanders. We felt our main role as dissenters was to bear witness to the American people.

**“Our big campaign was pasting the sticker, “Bush lies, who dies?” all over the base. The commanders would take down the stickers that were up front. But when we put them in the corners and on the latrine doors, the soldiers would quietly let them stay.”**

The veterans are now speaking out at anti-war rallies and strengthening the morale of the growing number of people who protest occupation.

**What they showed was that even two years ago military dissidence was possible in the U.S. Army, even in Iraq itself.**

Also at the meeting, Tod Ensign of Citizen Soldier announced that A Different Drummer, a gathering place for GIs to discuss their attitude toward the continuing war, had recently been established in Watertown, N.Y., near Camp Drum, based on the model of the coffee-houses that anti-war forces set up near military bases during the war against Vietnam.

Tom Barton, editor of the Web-based daily newspaper GI Special, chaired part of the meeting and reported that increased mail to his site showed a growing opposition to the war within the military.

**The general tone of the meeting was that the Republican defeat at the polls will not of itself end the war and that increased action in the streets and especially in the barracks will be needed.**

---

## **“Other Soldiers And Their Spouses Now Say The War Was A Mistake”**

### **3rd ID Will Be The First Deployed For A Third Year-Long Tour**

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

November 26, 2006 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

Life for the roughly 3,800 soldiers of 1st Brigade is almost as hectic at Fort Stewart as it is in the desert, because their unit has only a year off the battlefield to rebuild lost manpower and equipment, train, and get ready for another deployment.

Staff Sgt. Wendell Gee, 29, of Knoxville, Tenn., has had his share of close scrapes in Iraq. During the invasion, an Iraqi T-72 tank fired a round through Gee's Bradley.

Asked last week what helps him get through the deployments, the father of three answered: "Not dying has helped get me through it."

**Even the most stoic soldiers, like Gee, who reenlisted on his most recent tour, say the Army cannot keep up this pace.**

**The Army is not big enough, and the quality of new recruits has dropped, they say.**

Many worry pressure to pull out of Iraq will spell chaos and mean their comrades died in vain, but other soldiers and their spouses now say the war was a mistake.

---

## Louisiana Sheriff Raids Iraq Veterans Against The War Relief Camp In Search Of AWOL Soldier

From: Ward Reilly  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 26, 2006  
Subject: Louisiana sheriff raids IVAW relief camp in search of AWOL soldier

GI Special:

25 IVAW members came down here to south Louisiana to sacrifice even MORE of their lives to make the world a better place, by helping us gut houses down here in Katrinaland, and this is the thanks they get from the local government...if the Army isn't searching for AWOL troops (Kyle Snyder, in this case), why should a local sheriff be?

I was proud to have been with the IVAW bus for Thanksgiving dinner, and at the SOAW at Ft Benning...this is shameful for Louisiana....

Iraq vets deserve better treatment, to say the least.

Peace from Ward

### **From Gordon Soderberg At The Bayou Liberty Relief Camp:**

We had two visitors last night from the Tamminy Sheriff's department.

They were looking for Kyle Snyder. Too bad they had been too busy eating doughnuts and did not get the message until after Kyle had left town for his next speaking engagement.

**The police demanded to see everyone's I.D. and wanted to search the property and the IVAW bus. They were told they could ask us anything they wanted but they would need a search warrent to enter any structure or motorhome.**

After being satisfied that Kyle had left already, they left as well.

Word gets around fast down here on the Bayou.

The articles hit the papers in the morning and it only took the Sheriff another 12 hours to show up at Camp Liberty.



## High School Students Organize Successful Mass Refusal Of Military Aptitude Test

November 24, 2006 by Scott Horton, antiwar.com [Excerpts]

With MySpace.com bulletins and a handful of homemade flyers, two teens have struck a blow against the American Warfare State, Lindale, Georgia Division.

On a Friday afternoon the 17th of November, 17-year-old high school seniors Robert Day and Samuel Parker decided to act after Day overheard some teachers at Pepperell High School saying that first thing Monday morning the school's juniors would be made to take the ASVAB military aptitude test.

Often administered under the guise of a career aptitude test, the ASVAB's purpose is to better equip the State to prey on young people tricked or pressured into taking the test.

According to Debbie Hopper of Mothers Against the Draft, it is often given under the pretext of being a "career placement" test. (In some cases it has in fact been used that way, no doubt in an attempt to legitimize what many Americans regard as not legitimate: the use of government schools as military recruiting grounds.)

The school board answered a concerned email from Parker's mother with a suggestion that the test is not mandatory but "customary."

**As a senior, he would not be made to take the test, but Day confronted the high school principal, Phil Ray, in defense of students younger than himself, and was told that the test was mandated by federal law.**

**Day says he already believed that to be false, since he remembered the test being given only to the kids actually trying to join the military the year before. Regardless, the principal dismissed his objections. The juniors who were to be tested for their military "aptitude" were not to be told before the weekend.**

Principal Ray did not return repeated calls to his office.

**Not easily deterred, Day and Parker decided they would do what they could to "warn" the juniors themselves.**

**They talked to a few kids at the end of school Friday afternoon, and over the weekend sent out more than 20 messages to MySpace bulletin boards discouraging cooperation. Arriving early Monday morning, Day and Parker picked out spots soon to be populated with kids waiting for the bell to ring, and with the help of some others who quickly volunteered, rapidly distributed their 200 homemade fliers to some and also spoke to many others, encouraging all to refuse to report to the cafeteria or to sabotage the test – either by ripping it up or filling in false information.**

One of the military recruiters present attempted to snub their efforts, claiming the No Child Left Behind Act allows access to all of their information anyway, and so they might as well take the test.

**Journalist and author James Bovard says the NCLB does indeed "roll out a red carpet" in terms of empowering the military to demand school records, but says that the ASVAB is far beyond what even it allows.**

The pushing of this military aptitude test, Bovard says, is "typical of how government guides kids – to an early funeral."

**Despite the recruiter's interruption, Parker says that he, Day and their volunteers made sure every junior who may not have wanted to take the test had a chance to hear them explain its purpose and to understand that it was not mandatory.**

**They estimate that about half of the school's juniors refused to even leave their regular classes to report to the testing site in the school's cafeteria.**

Some of the teachers, apparently learning about this at the last minute like most everyone else, and confused as to the nature of the proceedings, insisted that their students at least go to the cafeteria even if they did not mean to cooperate with the military.

**Once they were there, the kids were informed that anyone who showed up in the cafeteria would be made to take the test.**

Some of the students decided to deliberately fill in faulty information.

The soldiers told the students that if anyone ripped up their test, then all the tests, including those belonging to the one-third or so of the kids who actually wanted to take it and receive their scores, would be thrown out. This bit of blackmail apparently worked on the kids who had reluctantly taken it, as no one physically destroyed their tests.

**Day and Parker estimate that less than a third of Pepperell's juniors went along with their government's scheme.**

The high school counselor, Ms. Nixon, made it clear to the juniors that she was very disappointed in them for embarrassing principal Ray, but so far, no punishments have been handed down.

All in all, Parker and Day said they were pleasantly surprised by the help and encouragement of kids who they thought would not have cared at all.

We could all learn from their example.

---

## Petty Piss-Pot Tyrant Torments Woman For Showing Peace Sign



[Photo provided by Lisa Jensen]

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: A "symbol of Satan"?! Let's hear it for the devil worshipers.]

Nov 26 By ROBERT WELLER, Associated Press Writer

**A homeowners association in southwestern Colorado has threatened to fine a resident \$25 a day until she removes a Christmas wreath with a peace sign that some say is an anti-Iraq war protest or a symbol of Satan.**

Some residents who have complained have children serving in Iraq, said Bob Kearns, president of the Loma Linda Homeowners Association in Pagosa Springs. He said some residents have also believed it was a symbol of Satan.

**Three or four residents complained, he said.**

"Somebody could put up signs that say drop bombs on Iraq. If you let one go up you have to let them all go up," he said in a telephone interview Sunday. **[Right. No freedom of speech for anybody. Fuck the Constitution. Piece of shit Kearns really does hate our freedom. Check the last paragraph to see how he treated his own committee when they wouldn't kiss his ass.]**

Lisa Jensen said she wasn't thinking of the war when she hung the wreath. She said, "Peace is way bigger than not being at war. This is a spiritual thing."



**Jensen, a past association president, calculates the fines will cost her about \$1,000, and doubts they will be able to make her pay.**

**But she said she's not going to take it down until after Christmas. "Now that it has come to this I feel I can't get bullied," she said. "What if they don't like my Santa Claus."**

The association in this 200-home subdivision 270 miles southwest of Denver has sent a letter to her saying that residents were offended by the sign and the board "will not allow signs, flags etc. that can be considered divisive."

The subdivision's rules say no signs, billboards or advertising are permitted without the consent of the architectural control committee.

**Kearns ordered the committee to require Jensen to remove the wreath, but members refused after concluding that it was merely a seasonal symbol that didn't say anything. Kearns fired all five committee members.**

---

## **Michael Pahios, Rest In Peace**



Mike Pahios on prison farm near Managua, Nicaragua, April 1986.

By Jim Dingman, Fall 2006 The Veteran, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

Mike Pahios, a Vietnam Marine veteran, longtime member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and a founding member and first president of Veterans for Peace NYC Chapter 34, passed away in his sleep on August 8, 2006 from an undiagnosed congenital heart defect.

Mike worked for many years for NBC television in their video department and had retired less than a year ago. He worked with the first seasons of the original Saturday Night Live, and for a time he shared an apartment with the comedian and actor Dan Akroyd.

He was active over the last ten years with the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence community action patrol. During the eighties, he was an active opponent of the Reagan wars in Central America. He traveled to Nicaragua several times as part of a VVAW delegation and with the Veterans' Peace Convoy. He also went to El Salvador as part of a Veterans Peace Action Team.

Mike was an admirer of Evans Carlson, the founder of the Marine Raiders in World War II, and he was a historian for the United States Marine Raider Association. He was able to communicate with people who did not see eye-to-eye with him politically and still remain friends.

Michael served in Vietnam with the Second Battalion, Fifth Marines. His unit was the first major Marine outfit that was sent to Hue during the 1968 Tet Offensive after NLF/PAVN forces seized the city.

He enjoyed life, food, and cigars and relished his relationships with all people, especially the opposite sex. He loved to party, hang out, and explore everything around him. His good nature and sense of humor touched many of us. He will be greatly missed.

Michael Pahios: Presente!

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

Dec. 2 (Xinhua) & December 3, 2006 RFE/RL & Reuters & by Ammar Karim, AFP

In Darwishan area of Tirin Kot city, capital of the southern Uruzgan province on Friday night, two police men were wounded.

In the northern town of Lailan, near Kirkuk, a bomber today killed three police officers at a checkpoint.

A car bomb exploded near a police patrol in Mosul, killing two and wounding four police.

A bomber blew up a car near the convoy of a senior police officer, killing three of his guards and wounding two others near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, police said. The police officer was wounded in the incident.

Gunmen captured Haitham Yassin, an adviser to the electricity minister, on Saturday in Baghdad's northern Shaab district, police said.

Insurgents were back at work Sunday, when one wearing an explosive belt blew himself up next to a police station near the northern oil city of Kirkuk, killing three officers, Major General Torhan Yusef told AFP.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **The Silence Of Horror**



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

#### **The Silence Of Horror**

**While the so-called Hippies were dropping drugs in the Sixties,  
The United States Government was dropping Napalm  
on innocent civilians in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.**

**It was a, "Scorched-Earth Policy."**

**The U.S. Government was a marching plague of firepower across Southeast Asia.**

**Southeast Asia is the most bombed area in the world.**

**And, the vast number of Americans do not have a clue that this horror ever happened.**

**Geneva convention rules are for fools, who think there is fair play in war.**

**War is barbaric, and the American people have paid taxes to hide the corpses, and the truth.**

**Now, lets fast forward 30 years, and the same thing is happening in the Middle East.**

**In a simple statement, George W. Bush, 43rd president of the United States, is barbaric.**

**It is a very simple truth.**

**But, the vast majority of the American people will never hear this truth.**

**Why? Because the truth would napalm their soul.**

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

**He who does not know history,  
is destined to remain a child.  
Marcus Cicero  
Roman Statesman**

**The American War can be described as the most atrocious conflict in human history. The Americans inflicted insane atrocities. The My Lai massacre was just an example. Perhaps the American people know this already, but they need to be told again.  
General Vo Nguyen Giap**

**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)**

# FTA 2006

From: Katherine GY, The Military Project  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Sunday, December 03, 2006

As I was paying for something yesterday, I took a \$10 bill out of my wallet that said "fuck the army." I didn't write that...but someone else did. I think this says something about the level of "resistance" to the war.

---

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**“A Commander In Chief Who Can’t Even Identify Some 97% To 98% Of The Combatants In A War That Has Gone On Longer Than World War II”**

03 December 2006 By Frank Rich, The New York Times [Excerpts]

It turns out we've been reading the wrong Bob Woodward book to understand what's going on with President Bush. The text we should be consulting instead is "The Final Days," the Woodward-Bernstein account of Richard Nixon talking to the portraits on the White House walls while Watergate demolished his presidency.

As Mr. Bush has ricocheted from Vietnam to Latvia to Jordan in recent weeks, we've witnessed the troubling behavior of a president who isn't merely in a state of denial but is completely untethered from reality.

It's not that he can't handle the truth about Iraq. He doesn't know what the truth is.

**The most startling example was his insistence that Al Qaeda is primarily responsible for the country's spiraling violence. Only a week before Mr. Bush said this, the American military spokesman on the scene, Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, called Al Qaeda "extremely disorganized" in Iraq, adding that "I would question at this point how effective they are at all at the state level."**

Military intelligence estimates that Al Qaeda makes up only 2 percent to 3 percent of the enemy forces in Iraq, according to Jim Miklaszewski of NBC News.

**The bottom line: America has a commander in chief who can't even identify some 97 percent to 98 percent of the combatants in a war that has gone on longer than our involvement in World War II.**

But that's not the half of it.

Mr. Bush relentlessly refers to Iraq's "unity government" though it is not unified and can only nominally govern. (In Henry Kissinger's accurate recent formulation, Iraq is not even a nation "in the historic sense.") After that pseudo-government's prime minister, Nuri al-Maliki, brushed him off in Amman, the president nonetheless declared him "the right guy for Iraq" the morning after.

This came only a day after The Times's revelation of a secret memo by Mr. Bush's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, judging Mr. Maliki either "ignorant of what is going on" in his own country or disingenuous or insufficiently capable of running a government.

Not that it matters what Mr. Hadley writes when his boss is impervious to facts.

In his classic study, "The Great War and Modern Memory," Paul Fussell wrote of how World War I shattered and remade literature, for only a new language of irony could convey the trauma and waste.

Under the auspices of Mr. Bush, the Iraq war is having a comparable, if different, linguistic impact: the more he loses his hold on reality, the more language is severed from its meaning altogether.

**When the president persists in talking about staying until "the mission is complete" even though there is no definable military mission, let alone one that can be completed, he is indulging in pure absurdity.**

The same goes for his talk of "victory," another concept robbed of any definition when the prime minister we are trying to prop up is allied with Mr. Sadr, a man who wants Americans dead and has many scalps to prove it.

I have not been one to buy into the arguments that Mr. Bush is stupid or is the sum of his "Bushisms" or is, as feverish Internet speculation periodically has it, secretly drinking again. I still don't. But I have believed he is a cynic - that he could always distinguish between truth and fiction even as he and Karl Rove sold us their fictions.

That's why, when the president said that "absolutely, we're winning" in Iraq before the midterms, I just figured it was more of the same: another expedient lie to further his partisan political ends.

But that election has come and gone, and Mr. Bush is more isolated from the real world than ever. That's scary. Neither he nor his party has anything to gain politically by pretending that Iraq is not in crisis.

Yet Mr. Bush clings to his delusions with a near-rage - watch him seethe in his press conference with Mr. Maliki - that can't be explained away by sheer stubbornness or misguided principles or a pat psychological theory.

Whatever the reason, he is slipping into the same zone as Woodrow Wilson did when refusing to face the rejection of the League of Nations, as a sleepless L.B.J. did when micromanaging bombing missions in Vietnam, as Ronald Reagan did when checking out during Iran-Contra.

**The illusion that America can control events on the ground is just that: an illusion.**

As the list of theoretical silver bullets for Iraq grows longer (and more theoretical) by the day - special envoy, embedded military advisers, partition, outreach to Iran and Syria, Holbrooke, international conference, NATO - urgent decisions have to be made by a chief executive who is in touch with reality (or such is the minimal job description). Otherwise the events in Iraq will make the Decider's decisions for him, as indeed they are doing already.

**The joke, history may note, is that even as Mr. Bush deludes himself that he is bringing "democracy" to Iraq, he is flouting democracy at home.**

American voters could not have delivered a clearer mandate on the war than they did on Nov. 7, but apparently elections don't register at the White House unless the voters dip their fingers in purple ink. Mr. Bush seems to think that the only decision he had to make was replacing Donald Rumsfeld and the mission of changing course would be accomplished.

**Tell that to the Americans in Anbar Province. Back in August the chief of intelligence for the Marines filed a secret report - uncovered by Thomas Ricks of The Washington Post - concluding that American troops "are no longer capable of militarily defeating the insurgency in al-Anbar."**

**That finding was confirmed in an intelligence update last month.**

**Yet American troops are still being tossed into that maw, and at least 90 have been killed there since Labor Day, including five marines, ages 19 to 24, around Thanksgiving.**

**Civil war? Sectarian violence? A phase?**

**This much is certain: The dead in Iraq don't give a damn what we call it.**

**LIAR  
TRAITOR  
TROOP-KILLER  
DOMESTIC ENEMY  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



Oct. 5, 2006. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

---

# Democrat Politicians Align With Bush: Fuck The Citizens: Kill More U.S. Troops And Iraqis

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

December 1, 2006 Stephen Zunes, Foreign Policy In Focus [Excerpts]

The United States has now been at war in Iraq longer than it fought the Axis powers in World War II. The American public has lost patience. Currently, public opinion polls show that only 31% of the population supports Bush administration policy toward the conflict.

**However, in defiance of their constituents and oblivious to the polls, very few Democrats in the House and none in the Senate have been willing to call for immediate withdrawal, at most calling for some kind of "phased withdrawal" or "strategic redeployment."**

Nor have many acknowledged that the conquest by a Western power of such a large Middle Eastern state was doomed from the beginning.



**The November 7 election provided a mandate to change U.S. policy toward Iraq. Early signs, however, indicate that the Democrats are unwilling to fulfill their anti-war mandate.**

Tom Lantos is slated to become chairman of the House International Relations Committee. Lantos has repeatedly denounced the United Nations and the International Court of Justice for their defense of the Fourth Geneva Conventions.

In acknowledging the disproportionate impact the war has had on poor and working class Americans, Lantos--rather than calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces--has instead issued a "call upon all of the people of this country to do more to carry their fair share of the load."

It is certainly a positive sign that more and more Democrats in Congress are finally distancing themselves from President Bush's Iraq policies. However, Democratic calls for "strategic redeployment" may mean little more than concentrating U.S. forces in Kuwait or other nearby pro-U.S. dictatorships where they can escalate the air war, resulting in fewer American casualties but far greater Iraqi civilian casualties.

**Democratic Senator Harry Reid, slated to become Senate Majority Leader, explicitly stated on November 15 that the Democrats would not cut funding for the war, a position reiterated by other Democratic leaders.**

Indeed, rather than call for a reduction in spending for the Iraq war and other military boondoggles, Reid has promised to increase military spending by an additional \$75 billion. Currently, U.S. military spending tops \$500 billion annually, more than the military budgets of all other governments combined.

**It appears, then, that congressional Democrats are likely to pass non-binding resolutions calling for the redeployment of American forces while continuing to unconditionally fund the ongoing prosecution of the Iraq War.**

**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.**

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Notes From The Boonies**

By Paul Wisovaty, Fall 2006 The Veteran, Vietnam Veterans Against The War. Paul Wisovaty is a member of VVAW. He lives in Tuscola, Illinois, where he works as a probation officer. He was in Vietnam with the US Army 9th Division in 1968.

I was sitting around the table at the Tuscola Kiwanis Club recently, and someone made mention of that ubiquitous "liberal media."

In Tuscola, you have to understand, "liberalmedia" is one word. As Old Blue Eyes used to croon, you can't have one without the other. As luck would have it, I had recently picked up a copy of the Decatur Herald, which I have to say has one of the finer sports sections in east central Illinois. Barry Romo doesn't know what that means, but trust me, it does.

If we may assume that the Iraq war is the most prominent issue on the minds of most Americans (forget health care and poverty, because there isn't enough spare change on hand after Iraq to do anything about them, even if anyone cared), we may expect front-page coverage of it.

Unless, of course, nothing much is going on worth reporting. That doesn't appear to be the case. On page nine—of a ten-page news section—there was a short blurb on Iraq. The headline was "Insurgency Heightens," and the article went on to mention that a hundred and fifty Iraqis had been killed in the last seventy-two hours, most of them found bound, tortured, and executed in irrigation ditches around Baghdad.

This doesn't appear to come under the heading of "nothing much going on."

Forget "liberal media."

Wouldn't one expect that even a moderate media would have put this a little closer to page one?

I admit there were some pretty important stories between pages one and nine. A serial killer in Massachusetts (wouldn't you have guessed?) fessed up to some pretty erotic ill-doings, and JonBenet Ramsey still made it onto page five. I was especially interested in the Brad Pitt-Jennifer Somebody story on page three.

But "Insurgency Heightens" had to suck it up and settle for the penultimate page. Even relegated to the cheap seats, though, that liberalmedia just keeps stirring up shit.

Here's my second (but not entirely unrelated) soapbox diatribe.

**I have a sixty-two-year-old neighbor who works at a sweatshop thirty miles from here. The pay is decent, and they offer a great benefits package. He also gets a lot of overtime, which translates into pretty big bucks.**

**Leaving aside the sweatshop part, the downside is that this place "offers" mandatory twelve-hour shifts. None of this "Hey Joe, you wanna work some OT today?" Oh no. Four or five twelve-hour shifts in a row: take it or hit the road.**

**Joe's sixty-two, as I said, so there really ain't no other road to hit. There is no CEO offer waiting in the wings.**

**While this has nothing to do with his predicament, I would note that Joe was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, with two tours and two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He also has thirteen air medals, although I have no idea what that means.**

I obviously don't expect his employer to give two shits about the fact that my friend is a legitimate war hero, and I understand that such status doesn't turn out any more of what this factory produces down on the floor.

But this is a vets' paper, so it should count for something, at least among our readers.

**It need not be said that Joe's factory has not hooked onto the union label. But I do recall that (Bill Davis will confirm this) in 1937, John L. Lewis, head of the CIO, sat down with US Steel and won the right to the eight-hour day. 1937.**

**Sixty-nine years ago.**

**That's really sad.**

**Come to think of it, it can't be that sad after all.**

**I haven't read one word about it in the liberalmedia.**



---

## **Received:**

# **How Is It That They Are All “Moderate” Now?**

From: A  
Sent: November 25, 2006  
Subject: Sad

U.S. Tries Broader Approach To Iraq Conflict:  
Nov 24, 2006 By Sue Fleming and Caren Bohan

First Paragraph:

*“WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With Iraq near all-out civil war, the Bush administration is renewing efforts to break the cycle of violence there by enlisting the help of moderate Arab nations while also seeking to tackle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”*

Third Paragraph:

*"The vice president is looking forward to meeting with King Abdullah, a strong ally, to discuss regional issues of mutual interest," said Lea Anne McBride, Cheney's spokeswoman, as the vice president's plane made a brief stop in Ireland."*

**Comment:**

Don't get me wrong; I love Saudi Arabia; but how is it that they are all "moderate" now?

By reports prevalent in the American media, and by the bush man himself, I thought Saudi Arabia was suppose to be full of all kinds of Wahabi fanatics, who need long lessons in the virtues of freedom; and that Saudi Arabia was suppose to be the most oppressive society on the planet - especially for women - next to the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Does America have any moral base whatsoever outside of gasoline?

Very pathetic!

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

**GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**