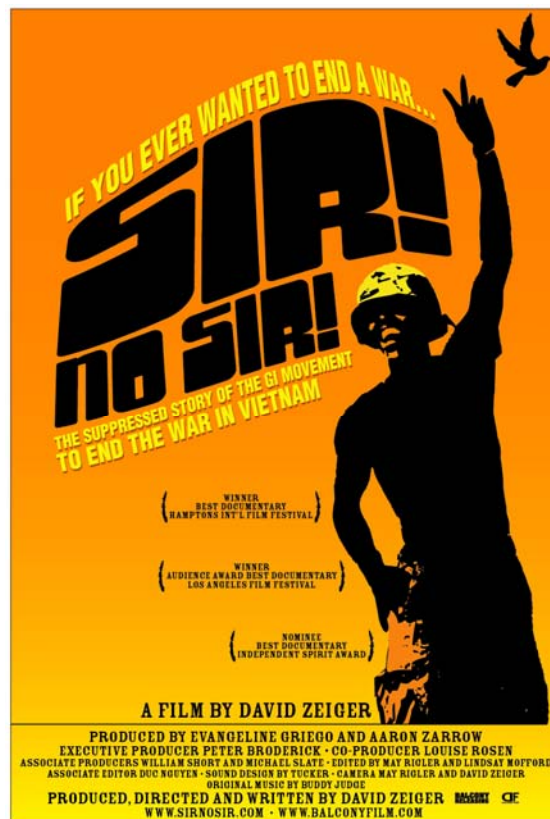


GI SPECIAL 5B17:

**“I Had My Own
Screening Here In
Ramadi Iraq And Got At
Least 10 Service
Members To Sign The
Appeal For Redress”**



BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS NOW

HELP GET SIR! NO SIR! INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT MOST

Dear Sir! No Sir! supporters,

As George Bush escalates the war on Iraq and resistance in the military grows, I am writing to ask you to help us continue getting Sir! No Sir! into the hands of active duty soldiers.

For one year now, Displaced Films, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and a growing number of organizations have been working to distribute free DVDs to soldiers.

Hundreds have been distributed and we want to see that number grow into the thousands.

The response has been tremendous.

Here are just two examples:

To Whom it May Concern:

I just wanted to say thank you for this film, for raising my awareness, I never even knew some of these things happened.

I think this probably is one of the most important documentaries made about war resistance.

The movie was such an important driving force for me I had my own screening here in Ramadi Iraq and got at least 10 service members to sign the Appeal for Redress (a petition to congress, signed by over 1,200 soldiers, demanding an end to war-DZ) with me...

My whole work this deployment (my second) has been awareness and I thank you for giving me yet another tool to spread that awareness.

**Thank you again,
SGT Spencer Batchelder**

During the two years that I was exile in Canada, I thought about the war crimes I had seen in Baghdad in 2004. I came to believe that speaking out about what I witnessed would help open the door to other resisters.

After seeing Sir! No Sir!, I realized that I had to do more than voice my truth. I had to stand in ranks and face the beast.

Sir! No Sir! gave me the courage to do that and in turn, my courage empowered other resisters, such as Ivan Brobeck, Kyle Snyder, and Christen Kajare, to do the same.

Peace and much love,
Darrell Anderson
www.couragetoresist.com

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.

THE FACT IS, WE ARE CURRENTLY FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM.

KEEPING IT GOING LIES IN YOUR HANDS!

Yes...we are asking for contributions.

<p>Your funding will go towards the continued delivery of this film to soldiers by simply clicking on the "BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR GIs NOW" button on the HOMEPAGE at www.sirnosir.com.</p>

+Please forward this EMAIL on to your contacts+

Since Sir! No Sir! opened in theaters last April, many activists and friends of the film have argued that it should be made available to everyone for free. I couldn't agree more. In the world I want to live in, films like Sir! No Sir! and, in fact, all art would be free to everyone.

But in that world, films would not cost hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to make. In that world, artists could survive and continue making the films people need.

That's not the world we live in. In this world, we need your direct support.

The best way to both support and spread Sir! No Sir! is to buy and help distribute the DVD, especially the new "Director's Edition" that includes 1 1/2 hours of incredible new stories from the GI Movement both then and now.

This DVD is available at www.sirnosir.com and in stores and websites everywhere.

If you've already bought one, buy another for a friend. Or buy several to hand out--and play an important role in getting this long-suppressed story into everyone's hands.

To purchase 10 or more DVDs, contact us directly at jadefox@sirnosir.com to arrange for a discount.

**If you know an active duty GI
send them this email and/or this link so they can get their copy
of Sir! No Sir!**

<http://www.ivaw.org/>

David Zeiger and Jade Fox
Displaced Films
jadefox@sirnosir.com

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

Young Woman Meets Tragic End

February 09, 2007 Associated Press

A 2004 graduate of Fallston High School who followed her older brother to the Marines was killed during fighting in Iraq, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

Cpl. Jennifer Parcell, 20, of Bel Air, Md. died Wednesday "while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar province," a Department of Defense news release said.

"If you knew her, you loved her. She was a go-getter. She knew what she wanted in life and she was doing what she had to do to achieve that," Parcell's aunt Martha Benton of Aberdeen said.

Parcell joined the Marine Corps in January 2005. Benton said she'd wanted to enlist since attending her brother Joseph's graduation at Parris Island. The 24-year-old enlisted in February 2003 and he is returning from his tour to be with family.

The brother and sister were stationed together in Iraq for about a month before their tours of duty separated them, Benton said.

Math was her forte at Fallston High School in 2004, Benton said. She said Parcell always enjoyed the water, including boating and scuba diving. She also liked yoga and music and spending time with family and friends.

Parcell was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Okinawa, Japan. She had earned six medals and Benton said Marine Corps officials told the family Parcell may be eligible for a Purple Heart.

"We're just going to miss her very, very much," Benton said. "She was always someone you could count on."

The family was notified of her death Wednesday afternoon.

Mississippi Sgt. Killed Near Balad



U.S. Army Sgt. Carl Leonard Seigart, whose wife and four stepchildren live in Picayune, Miss., was killed in Iraq on Valentine's Day 2007 as he participated in a tank recovery mission, his family said. Seigart was a tank mechanic with the 1st Cavalry, 3rd Battalion out of Fort Hood, Texas. The family said they were told he was killed by an improvised explosive device near Balad, Iraq. (AP Photo/Photograph courtesy the Seigart Family)

Slain Soldier Saw Job As Protecting Others

February 6, 2007 By PAUL NYHAN, P-I REPORTER

When Sgt. Corey Aultz was growing up in Port Orchard, he looked out for his big sister, Tamra, often playing the role of the older sibling.

The 12-year Army veteran saw his job in Iraq in a similar light. He was there to protect those around him. In fact, Aultz spent his working life in the military, trying to keep the peace in global hot spots such as Kosovo and Bosnia.

"You know I am just trying to do the best I can and keep people as safe as I can," Tamra Aultz recalled him saying.

Last Tuesday, the 31-year-old died from wounds he suffered when a bomb exploded near his armored car in Ramadi. He was on his second tour of Iraq.

Aultz came from a tight military family, and his own life revolved around his wife and 6-year-old daughter in Germany, where he was based for the last 11 years. After a few years in Germany, Aultz decided to make that country his home, marrying a native and settling in the Bavarian town of Műnnerstadt.

"Every time I talked to him he was hanging out with his daughter," Tamra Aultz said. "She was his world."

While he didn't necessarily enlist for a career, "I think that after awhile it just became like, 'Yeah, this was what I was meant to do,' " Tamra Aultz said.

Aultz, who served with the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division based in Schweinfurt, Germany, is the 153rd member of the armed forces with close ties to Washington to die in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.

"He was a good person, and we are proud of him," Tamra Aultz said.

Memorial services will be held in Germany.

Glendive Soldier Is Dead

February 6, 2007 The Great Falls Tribune

HELENA — Military authorities on Monday identified a soldier from Montana as one of two killed Feb. 2 in Ramadi, Iraq.

The Department of Defense said Pvt. Matthew T. Zeimer, 18, of Glendive died of injuries he received in a firefight with enemy forces.

Zeimer was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Zeimer was a 2006 graduate of Dawson County High School, where he participated in choir and the Jobs for Montana Students Club.

Serving in the military was his dream, government teacher Patsy Ferco said.

"He worked hard join the military and took the military aptitude tests three or four times to get in because it was so important to him," Ferco said. "He wanted to be a military man." Zeimer came home for Christmas and received extra time off to help recruiters at his school, she said.

Ferco added that Zeimer was "gung-ho" about serving in Iraq. "He said to me, 'That's what I've trained for — this is the mission,'" she said.

Principal Bruce Clausen said he learned of Zeimer's death Sunday night and offered counseling to students on Monday. He described Zeimer as a polite young man who enjoyed working in the school's vocational education program.

Clausen also said Zeimer was passionate about joining the military and was proud to serve his country. "He didn't balk about the opportunity to go to Iraq," Clausen said. "He was red, white and blue from the inside out and wanted to do whatever he could to provide service to his country — and that was verbatim."

Clausen said Zeimer is survived by his parents, Ned and Janet Seymour of Glendive, and four siblings, including a twin sister, Tonya Zeimer, also of Glendive.

Zeimer's body is expected to be returned to Glendive in the next week to 10 days. Funeral services are pending.

According to military records, Zeimer is the 15th Montanan to die in Iraq.

Marine Travis Dodson Wounded In Iraqi Attack

02/16/2007 By Desma Montellano For the Sun-News

DEMING — While many woke up to embrace loved ones the morning of Valentine's Day, one of Deming's own was attacked and seriously injured in Iraq, while exercising his love for his country as a Marine.

Lance Cpl. Travis Dodson, 21, and his team were attacked Wednesday in the city of Haqlaniyah, Iraq, at about 8:25 a.m. Mountain Standard Time. Dodson and a fellow

Marine occupied an overwatch in the second story of a building, when an enemy fighter threw what was believed to be a pipe bomb through a window.

"Travis and the other Marine were wounded by the blast. Travis was evacuated from the building, within 30 minutes of being wounded," his mother Cheryl said, reiterating an email she received.

He was then flown by a Medivac helicopter to the Al Asad Surgical Center, where they diagnosed his wounds as "very severe."

"He has lost both legs and suffered massive blood loss," Cheryl said, again, reading her e-mail.

"He was flown to the Balad Surgical Center, where he's now in intensive care, but stable condition. They are thinking tomorrow (today) he will be transferred to Germany. In Germany, they will assess his wounds and decide whether they need to keep him in Germany to continue stabilizing him, or whether he can handle the pressure changes to fly back to Bethesda, Maryland."

Cheryl and Casey Dodson received word regarding their son's injury, around 7:45 p.m. Wednesday evening.

"We're so grateful for the hundreds of friends who have called and have come by... to show their support," Cheryl said.

A 2004 Deming High School graduate, Travis was known for his performance in the classroom and on the golf course.

"I was his high school coach, with his dad coaching alongside through all the years he (Travis) played," said DHS golf coach James Williams. "He golfed from eighth grade to his senior year. He's an outstanding young man, apart from his ability as a player. He's a really good kid and a product of a good family."

Staff members at DHS and Hofacket Mid High School remember Dodson as an All-America type. "An all-around, good kid," said DHS assistant principal Teri Trejo, who was assigned to Hofacket when Dodson was a student there. "Genuine, sincere."

Adrian Apodaca, now instructional leader at Hofacket, has followed many local students from Deming Middle School through Deming High. Apodaca had Dodson from eighth-through 12th-grades, when Dodson was also involved in Science Olympiad and science fair.

"Unassuming," Apodaca says of Dodson. "Conscientious about his grades."

Robin Parnell, now Hofacket's principal, taught Dodson in the first-grade. Parnell's son Riley is also a Marine stationed at 29 Palms in California and scheduled for deployment to Iraq in March. Parnell and Dodson were almost inseparable as they moved through school, seemingly always together.

"Everything had to be just perfect," she says of his drive. "He's just a good guy. He golfed all the time."

Travis enlisted in the Marines in August of 2005, and was stationed at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. He was deployed to Iraq last year on Sept. 12.

The military will fly the Dodsons to see Travis, whether in Germany at the Ramstein Air Base, or if transported to the United States to Washington, D.C.

Deadly New “Speed Bump” IED Spreads In Anbar: Supplied By Maniacal Iranian Evildoers? No, Made From Iraqi Kitchen Baking Trays

February 19, 2007 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today

A type of homemade bomb that can include parts commonly found in Iraqi kitchens and that is easy to hide on desert roads has proliferated in Anbar province and spread to other parts of the country

Troops in armored vehicles are endangered by the bomb, which U.S. military officials call a “speed bump.”

The weapon is formed by sandwiching plastic explosives between metal plates, such as baking trays, a Pentagon intelligence document shows. A detonator switch triggers the bomb when a vehicle rolls over it, ripping into the often unarmored underside.

The speed bump first appeared in Anbar province, Pentagon records show. Anbar is a hotbed of the insurgency and is the scene of some of the heaviest fighting.

The first devices were built with baking trays; now they’re fashioned from various types of metal.

Part of the speed bump’s effectiveness springs from its ease of disguise. It’s tough to detect on desert roads where it can be covered with dirt, according to the Pentagon document.

Ramadi:

A U.S. Army Capt. And An Inbedded Reporter Lost In A World Of Disneyland Fantasy

February 19, 2007 By Michelle Tan, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts omitting mindless happy talk about how local Iraqis just love the foreign occupation troops blowing up their houses and killing their kids in recurring airstrikes and by other means and methods.]

COMBAT OUTPOST FALCON, Iraq

The shooting started before 5 a.m. The distinctive crack of the AK-47 was silenced by the thunderous but almost rhythmic roar of the M2 .50-caliber machine guns that sit on the roof of this combat outpost in south central Ramadi.

Inside the tactical operations center, Capt. Mike Bajema, commander of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor, simultaneously manned two radios.

His soldiers continued to return fire. Some 1,700 rounds of .50-cal and 7.62mm ammo later, the enemy fire ceased.

Facing down enemy attacks on this combat outpost is not unusual for the estimated 140 soldiers who live here, but in the seven months since they pushed into Ramadi and established Combat Outpost Falcon, the soldiers report steady and encouraging progress in their section of this embattled city.

They also conducted a census in the area of responsibility and now have the names and photographs of its residents and a list of their occupations. [Marvelous. Well, that's what Bush promised the Iraqis, isn't it, their very own combination of prison and a concentration camp, complete with lists of occupations, photos, curfews, eyeball ID machines pioneered in Fallujah, and mass death. "Show me your papers, Iraqi. If you don't like it, go back where you came from!"] Is there anybody left alive that can't understand by now why a majority of all Iraqis polled on the question have repeatedly replied they are for killing U.S. troops?]

In the time that the military has operated COP Falcon, Bajema said, conditions in the area have improved for those who live there.

Previously, he said, insurgents "could walk down the streets en masse and terrorize the people." The presence of U.S. forces, though, has driven the insurgents to "go from very open operations to very clandestine, and the people are turning against them"

[And now, a brief pause for reality. Bajema is right about one thing. They don't have to walk down the streets "en masse." Now resistance fighters can walk down the streets all by themselves. T]

**GUESS WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO WATCH HIS BACK:
COULD IT BE THOSE FOLKS IN THE PHOTO WITH HIM THINK
HE'S ON THEIR SIDE?
THEY DON'T EXACTLY LOOK "TERRORIZED," DO THEY?**



An insurgent armed with a heavy machinegun stands at a street in the centre of the Iraqi town of Ramadi December 8, 2006. REUTERS/Stringer (IRAQ)

However, he said, there remains concern that the insurgents “are able to mingle among the people who’re going to the market or going to school.” [Hey dumbshit, the insurgents *are* the people going to the market or going to school. FYI they’re called Iraqis, and, to repeat, according to a U.S. sponsored poll, 60% of them want to kill you. Get it? Kill you. Dead. Want to kill you. Hate you. Iraqi patriots. Hate having their country occupied. Their solution: kill you. Or is that concept, nationalism, taking arms against a foreign empire, too difficult for you to get hold of, being an officer and all? Did you sleep through the part in grade school about 1776?]

Fighting the insurgency is probably the hardest mission anyone’s had, Bajema said.

“They don’t wear uniforms, they sleep in houses near the COP, their families are here. [Yeah, right, King George III had the same problem with those pesky Americans like Patrick Henry and Tom Paine.]

“We want to protect the innocents of Ramadi but find the terrorists,” he said. [Want to find the leading terrorist in your area? Look in the mirror.]

“(But) we’re winning this battle. They’re losing fighters, they’re losing caches daily. This fight for them is a hundred times harder than it is for us.”

[Well, there it is, proof positive that Bajema is either the stupidest officer in Iraq, utterly and completely brain dead, or, if not, a leading candidate for the biggest ass kisser in command downrange. Not even Bush trots out the silly stupid lie about “We’re winning” anymore. Somebody send him the new Pentagon script on Anbar so he can get on the right page. Anbar is fucked. Everybody knows it. Game over. Every U.S. combat death now is in vain. Time to come home, where the real enemies live: Washington DC. T]

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. military vehicles surround the scene of a roadside bomb attack in Baquba, January 23, 2007. The attack targeted a U.S. convoy. (Helmij al-Azawi/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**TALIBAN TO BUSH:
WE CAN SURGE TOO. THE
DIFFERENCE IS, WE LIVE HERE,
YOU DON'T**

Deploying 10,000 Fighters For Attack: Commander



Taliban guerrilla fighters at a secret base in eastern Afghanistan February 3, 2007.
(Saeed Ali Achakzai/Reuters)

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

Feb 16 By Saeed Ali Achakzai, SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan (Reuters)

The Taliban have deployed 10,000 fighters for a spring offensive of "bloody attacks" against foreign troops in Afghanistan, a rebel commander said on Friday.

As the harsh winter snows melt, the insurgents have resumed their attacks, mostly in the south, where they have captured a major town and have threatened a key hydroelectric dam.

Mullah Abdul Rahim, the Taliban's operational commander for southern Helmand province -- the opium center of the world's major producer -- said militants would step up attacks in spring.

"As the weather becomes warm and leaves turn green, we will unleash bloody attacks on the U.S.-led foreign troops," Rahim told Reuters by satellite phone from a secret location.

"Our war preparations, especially in southern Afghanistan and in Helmand province, are complete and for this our 10,000 fighters are ready to take up arms the moment they are ordered."

Rahim said the focus of attacks will be southern areas, where the Taliban was born.

Assorted Resistance Action

Feb. 14, 2007 NOOR KHAN, Associated Press & 2/17/2007 The Peninsula

In Helmand province, the country's largest poppy-producing region, auxiliary police protecting an eradication team were hit by a roadside bomb Tuesday that killed two policeman and wounded three, said deputy provincial police chief Eisah Mohammad.

Taliban militants hanged three Afghans after accusing them of informing US and NATO military forces about rebel bases and hideouts, police and the extremist movement said yesterday.

The men hanged in the Gereshk area of the southern province of Helmand on Thursday.

A Taliban spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed the men were executed after documents were found on them that showed they informed foreign militaries about hideouts and bases.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket containing the remains of 19-year-old Marine Pfc. Tarryl Hill at Hill's funeral service at St. Paul Tabernacle in Detroit, Michigan February 16, 2007. Hill was killed in Fallujah. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook

University Of California At Santa Barbara Students Protesting Iraq Shut Down Highway



From UCSB: students marching onto the highway!
[Photo from Darwin BondGraham Via nola c3 2.16.07]

Feb 15, 2007 By VoteHarder, Daily Kos [Excerpts]

We chanted.

"Whose streets?

"OUR STREETS!"

We walked down for about half a mile before we were halted by a hastily assembled police line (20 cops, CHP) in front of a Caltrans roadblock redirecting traffic. One guy crossed it, Jesse, and he was the first one to be arrested.

A group of 300 students sat down in a big circle (like a filled circle, not a donut), with other students standing on the outside, like a halo.

Students were giving speeches about why we oppose the war and why we need to withdraw and the parallels between Iraq and Vietnam and why we need to stay out of

Iran and PeaceOut University (our follow up event, scheduled for next week...hopefully the organizers aren't all in jail!) and the UC's links to nuclear weapons labs like Los Alamos, and other topics.

At 3:00, students started singing "Give Peace a Chance" by John Lennon, but stopped so we could hear more speeches. As I walked back along the freeway (along the double yellow lines, hehe!), I saw peace signs written in chalk on the asphalt.

Yeah...that made me grin ear to ear.

We've never seen anything like this! We've never DONE anything like this!

Grandparents Of KIA's Kids Fucked Over

2.16.07: Washington Post

For grandparents the toll of war can be especially complex: They face not only the anguish of losing a son or daughter but also the emotional, legal and financial difficulties of putting the pieces back together for a grandchild.

They confront this without the \$100,000 "death gratuity" that military spouses ordinarily get — a payment intended to ease the financial strain as families await government survivors' benefits.

"It really does get complicated for them," said Joyce Raezer of the National Military Family Association. The load of responsibilities placed on that generation—both during deployment and if a service member is injured or killed—"is a huge issue."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

16 Feb 2007 Reuters & (VOI)

Three guards of Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari were killed and five others wounded on Thursday when guerrillas at a fake checkpoint attacked their convoy in the village of Sulaiman Beq in Salahaddin province, police said. Zebari was not in the convoy, police added.

Three dead bodies of policemen were found on Thursday in the northern city of Mosul, police said.

One Iraqi soldier was shot dead by a sniper in the Baghdad district of Adhamiya on Thursday, police said, and a policeman was shot in the Amil district on Thursday.

Three Iraqi policemen were killed on Friday in a combat operation in southern Falluja, west of Iraq, a source in Iraqi police said

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Truth

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: February 15, 2007 10:12 AM
Subject: The Truth

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

The Truth

**The USA newspapers print
their coverage of the war in red ink,
so as, not to only have blood on their hands
but innocent Americans seeking the truth
will have red blood on their hands too.
The USA media is as corrupt as the government,
TV coverage that bleeds fear, talking heads
with terrorist levels below their lying mouths.
All so good Americans will push
their Soldiers overseas to be killed and maimed.
"Die for us," they scream,
"so that we will not die," turning terrorists
into monsters instead of patriotic citizens
fighting for their country
since the barbarians invaded.
Almighty USA media, corrupt as Bush's mouth
and Chaney's lies, spread upon a nation
every time Americans tire of war
and weep for dead Soldiers they pushed there.**

Monkey face comes on the tube,
preaching through blood red TV screens.
The president says that all that is needed
is more Soldiers, so good Americans push
more Soldiers in their backs overseas
where the enemy is supposed to be
as they read their red ink New York Times.

The Traitor Bush Tries Nixon's Stale Old Vietnam War Lies: “Funding For The War Would Have To Be Continued, Lest The Safety Of The Troops In The Field Be Undermined; Rhetoric Against The War Would Have To Be Curbed, Lest The Enemy Be Encouraged And Our Boys Feel Betrayed”

From: THE SPITTING IMAGE: MYTH, MEMORY, AND THE LEGACY OF VIETNAM; by
Jerry Lembcke; New York University Press; New York; 1998

“The war was going to be first and foremost about the men who were being sent to fight it (and not, mind you, about the people who sent them there) “As long as there were U.S. soldiers in Vietnam the war had to be supported.”

Deploying a propaganda technique that would be honed to perfection during the Gulf War thirty years later, Nixon began to redefine the war.

From the spring of 1969 on, the war was going to be first and foremost about the men who were being sent to fight it (and not, mind you, about the people who sent them there).

The Nixon administration eagerly made the extension.

Our boys in Vietnam, it argued, whether they were in prison or in the field fighting, could not be abandoned.

Funding for the war would have to be continued, lest the safety of the troops in the field be undermined; rhetoric against the war would have to be curbed, lest the enemy be encouraged and our boys feel betrayed.

The thirty thousand GIs who had already died in Vietnam would have been sacrificed for nothing if we were to quit now.

The war had to go on until we could have peace with honor, if not victory.

As long as there were U.S. soldiers in Vietnam the war had to be supported; to do otherwise would mean abandonment and betrayal.

So it was in the soldiers themselves that Nixon found the perfect reason to continue the war.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



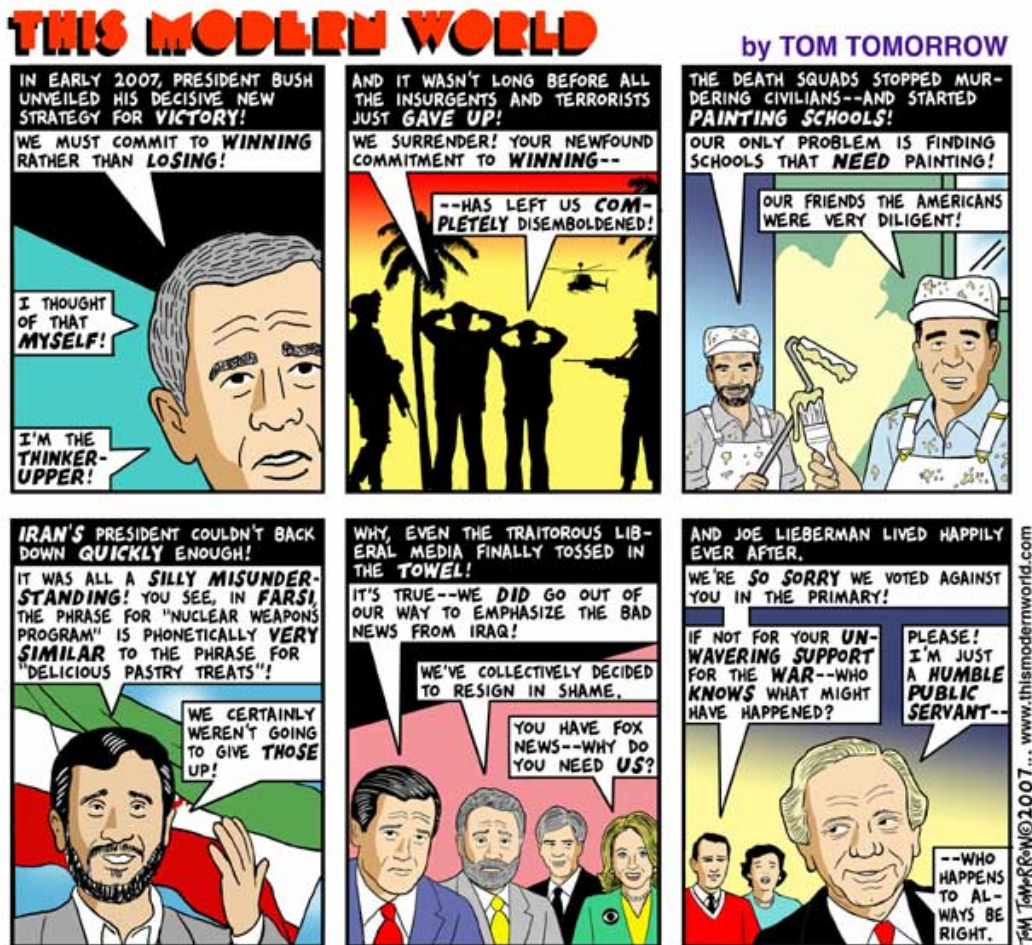
A US soldier from the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment of the Second infantry Division holds an Iraqi family at gunpoint while other foreign occupation soldiers search their home in the Shaab neighborhood in Baghdad Feb. 14, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

“The Irony Of The Anti-War Vote, Of Course, Was That It Elected Democrats Who Are Under No Obligation To Actually End The Barbarous Us Occupation” “‘Bring The Troops Home Now’ Was Not A Democratic Plank”

By MIKE DAVIS, New Left Review 43, January-February 2007 [Excerpts]

After twelve years of arrogant majority rule in Congress, the GOP has seemingly foundered on the contradictions of the new imperialism. Or has it?

The irony of the anti-war vote, of course, was that it elected Democrats who are under no obligation to actually end the barbarous us occupation.

Despite majority public belief that Iraq is a ‘bad war’ and the troops should come home, the current Democratic strategy is to snipe from the sidelines at Bush’s ruinous policies while avoiding any decisive steps to actually end the occupation.

Indeed, from the standpoint of cold political calculus, the Democrats have no more interest in helping Bush extract himself from the morass of Iraq than Bush has had in actually capturing or killing Osama bin Laden.

Accordingly, as the Los Angeles Times recently reported, ‘Pelosi and the Democrats plan no dramatic steps to influence the course of the war’.

Democratic National Committee chair Howard Dean, who once claimed to be the very incarnation of the anti-war movement, now cautions that the most the public can expect from the new majority is ‘some restraint on the president’.

Likewise Pelosi has renounced from the outset the Democrats’ one actual power over White House war policy: ‘We will have oversight. We will not cut off funding’.

The broad, spontaneous anti-war movement of winter 2003 — whose grass-roots energy filled the void of Democratic opposition to Bush’s invasion — was first absorbed by the Dean campaign in spring 2004 and then politically dissolved into the Kerry candidacy.

The 2004 Democratic Convention, which should have been a forum for wide-ranging attacks on Republican foreign and domestic policies, was transformed into an obnoxious patriotic celebration of John Kerry as the Brahmin Rambo.

Although many activists hoped that an autonomous peace movement would re-emerge from the ruins of the Kerry campaign, there have been only a few regional pockets of sustained protest.

One of Howard Dean's principal assignments as national Democratic chair (and the major reason for his selection) has been to keep anti-war forces immobilized within a diffuse and hypocritical Anybody But Bush coalition.

'Bring the troops home now' was not a Democratic plank, but doubling the size of the Special Forces 'to destroy terrorist networks' and increasing spending on homeland anti-terrorism are centrepieces of the Democrats' 'New Direction for America' (a collection of sound bites and slogans that offers a pale shadow to Gingrich's robust 1994 'Contract with America').

Last November's voters certainly had fewer illusions than their candidates about the hopelessness of the situation (according to exit polls, 'only about one in five voters say they think that either the President or the Democrats have a clear plan for Iraq'), and public opinion may again find volcanic alternatives to an impotent Congress.

Indeed, only mass protest, unfettered from the Realpolitik of Howard Dean and MoveOn.org, can shift the balance of power in Congress towards a decisive debate on withdrawal.

MORE:

Imperial Democrats Come Out For More Dead U.S. Troops And Iraqis; They Want A "Slow Bleed" [But Not Their Own Blood, Of Course]

14 February 2007 By John Bresnahan, Politico.com [Excerpt]

Top House Democrats, working in concert with anti-war groups, have decided against using congressional power to force a quick end to U.S. involvement in Iraq, and instead will pursue a slow-bleed strategy designed to gradually limit the administration's options.

MORE:

"Iraq Is Their War, Too"

Democrat Politicians “Continue To Vote To Support The War At Its Current Funding Level”

February 16, 2007 By Lance Selfa, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

The Democrats’ current strategy is to unite against the troop “surge” in Iraq by offering non-binding resolutions condemning the escalation.

Meanwhile, they continue to vote to support the war at its current funding level while proposing various scenarios for troop redeployment in the future.

All of this positioning shows that the Democrats want to take advantage of the public mood of opposition to the war, while not taking the fall for defeat in Iraq. For this reason, most leading Democrats have embraced the recommendations of the establishment-dominated Iraq Study Group as their road map out of the Iraq debacle.

Democratic assertiveness reflects more than just politicians holding their fingers to the political winds. The Democrats--and along with some Republicans--are providing a vehicle through which sections of the establishment (embodied in the Iraq Study Group) are expressing their vote of no confidence in the Bush administration and its failure in Iraq.

There are many indications of this--an increased willingness of media to expose Bush’s lies; the votes against the “surge” in Congress; open admissions from generals and admirals that the Bush plan will not work.

But it is crucial to recognize that this opposition to Bush represents the ruling class’ concern with saving, rather than burying, the U.S. imperial project.

The problem for the Democrats is that they can only play the role of virtual opposition for so long. In the effort to gain the broadest anti-surge resolution they could, they essentially adopted Warner’s position [Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) -- which includes a number of key concessions to Bush and the war -- as their own.

So far, the Democrats have been able to provide a sounding board for “responsible” exit strategies and symbolic opposition to the war.

Their voting base and much of the public is giving them the benefit of the doubt now. But that honeymoon will run out fast.

As much as they like to hang responsibility for the Iraq war around Bush’s neck, Iraq is their war, too.

MORE:

“At The End Of The Day, A Non-Binding Resolution Is Just That: Non Binding”

“Democrats Are Also Part Of The Established Banking, Business And Government Triumvirate That Knows All Too Well That War Is Great For Business”



[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

The Democratic paper tigers in the US Congress who were swept to victory on voter dissatisfaction with current war policy may talk tough about ending the war. But at the end of the day, a non-binding resolution is just that: Non binding.

February 16, 2007 by Michael A. Nystrom, BullNotBull.com [Excerpts]

So much for the idea that Democratic victory in November's mid-term elections would put an end the war.

One look at the five year chart of the Amex Defense Industry Index (shown above) should make that perfectly clear. As you can see, the index has been in a steady uptrend since the start of the war in March 2003, has over tripled in value, and is now surging - presumably with our troop levels in Iraq - to a new all time high.

The index is composed of fourteen stocks, listed below:

Armor Holdings (AH)
Alliant Technology Systems (ATK)
Boeing (BA)
Rockwell Collins (COL)
DRS Technologies (DRS)
EDO Corp (EDO)
Flir Systems (FLIR)
General Dynamics (GD)
Goodrich Corp (GR)
L-3 Communications (LLL)
Lockheed Martin (LMT)
Northrop Grummon (NOC)
Ratheon (RTN)
United Industrial (UIC)

All of these companies are in the business of making the stuff that wars are fought with - weapons, armor, planes, guns, bombs, ammunition, and/or electronics and communications systems. And all (of course) share one well-known and very well-to-do customer in common: The United States Government.

Unlike the Dow, which is limping along to phony new highs on the strength of only a few of its component members (one of them being Boeing) and terrible breadth, the advance in the DFI is a healthy one from a technical standpoint. Twelve of the fourteen stocks are at or very near five-year highs. This is not a market that is being driven by liquidity, or simply adjusting itself to the realities of inflation.

The Democratic paper tigers in the US Congress who were swept to victory on voter dissatisfaction with current war policy may talk tough about ending the war. But at the end of the day, a non-binding resolution is just that: Non binding.

After all, the Democrats are also part of the established banking, business and government triumvirate that knows all too well that war is great for business, and great for expanding the powers of government.

MORE:

**A Really Odious DemoRat Up To
His Neck In Blood:
Kucinich Says Keep On Killing U.S.
Troops And Iraqis Until A New
Occupation Force Can Be Organized
To Take Over Killing Iraqis**

From the Congressional Record, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, February 14, 2007

The Kucinich Plan:

- 1 The US announces it will end the occupation, close military bases and withdraw.
- 2 The US announces it will use existing funds to bring the troops and the necessary equipment home.
- 3 Order a simultaneous return of all US contractors to the US and turnover all contracting work to the Iraqi government.
- 4 Convene a regional conference for the purpose of developing a security and stabilization force for Iraq.
- 5 Prepare an international security and peacekeeping force to move in, replacing US troops who *then* return home.

MORE:

**“This Resolution Does Not
Address The Disaster In Iraq”
“It Seeks To Appear Opposed To The
War While At The Same Time Offering
No Change Of The Status Quo”
“We All Know, In Time, The War Will Be
De-Funded And The Troops Will Come
Home. So Why Not Now?”**

The biggest red herring in this debate is the constant innuendo that those who don't support expanding the war are somehow opposing the troops. It's nothing more than a canard to claim that those of us who struggled to prevent the bloodshed and now want it stopped are somehow less patriotic and less concerned about the welfare of our military personnel.

February 15, 2007: Lew Rockwell.com:

Statement on the Iraq War Resolution By Ron Paul Before the U.S. House of Representatives February 14, 2007 [Excerpts]

This resolution, unfortunately, does not address the disaster in Iraq.

Instead, it seeks to appear opposed to the war while at the same time offering no change of the status quo in Iraq.

As such, it is not actually a vote against a troop surge.

A real vote against a troop surge is a vote against the coming supplemental appropriation that finances it. I hope all of my colleagues who vote against the surge today will vote against the budgetary surge when it really counts: when we vote on the supplemental.

The biggest red herring in this debate is the constant innuendo that those who don't support expanding the war are somehow opposing the troops. It's nothing more than a canard to claim that those of us who struggled to prevent the bloodshed and now want it stopped are somehow less patriotic and less concerned about the welfare of our military personnel.

It's important to recall that the left, in 2003, offered little opposition to the pre-emptive war in Iraq, and many are now not willing to stop it by de-funding it or work to prevent an attack on Iran.

The catch-all phrase, "War on Terrorism," in all honesty, has no more meaning than if one wants to wage a war against criminal gangsterism.

It's deliberately vague and non definable to justify and permit perpetual war anywhere, and under any circumstances. Don't forget: the Iraqis and Saddam Hussein had absolutely nothing to do with any terrorist attack against us including that on 9/11.

Special interests and the demented philosophy of conquest have driven most wars throughout history. Rarely has the cause of liberty, as it was in our own revolution, been the driving force.

In recent decades our policies have been driven by neo-conservative empire radicalism, profiteering in the military industrial complex, misplaced do-good internationalism, mercantilistic notions regarding the need to control natural resources, and blind loyalty to various governments in the Middle East.

For all the misinformation given the American people to justify our invasion, such as our need for national security, enforcing UN resolutions, removing a dictator, establishing a democracy, protecting our oil, the argument has been reduced to this: If we leave now Iraq will be left in a mess-implying the implausible that if we stay it won't be a mess.

Since it could go badly when we leave, that blame must be placed on those who took us there, not on those of us who now insist that Americans no longer need be killed or maimed and that Americans no longer need to kill any more Iraqis.

We've had enough of both!

Resorting to a medical analogy, a wrong diagnosis was made at the beginning of the war and the wrong treatment was prescribed. Refusing to reassess our mistakes and insist

on just more and more of a failed remedy is destined to kill the patient-in this case the casualties will be our liberties and prosperity here at home and peace abroad.

There's no logical reason to reject the restraints placed in the Constitution regarding our engaging in foreign conflicts unrelated to our national security. The advice of the founders and our early presidents was sound then and it's sound today.

We shouldn't wait until our financial system is completely ruined and we are forced to change our ways. We should do it as quickly as possible and stop the carnage and financial bleeding that will bring us to our knees and force us to stop that which we should have never started.

We all know, in time, the war will be de-funded one way or another and the troops will come home.

So why not now?

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:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

Received:

Raped Woman Thrown In Jail; Religious Scumbag Withholds Her Emergency Contraceptive

[Thanks to RL, who sent this in.]

February 16, 2007 By Nicole Colson, Chicago; Socialist Worker

COMPASSION FOR victims is apparently at the bottom of the list of priorities for Florida police. That's the only conclusion that can be drawn after Tampa police jailed a 21-year-old rape victim for two days in late January--only releasing her after a massive public outcry.

The young woman was raped during Gasparilla, an annual parade that draws thousands of people to the area. After calling police to report the crime, she was taken to a rape crisis center, where she received medical care and a dose of emergency contraception.

Later, as she was riding with police in a patrol car, trying to locate the scene of her rape in the dark, police were alerted that she had a warrant from another county stemming from allegedly outstanding fines from a 2003 juvenile arrest. The woman says she believed she had paid the fines, and was unaware of the warrant.

According her lawyer, Vic Moore, once police learned about the warrant, they "stopped the investigation right there," put her in handcuffs and then behind bars in the county jail, where she stayed for nearly two days.

And her outrageous treatment by authorities only got worse.

Despite the fact that a second dose of emergency contraception needs to be taken within 12 hours of the first dose to be most effective, a nurse at the jail would not let the woman take her second dose--reportedly citing religious objections for withholding the drug. The young woman did not receive the second dose of the medication until just before she left the jail--nearly two days later.

"I was in total disbelief," the woman's mother told reporters. "You just can't imagine the fury that was going through me. How dare that person force their religious beliefs upon my daughter in such a way that it may harm her?"

An investigation has now been opened into the refusal of the medication, and Tampa police have offered an apology to the woman for putting her in jail, saying they have amended their policy to use "discretion" in such cases involving rape and sexual assault victims.

But this is not the first time Florida police have acted so callously. In a similar situation in 2001, St. Petersburg police threw a rape victim in jail for three days on outstanding warrants.

As Vic Moore told reporters about his client, "She is not a victim of any one person. She is a victim of the system."

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