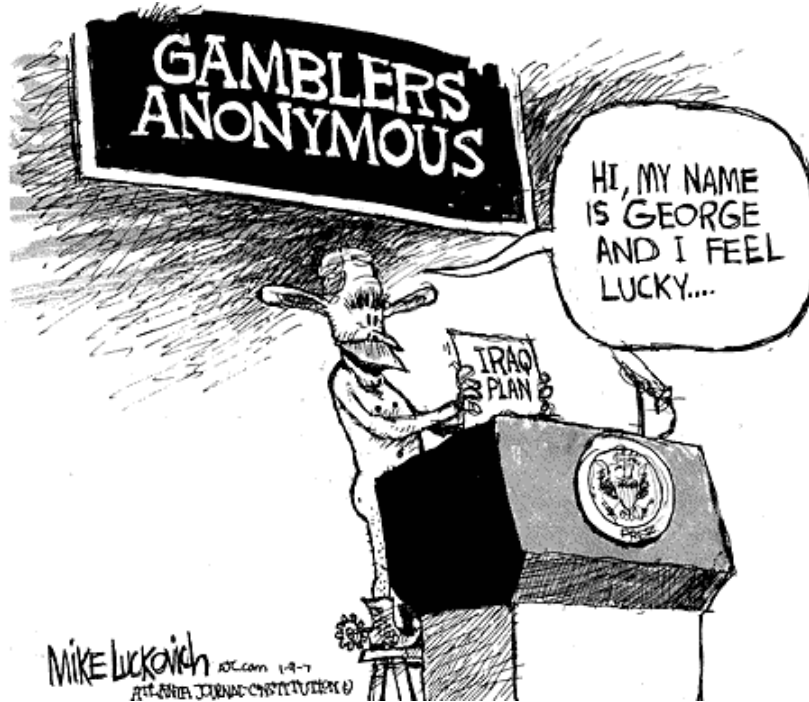


## GI SPECIAL 5A23:



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

# “The War Is Losing Support Among The Soldiers”

## “I Find Fewer And Fewer Soldiers That Actually Support What’s Going On Here”

Jan 22 By Aaron Glantz (IPS) [Excerpts]

More than 1,000 active duty U.S. soldiers have signed a petition to Congress -- known as an Appeal for Redress -- calling for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq. Among them is Sgt. Ronn Cantu of Los Angeles, California. He served in Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division from February 2004 until February 2005 and participated in the second siege of Fallujah in November 2004.

He started the website soldiervoices.net to give soldiers a forum to speak about the Iraq war. Cantu was redeployed to Iraq in December 2006 and spoke on the telephone with IPS's Aaron Glantz.

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*IPS: Sgt. Cantu, why have you decided to speak to the press?*

**CANTU:** Just because I don't think that the media is getting the full story. There's a story behind the story.

*IPS: What's that story that's not being told?*

**CANTU:** Sometimes soldiers who are involved in battles will read the news and they say things like "When did that happen?"

*IPS: What is the morale like? How do soldiers talk about the situation among themselves?*

**CANTU:** Very candidly.

**Around other soldiers nothing's held back.**

**The war is losing support among the soldiers.**

**I find fewer and fewer soldiers that actually support what's going on here. Some of them do, but they're typically not the ones who are on the front lines.**

*IPS: And how do you experience the fact that more and more people are not supporting the war? You yourself started out supporting this war and then changed your mind based on your own experiences.*

**CANTU:** In talking with other soldiers I've come to realise there are many reasons why we don't support this war anymore.

**Anything from we just don't like being misled in the beginning to not being able to adequately defend ourselves to the sheer number of Americans here who are actually making a pretty good paycheque.**

**There are different levels and different reasons why different soldiers don't support this war anymore.**

*IPS: You served in Iraq a full tour, you were out in the streets and then you returned to the States. And it was when you were back in the States that you changed your mind about the war, when you were doing some reading?*

CANTU: No, when you're in Iraq you have a lot of time to think and not much to think about except your situation. A lot of these realisations came to me and my buddies the first time I was here in Iraq.

**The thing is that when you go back to the States or wherever you're stationed you're just so ecstatic that Iraq is behind you, you just want to put it completely behind you.**

**But when you come back that's when you start asking yourself: "Where is the end? Is the end in sight?" So it was only when I realised I was coming back that I started to read everything I could.**

*IPS: What did you experience that first time that made you feel that maybe this war wasn't such a good idea?*

CANTU: Well, I don't know. In the beginning, I did feel like it was a good idea. It was more that every time that something exploded near my vehicles or every time we got shot at or had to shoot at people I started to ask "What is it worth?

What's going on here?"

That was the title of my first essay: "What Are We Dying For?"

*IPS: Right now you have an intelligence assignment in Baghdad. How would you feel going out there and shooting people and getting shot at when you believe that the entire thing is wrong?*

CANTU: It's difficult. I'll admit that I thought that I could put it behind me, but it wasn't until I got back (a second time) to Iraq itself that I started to ask myself "Why did I bother reenlisting?"

**I do like the Army. I don't blame the Army for the war.**

**Militaries don't declare a war, they just get used as a tool.**

That's an inner conflict I have, but I didn't realise I would feel that way until after I got (back) to Iraq a second time.

*IPS: But you're prepared to go out and do your job even though it involves people dying because it's your job?*

CANTU: In a word, yeah.

*IPS: I think that might be hard for folks to understand.*

**CANTU: Sometimes, it's just about the guys to the left and the right of you. That's one of the things that soldiers have a hard time conveying to people who never served before.**

I'll do my part if I feel it will bring results, but I know where you're coming from because that's what soldiers run into a lot.

It's something that's hard to convince anyone who hasn't been in a situation of what it's really like. It does bring out the best and the worst in people.

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

### Michigan Marine Killed In Anbar



Marine Lance Cpl. Luis J. Castillo. Castillo, 20, of Lawton, Mich., died Jan. 20, 2007, from gunshot wounds he received while on patrol in Al-Anbar province. (AP Photo/Department of Defense)

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## 2 Servicemembers Killed In Al Anbar Province

Jan. 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070123-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – One Marine assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died Sunday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in the Multi National Division-Baghdad area of operation, south of Baghdad.

One Soldier assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Monday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

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## Maryland Command Sgt. Maj. Killed



Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Haller, 49, of Annapolis, Md., was killed when a Black Hawk helicopter was shot down northeast of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Haller Family)

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## IED Kills Soldier In Baghdad

Jan. 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070123-06

BAGHDAD – An 89TH Military Police Brigade Soldier died Monday of wounds suffered after an improvised explosive device exploded next to his vehicle north of Baghdad.

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## Alabama Soldier Killed In Iraq



Jonathan Millican: Fox6 WRBC-TV

22 Jan 2007 BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WBRC-TV)

A soldier from Locust Fork has become the first Alabama soldier killed in Iraq in 2007.

Jonathan Millican, 20, is a native of Locust Fork. He graduated high school from there in 2005.

Millican was a member of the Army Airborne Artillery Brigade. His father says Millican was killed during an ambush on his unit.

Millican was based out of Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, where his wife lives. Millican's body will be flown there for a ceremony. Another ceremony will also be held in Blount County.

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## Santa Ana Pueblo Man Killed In Iraq



Emilian Sanchez, left, getting assistance with his gear

01/23/2007 SANTA FE (AP)

Marine Lance Corporal Emilian Sanchez of Santa Ana Pueblo was killed Sunday during combat operations in Iraq.

The 20-year-old Marine was killed in Al Anbar Province in Iraq.

Sanchez was assigned to E Company of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines out of Camp Pendleton, California.

Marine Major Mario Schweizer of Albuquerque says Sanchez died in combat operations, but he did not release any details.

Sanchez was the 26th New Mexican killed in Iraq since the war began in March 2003.

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## FORMER SHELBY RESIDENT KILLED IN IRAQ

January 23, 2007 By Linda Martz, Telegraph Forum

MANSFIELD — A 21-year-old Ashland County soldier is reported to have been killed in Iraq over the weekend.

U.S. Army Sergeant Jonathan Paul Cunard Kingman, 21, a former Mansfielder and Shelby resident who graduated from Mapleton High School in 2003, was one of five Americans killed in an incident Saturday, reportedly as a result of an explosion, according to his aunt, Wilma Smith.

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## Richmond Soldier Killed In Iraq



Jan 23, 2007 Young Broadcasting, Inc.

8NEWS has learned a Richmond man is the latest casualty of the war in Iraq. Family members confirm 38-year-old Daryl Booker was aboard a black hawk helicopter that crashed on Saturday.

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## Northern Wisconsin Soldier Killed In Iraq

Jan 22, 2007 (AP)

WEYERHAEUSER, Wis. A Marine from northern Wisconsin has been killed in Iraq, family members said.

Lance Cpl. Andrew Matus, 19, graduated in 2005 from Weyerhaeuser High School and had already signed up to be a Marine before that, his father Gary Matus of Chetek said when contacted Monday evening.

Matus said he had been told his son was shot in Anbar Province. The Pentagon had not yet released any details on the death. The family was informed of the death Sunday, relatives said.

"He was a good kid," said the Marine's grandmother Virginia Matus of Bruce. "He wanted to go. That's what he wanted."

Gary Matus said many family members have served in the military. He said he and his sister are Army veterans, a brother served in Vietnam and his mother and father also served.

As for his son, "he wanted to be a Marine, mainly," he said.

**He is the 68th Wisconsin member of the military to die in the Iraq war.**

Matus played football in his sophomore year of high school and enjoyed weightlifting, mechanics, hunting and fishing, his mother, Donna Matus, said.

Teachers at Weyerhaeuser said he was creative and good with his hands and was named "Technology Education Student of the Year" there in 2005.

"He's probably the best mechanic I ever saw," said Richard Manor, a technology education teacher at Weyerhaeuser. "If you needed a part, he'd make the parts. He was very talented."

Matus also designed and built furniture and games to raise money for community programs.

"If anybody ever asked him to do anything, he'd be more than happy to help out," Todd Solberg, the school's principal, said.

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## **“Several” Troops Wounded By Baghdad IED**

Jan. 23, 2007 By EAMON McNIFF, ABC News [Excerpts]

It was a frightening moment for the troops of the 410th MP Company when early today an improvised explosive device rocked their armored Humvee convoy as it traveled the narrow, dangerous streets of Baghdad.

ABC News' Chris Cuomo and photographer Bartley Price were in the convoy and witnessed firsthand the harrowing ordeal unfold.

According to Cuomo, the troops were en route to investigate the report of a burning police vehicle in Gazalea, a dangerous area in northwest Baghdad.

As the convoy of four armored Humvees rolled through the streets, it came under small-arms fire from insurgents.

The convoy then passed two dead bodies in the road that were hiding explosives.



**The explosion sent hubcap-size shrapnel tearing through the steel sides of the Humvees, rupturing tires, and wounding several troops as insurgents continued to rain small-arms fire down on the convoy.**

Under the direction of Capt. Jay Shama, troops fought off the insurgents to get out of the area with only minor injuries, said Cuomo.

Cuomo and Price were not hurt.

Cuomo said the troops' calm reaction and bravery saved his life.

In an interview with ABC News just hours after the incident, Cuomo talked about the situation from his point of view.

*Question: Did you see any of this coming? What was the scene like in the streets before you started taking fire and the IED went off?*

Cuomo: It was a regular street with people walking around, and then, a dismembered, faceless body, with a boy just casually walking by it.

*Question: How powerful was the IED explosion?*

Cuomo: It rocked the entire vehicle, blew out the tires on two of the vehicles, destroyed much of the glass, and rocked the vehicles in a very, very big way.

*Question: You seemed to be really in awe of the troops' response to the IED. What was their first move after it went off?*

Cuomo: The troops stayed poised every step. At the moment of impact, Shama unflinchingly ordered his troops into action as if it were a drill in his backyard.

**The machine gunner, Santos, spit out glass and didn't miss a beat in saying he was OK and had not acquired a target. He didn't fire a single shot in anger.**

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## **Blackwater Helicopter Shot Down In Baghdad; 5 Mercenaries Killed**

01/23/07 (Reuters) & By LOLITA BALDOR, Associated Press Writer

Five civilians died Tuesday in the Baghdad crash of a helicopter owned by the private security company Blackwater USA, according to a U.S. military official.

Blackwater representatives responded to the scene of the crash in central Baghdad, along with U.S. military.

Residents in central Baghdad told Reuters earlier they saw a helicopter come down and some said it had been shot.

In Baghdad, a senior Iraqi defense official said the private helicopter that crashed Tuesday was shot down.

The Iraqi official, who would not allow use of his name because the information had not been made public, said a gunman with a PKC machine gun downed the small helicopter of a private security firm Tuesday afternoon over the Fadhil neighborhood in north-central Baghdad, about a half-mile from al-Mustansiriya University, where witnesses reported clashes between insurgents and U.S. and Iraqi forces.

A report on a television station run by the Iraqi Islamic Party said that a U.S. helicopter was shot down during clashes in the al-Fadhil district in eastern Baghdad, about a half-mile from al-Mustansiriya University.

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## Humvee Hit By IED In Baquoba; Casualties Not Announced



A U.S. army humvee burns in the back after being hit by a road side bomb in Baquoba, Iraq, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Jan. 23, 2007. There were no immediate reports on casualties. (AFP)

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# **Meet A World-Class Lying Piece Of Shit: Colonel Stephen Twitty, Commander, U.S. Forces In Nineveh Province: As Mosul Turns Into A Slaughterhouse, He Says “I Think For The Most Part People Believe That There Is Security In Mosul”**

Jan 23 (Reuters) (Additional reporting by Ahmed Rasheed and Claudia Parsons in Baghdad)

**A U.N. report last week said local authorities in Mosul reported 40 civilians and police officers killed on average each week. Ahmed al-Tikriti, 29, another university lecturer, said he had given up hope on Mosul and moved to Kurdistan in northern Iraq: "Life in Mosul turned out to be hell, or even worse."**

MOSUL, Iraq

Two Iraqis went to a wedding in Mosul last week but died there when gunmen opened fire on the party, killing them and wounding four others.

While Baghdad is the epicentre of violence in Iraq, with hundreds killed each week, there are signs violence is growing in cities like Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad,.

Journalists trying to report on Mosul have seen more than a dozen of their colleagues killed and are being driven out by threats or fear of arrest by Iraqi or U.S. forces.

Abu Aws, a 31-year-old car mechanic in Mosul, said he was forced to close his workshop because of bombings and killings.

"I started to repair cars at home just to feed my wife and my only child," he said. "I'm sure life in the desert would be better than living in Mosul with nothing but death and bombs."

**U.S. commanders tend to paint a picture of relative peace beyond the vicinity of the capital.**

The two men who died at the wedding of a policeman on Thursday were among 13 killed or found dead in Mosul that day.

Their deaths took to at least 70 the number of those killed violently in that week. The figures were reported to Reuters by police and hospital sources -- anonymous victims whose deaths are hardly even mentioned by most international media.

Also on Thursday, a suicide car bomber blew himself up near a police patrol, killing a bystander, and a policeman was killed by a bomb at a checkpoint. Nine unidentified bodies were found of people who had been shot, morgue officials said.

Five policemen died on Tuesday and three others were wounded on Tuesday in clashes between insurgents and security forces.

**A U.N. report last week said local authorities in Mosul reported 40 civilians and police officers killed on average each week.**

**"Violence in Mosul, although less frequent than that engulfing south and central Iraq, has intensified," it said.**

A city of around 3 million people, Mosul is home to ethnic Kurds and Shi'ite and Sunni Arabs as well as some Turkmen and others, such as Christians.

**Colonel Stephen Twitty, commander of U.S. forces in Nineveh province which includes Mosul, put most of the violence in the city down to Sunni Arab insurgents and criminals.**

"What you don't see here is the sectarian violence that you see down in Baghdad," he said, disputing the U.N. assessment that violence was increasing.

**"I think for the most part people believe that there is security in Mosul," he told Reuters.**

An Iraqi security official in Mosul, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said rising violence there was due partly to Sunni insurgents but he also spoke of a growing threat from militias nominally loyal to the Shi'ite- and Kurdish-led authorities.

The U.N. report said 12 journalists were killed in Mosul last year. Another reporter was killed this month in the city along with a former driver for Reuters journalists in Mosul. An engineer at a radio station was killed by gunmen on Saturday.

**Jasim Mohammad Ali, a freelance reporter, said most journalists in Mosul had received threatening letters accusing them of deliberately under-reporting security force casualties.**

**"One morning I was leaving my house and I was shocked to see a leaflet thrown right on my doorstep, threatening me with death if I did not report the 'real facts' about losses among U.S. and Iraqi forces in Mosul," Jasim said.**

**He has moved his family and stopped working: "I can't do my job. I feel I'm paralysed and might get killed any moment."**

Ali said he was shot in the leg a year ago by U.S. forces while filming clashes. Like several other Iraqi journalists, he was arrested by U.S. forces on suspicion of cooperating with insurgents and held for five months.

"Working as a journalist in Mosul for me means facing death all the time," he said.

**Many other journalists, including staff for Reuters and other major international media, have left, moving to other parts of Iraq or abroad. Reporters still working for Reuters in the city do so on condition they are not credited by name.**

**Ismail Ibrahim Ali, who until last year worked as a driver for Reuters news crews, was shot dead last week.**

Abu Abdullah, 30, said university lecturers like himself were another frequent target. "We feel like we're living inside a huge prison, and even in prison you know when you will eat or go out in the open air. In Mosul, it's worse," he said. "What surrounds you is death and dumped bodies."

**The U.N. human rights report said security forces were also contributing to problems in Mosul: "(U.S. and Iraqi) house raids have allegedly resulted in damaged or stolen property and contributed to an atmosphere of fear and mistrust," it said.**

Colonel Twitty said two Iraqi army divisions in the city had been handed over to Iraqi command in recent weeks and said the priority now was trying to create jobs for idle young men:

**"When it comes to all the provinces in Iraq," he said, "This one is far along more than any other province."**

Ahmed al-Tikriti, 29, another university lecturer, said he had given up hope on Mosul and moved to Kurdistan in northern Iraq: "Life in Mosul turned out to be hell, or even worse."

**MORE:**

<p>January 23, 2007 (AP) MOSUL - Clashes erupted between insurgents and Iraqi security forces, killing five policemen and wounding three others in several districts in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, Major General Wathiq al-Hamdani, the chief of the police, said.</p>
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**MORE:**

***"There Is Security In Mosul"***  
**[For Colonel Stephen Twitty]**  
**Texas Sgt. 1st Class Killed In Mosul**



Sgt. 1st Class Russell P. Borea, 38, of El Paso, Texas, died of injuries suffered in Mosul, Iraq, on Jan. 19, 2007. Borea was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



Soldiers patrol in central Baghdad Nov. 5, 2006. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed )

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# Chickens Coming Home To Roost

1.20.07 Wall St. Journal

Mortars hit the Mogadishu home of Somalia's interim leader. Eritrea said Ethiopian forces that installed him [with Bush holding the string] have stepped into a "quagmire."

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## TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Spc. Eric Thomas Caldwell in Arlington National Cemetery Jan. 17, 2007. Caldwell was killed while serving in Iraq. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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**“He Hates It And Wants To Pose For Her In His Dress Marine Uniform With His Hands Tied And Mouth Gagged”**

From: C  
To: cawi@yahoogroups.com  
Sent: January 23, 2007



Talked to another student tonight whose boyfriend is in the military.

He hates it and wants to pose for her in his dress Marine uniform with his hands tied and mouth gagged.

He says that is the way the military treats them.

I have wondered why the word slavery or indentured servant has not come up in regards to military "service".

Once they are in, having committed no crime but sign on the dotted line, they are in effect slaves.

Plus, a high number of them are black.

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## **SENIOR CALL-UP APPROVED!!! Bring The Yougin's Home, NOW!!**



1/8/2007 Veterans For Peace Discussion

A number of us Old Foggie 'Nam Vets have tried to Re-Enlist, not to mention the 'Raging Grannies.' Now with the escalation we can save the little chimps butt, before we indict the whole bunch!

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# **“While Those Wars Ground Up Tanks And Bradley Fighting Vehicles And Helicopters And Humvees New High-Tech Air Force Planes And Navy Ships Padded The Bottom Lines Of The Big Defense Contractors”**

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

January 20, 2007 Joe Galloway, Military.com [Excerpts]

**President Bush was asked in an interview this week why our military and their families are bearing all the sacrifices of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. His response was telling.**

**The American people are sacrificing, too, Bush said. Their peace of mind is disturbed by the images of carnage they see on their televisions.**

**His response was lame, but it also was infuriating, and his attempt to switch the focus to how well he thinks our economy is doing was no less galling.**

Under the triumvirate of Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld, little of the trillions spent on defense over the last six years has gone to those who are bearing 95 percent of the burden of the war of necessity in Afghanistan and the war of choice in Iraq.

**While those wars ground up tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles and helicopters and Humvees by the thousands, without enough money to repair or replace them, new high-tech Air Force planes and Navy ships ate up the Pentagon budget and padded the bottom lines of the big defense contractors/campaign contributors.**

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## **Shit Eating Scum Bags At Sutter Health Fire Decorated Nurse Because She Was Deployed To Iraq:**

# **“You Will Have No Job When You Return From The Desert”**

## **“It Was Three Days Before Christmas”**

### **“I Was Devastated. I Felt Betrayed”**

**[If you would wish to communicate your view of what these rats did, here's the phone number so you can do so up close and personal, in a language of their understanding: (415) 296-1800. The office runs on Pacific Time, three hours earlier than East Coast time.]**

Jan 23, 2007 By Rene P. Ciria-Cruz, New America Media, News Report

**Two days after she told Gray about the imminent deployment, he called her to a meeting. “He told me, ‘You had news for me on Tuesday, I have news for you today. You will have no job when you return from the desert,’” Muhl says.**

**“It was three days before Christmas,” she recalls. “There were moments in Balad, when I was distracted. Mortars are flying over the base, there were soldiers in trauma or dying, and I’d be crying. I had to verbally shake myself at times to focus on my work.”**

**SAN FRANCISCO: Lieutenant Colonel Debra Muhl, an Air Force nurse, saved many soldiers’ lives in combat zones in Bosnia, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq. She has received more than 20 medals for valor and distinguished service.**

**She never expected what she got from her civilian employer when she told them she was being deployed to Iraq -- a dismissal notice.**

Muhl filed a lawsuit today in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, accusing health giant Sutter Health of violating the law that Congress passed specifically to protect the civilian jobs of Reserves and National Guard members when they are called to deployment or training.

“If it happened to someone with my rank and experience, it could happen to newer soldiers of lower rank,” Muhl warns.

“Sutter Health ignored its obligations under those laws and fired Lt. Col. Muhl after she served for four months at Balad Air Base in Iraq,” said Muhl’s attorney David A. Lowe of the San Francisco-based law firm Rudy, Exelrod & Zieff.

Muhl was the \$175,000-a-year administrative director of Sutter Health’s Joint Cardiac Program, when she learned she was being sent to Iraq for four months, starting on Jan. 16 last year.

**“I never thought that they would fire me from my position.” Muhl said. “I was devastated. I felt betrayed.” The 56-year-old San Francisco resident with two grown daughters had been with Sutter Health for 10 years. She has been in the military for 32 years, with seven years of active duty.**

**The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 or USERRA was passed to protect soldiers’ jobs after the 1991 Gulf War. It requires employers to return veterans to their old jobs or give them an equivalent position.**

More than half of the men and women serving in the U.S. armed forces today are members of the National Guard and Reserves, amounting to the largest call-up of reserves since the Korean War.

Lowe says that at a time when additional troops are being deployed to Iraq and more reserve units are having their deployment extended or are being called up for multiple tours of duty, “their need for job protection when they return home is crucial.”

Muhl’s lawsuit may be the first test of the USERRA law and there could be more cases soon, says Lowe. He says his firm has been contacted by “a handful of service members with similar circumstances.”

Major Robert P. Palmer of the defense departments Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, which resolves civilian workplace issues through informal mediation, notes a rise in the number calls to his center.

“There were 8,245 contacts with our call center last year. We sent 3,152 cases to our volunteer ombudsman for mediation with employers. All were resolved except 87 cases we referred to the Department of Labor, which has the power to enforce USERRA or litigate,” explains Palmer.

The Department of Labor reported that it received 70 percent more complaints from reservists who have lost their jobs or employment benefits over the past six years.

In Balad, Muhl tended to “thousands of wounded soldiers.” The Air Force’s Balad medical facilities handled the lion’s share of U.S. casualties before they are flown to military hospitals in Europe or the U.S.

Muhl was one of the nurses who attended to ABC newsman Bob Woodruff when he was seriously injured by a roadside bomb in January last year.

**Muhl says she knew her boss at Sutter Health, Dr. Richard Gray, was unhappy that her military service took her away from work. After her first deployment for 11 months in 2003 to 2004, Gray allegedly asked her frequently, “How can you live like this?”**

She tried to reach a compromise by transferring to a ground-based unit, but it didn’t satisfy her superiors, she said.

**Two days after she told Gray about the imminent deployment, he called her to a meeting. “He told me, ‘You had news for me on Tuesday, I have news for you today. You will have no job when you return from the desert,’” Muhl says.**

**“It was three days before Christmas,” she recalls. “There were moments in Balad, when I was distracted. Mortars are flying over the base, there were soldiers in trauma or dying, and I’d be crying. I had to verbally shake myself at times to focus on my work.”**

**When she returned to Sutter Health in May, her employer confirmed that “her position has been eliminated.” There were no offers of other positions from Sutter.**

“I have met so many dedicated nurses and other medical personnel who willingly answer the call to care for our country’s soldiers,” Muhl said. “I am bringing this lawsuit so that they will know that the law protects their right to serve in the reserves without sacrificing their jobs.”

The lawsuit asks for compensatory and punitive damages including lost back pay, salary and bonus wages, lost fringe benefits and future lost earnings, and emotional distress damages, as well as an injunction to prevent Sutter Health from violating the rights of Lt. Col. Muhl or other reservist employees.

Muhl, who is actively looking for a new job, intends to stay in the military and does not resent her deployments. “I’m committed to the service. It’s part of what makes me who I am. I feel I make a difference in saving lives and training younger soldiers,” she says.

**In the Air Force, the much-decorated nurse has received three Meritorious Service Medals, an Air Medal for flying combat missions, three Commendation Medals and other awards.**

As administrative director at Sutter Health, Muhl oversaw a multimillion annual budget and supervised managers of care units as well as cardio-vascular clinical nurse specialists and researchers.

**She received outstanding performance evaluations.**

Muhl finished nursing at St. Mary’s College in Moraga and earned a master’s in management from Golden Gate University. She coordinated services and standardized nursing protocols at Sutter Pacific heart centers, including California Pacific Medical Center, Marin General and St. Luke’s Hospital in San Francisco.

**Sutter Nurse even featured her in uniform and reported on her service in Iraq.**

Prior to working at Sutter Health, Muhl was the director of perioperative and critical care services at Alta Bates-Summit Medical Center in Oakland. During her military career, she has served as a chief nurse, an operating room nurse, and an air traffic controller.

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# **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

## **Assorted Resistance Action**



The mayor's office the day after guerrillas attacked in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, January 23, 2007. REUTERS/Helmiy al-Azawi

January 23, 2007 (AP)

A parked car bomb exploded at 9 a.m. near the Finance Ministry, which is run by Bayan Jabr, a former interior minister. Four people were wounded, including a ministry guard, police said.

At least four officers were killed during clashes throughout the northwest city of Mosul.

Guerrillas killed a contractor along with another man on Monday night in the town of Mussayab, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol, wounding three police officers in al-Baladiyat district in eastern Baghdad, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“That Explains A Lot”**

From: David Honish [Veteran]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 23, 2007 7:47 PM  
Subject: That explains a lot

**The US Capitol in Washington DC is topped with a statue of "Freedom."**

**She is depicted as a Native American woman, because as we all know no one had more respect for their right to freedom when the Capitol was built in the 19th Century.**

**The statue was cast in bronze, by African slave laborers.**

**This is an interesting metaphor for how the Congress operates.**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **“It Can Take Months To Get Even The Small Things Repaired,” Says Col. Bill Payne, Who Works Closely With The Iraqi Army**

1.19.07 By Philip Shishkin, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

**BAGHDAD, Iraq: Concerned that an Iraqi military base had grown too dependent on U.S. supplies, American officials decided to test how it would cope if forced to rely on its own supply lines for fuel.**

**The result: three days of intermittent blackouts.**

U.S. troops finally rushed emergency fuel to turn the base's lights on and keep its vehicles moving. "The Iraqis were not stepping up," says Lt. Col. Kenneth Kirkpatrick, who supervises logistics at the Taji base on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital.

On the Taji base that houses the Iraqi army's main supply depot, there are more than 150 types and models of equipment, including American-made Humvees, armored infantry vehicles donated by Greece and Chinese-made forklifts that have no spare parts.

The Humvees have become the principal workhorses of Iraqi soldiers. Yet fixing them is a huge challenge.

**Seven months ago; a mortar hit the engine block of an Iraqi army Humvee on patrol in Baghdad. The vehicle was towed to the maintenance depot in Taji but hasn't been fixed yet. "It can take months to get even the small things repaired," says Col. Bill Payne, who works closely with the Iraqi army.**

Nowhere are the logistical shortfalls more visible, or more crippling, than in the supply of fuel, without which Iraqi soldiers simply can't function.

In September, when the blackout hit the Taji base, the fuel shortage quickly affected Iraqi army units elsewhere in Baghdad. In one neighborhood, the Iraqis simply couldn't conduct operations because there was no gas for their vehicles, U.S. officials say.

**Whatever meager supplies were coming through were being siphoned off by corrupt Iraqi commanders. A senior Iraqi officer in charge of fuel deliveries at Taji was arrested shortly after the blackout for allegedly skimming gasoline for personal profit.**

This year, with a renewed push to strengthen Iraqi security forces, the U.S. military is again trying to wean them from dependence on U.S. fuel supplies.

While there have been no blackouts yet, American officers say the fuel is coming very slowly through Iraqi channels, prompting extended generator shutdowns to conserve energy. U.S. officials are constantly pressing the Iraqis to speed the delivery of fuel, which often arrives in insufficient amounts to maintain operations.

Further limiting the Iraqis' operational strength are sectarian tensions between Shiite and Sunni Muslims roiling the broader Iraqi society and seeping into the security forces.

In the mostly Shiite district of Qadhimya in Baghdad, the local Iraqi army units are infiltrated by Shiite militiamen, U.S. officers say.

In Qadhimya itself, Iraqi security forces are so stacked with Shiite militia sympathizers that all operations are planned within a small group of trusted officers. When the Iraqi army detains a Shiite militiaman, a phone call often comes from somewhere in the government demanding his release, says Lt. Col. Steven Miska, who works with the Iraqi military here. "If they are going after a Shia target, it's very difficult," he adds.

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

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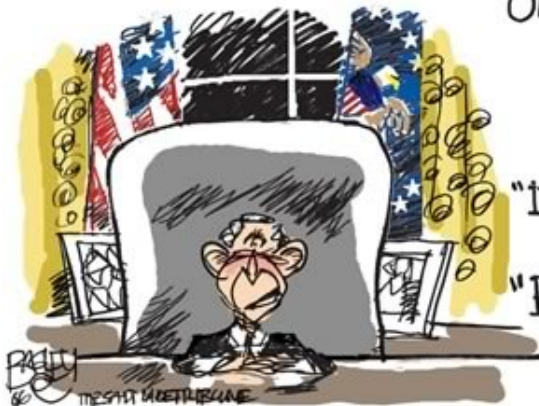
**Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize**

resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### "NEW STRATEGY FOR IRAQ" GLOSSARY OF PRESIDENTIAL EUPHEMISMS



"sacrifice" — another tax cut for the rich

"progress is being made" — today *only*  
100 tortured dead bodies  
turned up in Baghdad!

"New Way  
Forward" — Halliburton isn't through  
robbing U.S. taxpayers blind yet

"Our brave troops" — my personal teflon  
body armor

"Surge" — my personal teflon body armor  
won't be home for Christmas

"it's hard work!" — what I say instead  
of "uh," "er," and "umm."

"Plan for victory" — whatever it costs  
to hand off this gawdawful mess  
to someone else in two years...

[Thanks to Alberto Jaccoma, Military Project & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

## **Bush Regime Traitors Using Military And CIA To Spy On Civilians' Financial Records Without Legal Authority:**



# **“Even When A Case Is Closed, Military Officials Said They Generally Maintain The Records For Years”**

January 14, 2007 By ERIC LICHTBLAU and MARK MAZZETTI, The New York Times [Excerpts] & 1.15.07 New York Times

**The Pentagon has been using a little-known power to obtain banking and credit records of hundreds of Americans and others suspected of terrorism or espionage inside the United States, part of an aggressive expansion by the military into domestic intelligence gathering.**

Vice President Dick Cheney defended efforts by the Pentagon and the CIA to obtain financial records of Americans suspected of terrorism or espionage, calling the practice a “perfectly legitimate activity”

**The C.I.A. has also been issuing what are known as national security letters to gain access to financial records from American companies, though it has done so only rarely, intelligence officials say.**

**Banks, credit card companies and other financial institutions receiving the letters usually have turned over documents voluntarily, allowing investigators to examine the financial assets and transactions of American military personnel and civilians, officials say.**

The F.B.I., the lead agency on domestic counterterrorism and espionage, has issued thousands of national security letters since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, provoking criticism and court challenges from civil liberties advocates who see them as unjustified intrusions into Americans’ private lives.

**But it was not previously known, even to some senior counterterrorism officials, that the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency have been using their own “noncompulsory” versions of the letters.**

**Congress has rejected several attempts by the two agencies since 2001 for authority to issue mandatory letters, in part because of concerns about the dangers of expanding their role in domestic spying.**

**The military and the C.I.A. have long been restricted in their domestic intelligence operations, and both are barred from conducting traditional domestic law enforcement work.**

While they would not provide details about specific cases, military intelligence officials with knowledge of them said the military had issued the letters to collect financial records regarding a government contractor with unexplained wealth, for example, and a chaplain at Guantánamo Bay erroneously suspected of aiding prisoners at the facility.

**But even when the initial suspicions are unproven, the documents have intelligence value, military officials say.**

**In the next year, they plan to incorporate the records into a database at the Counterintelligence Field Activity office at the Pentagon to track possible threats against the military, Pentagon officials said. Like others interviewed, they would speak only on the condition of anonymity.**

Military intelligence officers have sent letters in up to 500 investigations over the last five years, two officials estimated.

**The number of letters is likely to be well into the thousands, the officials said, because a single case often generates letters to multiple financial institutions.**

For its part, the C.I.A. issues a handful of national security letters each year, agency officials said. Congressional officials said members of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees had been briefed on the use of the letters by the military and the C.I.A.

**Some national security experts and civil liberties advocates are troubled by the C.I.A. and military taking on domestic intelligence activities, particularly in light of recent disclosures that the Counterintelligence Field Activity office had maintained files on Iraq war protesters in the United States in violation of the military's own guidelines.**

Some experts say the Pentagon has adopted an overly expansive view of its domestic role under the guise of "force protection," or efforts to guard military installations.

"There's a strong tradition of not using our military for domestic law enforcement," said Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, a former general counsel at both the National Security Agency and the C.I.A. who is the dean at the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific.

**"They're moving into territory where historically they have not been authorized or presumed to be operating."**

Similarly, John Radsan, an assistant general counsel at the C.I.A. from 2002 to 2004 and now a law professor at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, said, "The C.I.A. is not supposed to have any law enforcement powers, or internal security functions, so if they've been issuing their own national security letters, they better be able to explain how they don't cross the line."

In the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has complained about military officials dealing directly with local police — rather than through the bureau — for assistance in responding to possible terrorist threats against a military base.

F.B.I. officials say the threats have often turned out to be uncorroborated and, at times, have stirred needless anxiety.

The military's frequent use of national security letters has sometimes caused concerns from the businesses receiving them, a counterterrorism official said. Lawyers at financial institutions, which routinely provide records to the F.B.I. in law enforcement investigations, have contacted bureau officials to say they were confused by the scope of the military's requests and whether they were obligated to turn the records over, the official said.

**Unlike the F.B.I., the military and the C.I.A. do not have wide-ranging authority to seek records on Americans in intelligence investigations. But the expanded use of national security letters has allowed the Pentagon and the intelligence agency to collect records on their own.**

**One prominent case in which letters were used to obtain financial records, according to two military officials, was that of a Muslim chaplain at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, who was suspected in 2003 of aiding terror suspects imprisoned at the facility. The espionage case against the chaplain, James J. Yee, soon collapsed.**

**Eugene Fidell, a defense lawyer for the former chaplain and a military law expert, said he was unaware that military investigators may have used national security letters to obtain financial information about Mr. Yee, nor was he aware that the military had ever claimed the authority to issue the letters.**

**Mr. Fidell said he found the practice "disturbing," in part because the military does not have the same checks and balances when it comes to Americans' civil rights as does the F.B.I.**

**"Where is the accountability?" he asked. "That's the evil of it — it doesn't leave fingerprints."**

**Even when a case is closed, military officials said they generally maintain the records for years because they may be relevant to future intelligence inquiries.**

Officials at the Pentagon's counterintelligence unit say they plan to incorporate those records into a database, called Portico, on intelligence leads.

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## **Spying On American Citizens By Pentagon Went Father Than Previously Known; There "May Be Even More Disturbing" Information To Discover**

January 17, 2007 By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

A Defense Department database devoted to gathering information on potential threats to military facilities and personnel, known as Talon, had 13,000 entries as of a year ago -- including 2,821 reports involving American citizens, according to an internal Pentagon memo to be released today by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Pentagon memo says an examination of the system led to the deletion of 1,131 reports involving Americans, 186 of which dealt with "anti-military protests or demonstrations in the U.S."

Titled "Review of the TALON Reporting System," the four-page memo produced in February 2006 summarizes some interim results from an inquiry ordered by then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld after disclosure in December 2005 that the system had collected and circulated data on anti-military protests and other peaceful demonstrations.

The released memo, one of a series of Talon documents made public over the past year by the ACLU under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, said that the deleted reports did not meet a 2003 Defense Department requirement that they have some foreign terrorist connection or relate to what was believed to be "a force protection threat."

**The number of deleted reports far exceeds the estimate provided to The Washington Post just over a year ago by senior officials of Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA), the Defense Department agency that manages the Talon program.**

**At that time, then-CIFA Director David A. Burt II said the review had disclosed that only 1 percent of the then 12,500 Talon reports appeared to be problematic.**

The ACLU said in its own report that past disclosures about Talon "cried out for congressional oversight yet Congress was silent."

**It said the new memo indicated there "may be even more disturbing" information to discover and declared "it is time for Congress to act."**

**The ACLU noted the memo showed that Talon reports had a much wider circulation than previously disclosed, with about 28 organizations and 3,589 individuals authorized to submit reports or have access to the database.**

**The organizations with access include various military agencies as well as state, federal and local law enforcement officials.**

A Pentagon spokesman said there are 7,700 reports in the Talon database. Some involve U.S. citizens, but the spokesman declined to say how many

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## **Iran President Says "Wise" Americans Will Bar Any Attack**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: **PROBLEM: WISE PEOPLE AREN'T IN CHARGE. THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND IN THE PENTAGON, THE WHITE HOUSE, OR IN CONGRESS. BE WARNED.**]

Jan 23 Reuters

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday he did not expect a U.S. attack on Iran because there were plenty of "wise people" in the United States who would not let it happen.

**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.**

**Received:**

## **Icebergs**

From: NB  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 23, 2007  
Subject: Icebergs

Looking at the cartoon of the Titanic ramming the Iraqi iceberg, I'd thought that the Bush administration's strategy up to now was to deny the existence of Icebergs!

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