

## GI SPECIAL 5B6:

Cost Plus



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

**“I Just Hope That  
Neither I Nor One Of My  
Men Are The Last To Die  
For A Mistake”**

**“Nonetheless, The Guys In Charge Of  
This Mess Should Be Held  
Accountable, And I Don't Mean  
Anyone In Uniform Either”**

[Thanks to Chris Lombardi, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

[The context for what these troops write is a story that appeared Jan. 31, 2007, By Ron Jenkins - The Associated Press:

## **3,500 Oklahoma Guardsmen May Be Going To Iraq**

[OKLAHOMA CITY — The 45th Infantry Brigade, comprising 3,500 Army National Guard soldiers, has been picked for possible deployment to Iraq next year on a security mission, Maj. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, Oklahoma's adjutant general, said Wednesday.

[Wyatt said Oklahoma is one of four states selected for the mission. The 45th Infantry Brigade is made up of citizen soldiers from across the state.]

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**Feb 01, 2007 by soonergrunt, Dailykos.com**

(From the diaries, with minor edits. This is why we have to end this war. mcjoan)

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**I know my wife hasn't seen the following headline yet, or there'd be one hell of an angry, angst-ridden email in my inbox: Oklahoma National Guard to Deploy to Iraq in 2008**

**It seems that my brigade has been given a warning order to prepare to deploy to Iraq in 2008, about six months after I get home.**

**I don't know if it's the full brigade, or just the parts that haven't deployed recently, but with the new change in army policy, I could conceivably go home this summer and turn around next January and go to Iraq.**

**Lovely. Just fucking lovely.**

A more complete article can be found at the website of our state's very right-wing newspaper--a paper so skewed it should be printed as a tabloid instead of a broadsheet--the Daily Oklahoman:

“We very rarely receive a notification of this sort and then a decision is made not to send them, although it has happened in the past,” (Adujant General of Oklahoma, Major General Henry) Wyatt said.”

And if I thought that my current deployment would make me less likely to go on this new one, boy did I have another thing coming:

“About 85 percent of the soldiers in the 45th Infantry Brigade already have served combat deployments, most in Iraq or Afghanistan. Two of the brigade's units are deployed now. The 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry is in Afghanistan, and the 245th

Engineer Company is in Iraq. Wyatt said these soldiers will have the experience that comes with being combat veterans, but he said it will also cause additional stress.

“We understand we're asking the families and employers and soldiers to deploy again,’ Wyatt said.”

Erm, Ya think, Sir?!?

I don't know if I'm going to have to go or not. I damn sure ain't volunteering.

“Commanders already have re-evaluated training plans in light of the possible deployment. Wyatt said much of the brigade's pre-deployment training will be handled by the Guard before the troops are activated.

“Wyatt said he has pushed the Army to put the brigade on alert and issue mobilization orders as soon as possible to allow commanders access to additional equipment and other resources the troops will need. He said he hopes official orders will come in by the end of February. Body armor and some weapons are in short supply to Oklahoma Guardsmen, as National Guard units nationally have shared their resources to equip troops deploying to combat areas.

“We will not let any soldier go ... unless they are fully-equipped with all of their equipment and have all the training they need to accomplish the mission,’ Wyatt said. ‘If we can't do that, then they're not going in.’”

Now, I don't want anyone to think that I disrespect my Adjutant General. I've met him personally, and he's a good man. He takes care of business, so I've no doubt that he'll take care of us as best he can.

Having said that, if I am going to Iraq, and I haven't heard for sure yet -- no one has handed me orders, or looked me in the eye and said “you, 'soonergrunt' are going,” I'd rather just stay on active duty rather than have my employer try to put me to work for six months and then find ANOTHER replacement for me.

I will not volunteer for this mission, but if ordered to go, I will go.

I know that there are those out there who would have me go AWOL or refuse to deploy.

I cannot do that.

I owe too much to these young men whom I promised I would lead and protect.

I do not believe that all war is wrong, so I cannot honestly petition to be a conscientious objector.

**I also do not believe that just because I hate the president I have to right to refuse to live up to my oath.**

I'm not a conservative, after all. I have a family to feed, and soldiers to take care of. I can do neither from prison.

**I just hope that neither I nor one of my men are the last to die for a mistake.**

**Lovely. Just fucking lovely.**

**soonergrunt's diary**

**[Reply from the blog:]**

**I'm in Afghanistan, but I'll try to answer**

**I believe that this president, who has shown no compunction about ignoring Congress (signing statements, anyone?) would simply ignore any funding action by them, and keep the Army in Iraq.**

His toadies in the republican party would then blame every single death that accrued after that on the Democrats.

This president and his immediate supporters see everything they do (or anything done by the opposition) purely in terms of political power.

**I think that what you would see would be very little change unless the Son of a Bitch in charge is impeached.**

**Of course, you'd have to impeach Bush, too.**

**[Reply from the blog:]**

**I'm worried about it, too.**

**I just got home and when they lifted the 2 year limit on reservists, everyone in my company turned a little pale. We've only been home a few months.**

**WHICH IS WHY EVERYONE ON THIS BLOG NEEDS TO CONTACT THEIR CONGRESSMEN AND TELL THEM TO REINSTATE THE "24 MONTH OUT OF 5 YEAR DEPLOYMENT POLICY" FOR RESERVISTS THAT GIVES A TIME LIMIT ON HOW LONG WE CAN SPEND AWAY FROM HOME! IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO, YOU'RE WRONG!**

Having said that, I hope you enjoy your leave. I don't think I have to tell you to have lots of sex and get plenty drunk!

And don't sweat the couple of jokers on here that are going to tell you to go AWOL. They don't understand.:)

**[Reply from the blog:]**

**That sucks man**

I'm due back in the states from this deployment in August. Apparently my battalion might deploy again the July after that, which just happens to be the month I'm supposed to get out of the army.

I'm with you on the reasons for going too. Mine are basically the same.

**Just because I'm opposed to this war doesn't mean I'm opposed to all war and I did sign the contract.**

**Nonetheless, the guys in charge of this mess should be held accountable, and I don't mean anyone in uniform either.**

**"I think war is a dangerous place." - George Bush**

by Nameless Soldier on Thu Feb 01, 2007 at 11:39:34 AM PST

**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**

### **13th SC (E) Soldier Killed, Two Wounded North Of Baghdad**

05 February 2007 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 20070205-06

LSA Anaconda, Iraq— A 13th SC(E) Soldier was killed Feb 4 as a result of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device which detonated on his M-1117 Armored Security Vehicle while conducting a combat logistics patrol north of Baghdad.

Two other Soldiers were wounded and were treated by Coalition Forces' medical personnel and have returned to duty.

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### **British Soldier Killed In Basra**

05 February 2007 By VOA News

The British military says a British soldier was killed today when a roadside bomb exploded near the U.S. consulate in Basra.

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## Medic Killed In Iraq Was The Father Of An Infant Boy

January 31, 2007 The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif.

Teen soldier David Toomalatai joined the Army to provide a future for his girlfriend and then-unborn son. Less than three months after arriving in Iraq, the medic was killed by a roadside bomb.

Toomalatai, 19, decided he needed a full-time job and tuition to eventually go to college to become a physician's assistant, said Daniela Perera, the mother of his 10-month-old son Damien.

The Army private wasn't troubled about going off to war.

"He wasn't worried," Perera said. "I kept telling him, 'Don't go.' He said, 'It's going to be good in the long run. When I come back, it will be all good. I'm going to school.'"

When he's old enough to understand them, Damien Toomalatai will watch his father's football highlight films from his days at Banning High School in Wilmington.

"I have lots of pictures," the 18-year-old mother said Tuesday. "He's going to know him. There's a lot of people to talk to him about his dad."

Toomalatai died in Iraq on Friday when an ambulance he was riding in rolled over a land mine as he picked up injured soldiers, friends and family said.

"It's so weird when somebody that you're used to seeing, and talking to, isn't there any more," said his 18-year-old sister, Savali Toomalatai, who spoke to him the day before he died.

"It sounded like he was very concerned and very scared. But at the same time, he held up to his part. He went to it full on.

He really believed he was protecting the United States and protecting his family," his sister said.

His high school science teacher Mary Bane said the Army was a way for Toomalatai "to access all of his dreams."

Bane said Toomalatai viewed the military as "a great opportunity with the college money and the family support."

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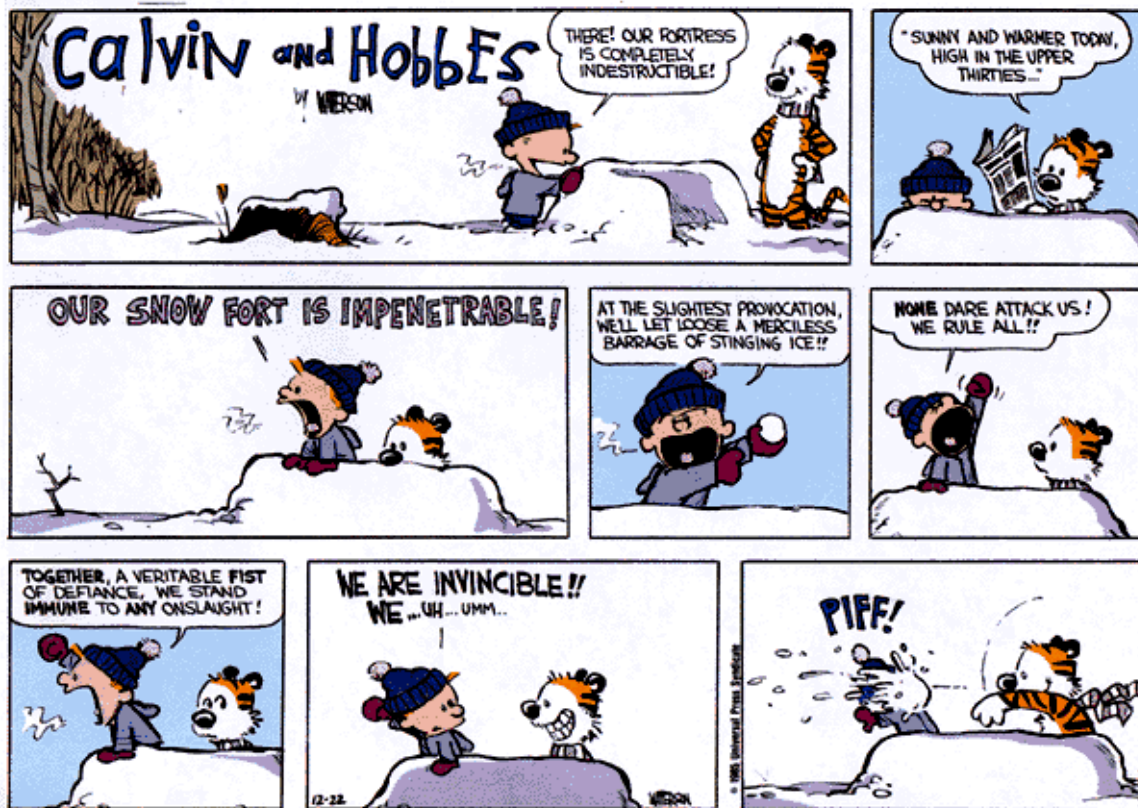
# U.S. Command Trying "Citadels" For U.S. Soldiers

02-05-2007 (AFP)

A combat outpost dubbed "Casino" has been operating in Ghazaliyah, central Baghdad, for around two weeks, the first of a string of citadels to be jointly manned by Iraqi and US troops.

**MORE:**

## One Minor Problem With Citadels



**DUH!**

Feb 5, 2007 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today

“The enemy’s IED arsenal evolves as we succeed in defeating his methods of attack,” said Brig. Gen. Dan Allyn of the Pentagon’s anti-IED office.

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## **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers secure the site following a car bomb explosion in Mosul, northern Iraq, Nov. 29, 2006. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ibrahim)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **700 Ft. Riley Soldiers Off To Bush’s Imperial Slaughterhouse**

Feb 4, 2007 Army Times Staff report

More than 700 soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan., will deploy later in February, the post announced Friday.

Exact departure dates have not been released, but deployment ceremonies have been scheduled.

About 550 soldiers from 70th Engineer Battalion are headed to Afghanistan. Once there, the battalion will be responsible for route and area clearance in addition to general engineer tasks.



Most of the unit trained at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., but some received extra training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The 70th's deployment ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Feb. 23.

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



The casket of Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Haller of Annapolis, Md., after a memorial service at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge, Md., Jan. 31, 2007. Haller was one of 12 soldiers killed when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed northeast of Baghdad. AP Photo/Kathleen Lange

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## ***The Perfect Combination Of Stupidity, Cruelty And Betrayal: 50 Troops Come Home, And Immediately Sent Back To War; 3,500 More From 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Stop-Lossed In Afghanistan***

Jan 26, 2007 & Feb 3, 2007 By William Kates, The Associated Press [Excerpts]

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — Four more months in Afghanistan for troops from the 10th Mountain Division mean four more months of anxious waiting for their families stateside.

The Pentagon announced Wednesday that it was extending combat duty for approximately 3,500 soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division as part of a push to quell the growing violence in Afghanistan.

**“It has to be awful for those families. You literally count the days until they come. And then this happens,”** said Rema Ottinger, 27, whose husband, a sergeant with the division’s headquarters, expects to be among the lucky 3,000-plus Fort Drum troops who will return home as scheduled.

“It’s bad enough they have to be away from home for a longer period. But we all know it’s more dangerous there now,” Ottinger said Thursday, echoing a sentiment shared by many military families at this upstate New York post after learning about the tour extension.

“You never relax during a deployment. Especially now. You’re on pins and needles until they get home,” said Carla Brookings, 30, of Philadelphia, N.Y. Her husband is among the 3,600 Fort Drum soldiers serving in Iraq. They are scheduled to return home this summer, when yet another 10th Mountain Division brigade will deploy to Iraq.

The brigade was deployed last winter and was scheduled to return home by mid-March. Nearly half of those troops will come home as scheduled — and about 1,000 have already arrived at Fort Drum over the past few weeks, Clark said. The troops who have had their tour extended are tentatively expected home in mid-June.

**About 50 soldiers who already made it home must return to Afghanistan, and will likely redeploy within a few days, Clark said. However, each soldier will have his case and circumstances reviewed, and family situations and medical circumstances will be considered, Clark said.**

**Another 100 to 150 troops were in transit between Afghanistan and the U.S. when they received their orders, Clark said. Those soldiers will be turned around and sent back immediately, the colonel said.**

“Those are the guys you feel for,” said Pfc. Brian Kozlowski, 22, of St. Louis.

**“To be there and be told you have to stay, is one thing. You’re a soldier. Orders can change suddenly. To be home, or on your way and turned back — that’s got to be tough for the families,”** said Kozlowski, who was in Iraq in 2005 and will return there this summer.

Bridget Velasquez said she is worried about how she will move into her family’s new house at the end of the month.

“My husband was supposed to be home to finish the paperwork and do the moving,” she said.

**Sgt. Luis Velasquez made it as far as Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan before his plane was turned around, his wife said. The sergeant has not seen his new house, which his wife and two sons picked out.**

"We e-mailed him photos and he signed off on it," Bridget Velasquez said.

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## **“Senator, It’s Nuts Over Here” “Soldiers Were Being Deployed To Do Missions That They Were Utterly Untrained To Do”**

[Thanks to Chris Lombardi, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

January 30, 2007 By Jonathan Weisman and Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writers [Excerpts]

**Just before Christmas, an Army captain named Brian Freeman cornered Sens. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) and John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) at a Baghdad helicopter landing zone.**

**The war was going badly, he told them. Troops were stretched so thin they were doing tasks they never dreamed of, let alone trained for.**

**Freeman, 31, took a short holiday leave to see his 14-month-old daughter and 2-year-old son, returned to his base in Karbala, Iraq, and less than two weeks ago died in a hail of bullets and grenades.**

Insurgents, dressed in U.S. military uniforms, speaking English and driving black American SUVs, got through a checkpoint and attacked, kidnapped four soldiers and later shot them. Freeman died in the assault, the fifth casualty of the brazen attack.

In 2004, eager to get on with his career and family life, Freeman moved into the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), a pool of trained soldiers not assigned to any unit, to serve out the rest of his eight-year mandatory obligation.

He was in California with a civilian job, a 1-year-old son named Gunnar and another baby on the way in the fall of 2005 when a shortage of officers prompted a large call-up by the IRR of West Point graduates from the classes of 1998 and later -- many of whom had only a few months of service left.

Charlotte Freeman, Freeman's wife, recalled her husband's shock upon receiving an Army telegram ordering him back to active duty. "He walked into the house and was totally white," she said yesterday. "He had moved on" from the Army.

"For my sake, he tried to get out" of the deployment, she said. But she knew he felt torn. "A part of him felt very guilty, because he had never gone to Iraq. He had dodged that bullet," she said.

Concerned about leaving his wife while she was pregnant, Freeman was able to obtain a three-month deferral and spend time with their newborn daughter, Ingrid. Just after Christmas in 2005, he grew so concerned about his pending deployment -- and his lack of qualifications to be a civil affairs officer -- that he anxiously contacted a reporter for The Washington Post.

Maj. Tony Nichols, who commanded a tank company that Freeman served in during his active duty, said Freeman "would have gone with a tank crew . . . in a heartbeat" but felt uneasy going with an unfamiliar civil affairs team.

Once in Iraq, Freeman was dismayed to find that his training "had no relation to what they were actually doing," Charlotte Freeman said. "He was appalled," enduring danger but seeing no clear mission, she said. Moreover, he believed that the Iraqis "didn't want us there."

Still, he did his best, working with the governor of Karbala to try to improve security and touching individual lives, such as helping an Iraqi boy who needed heart surgery and obtaining death benefits for an Iraqi interpreter's family. "He truly wanted to make a difference," Charlotte said.

Late last year, Freeman approached the senators at Landing Zone Washington, in Baghdad's Green Zone, "almost out of the shadows," Dodd recalled.

Even though he felt nervous, he told his wife later, he delivered his message with urgency.

**Soldiers were being deployed to do missions that they were utterly untrained to do.**

**Freeman, for example, an armor officer, had been sent to help foster democracy and rebuild an Iraqi civil society. State Department personnel who could do those jobs were restricted in their travel off military bases by regional security officers who said it was unsafe for them to venture out.**

"Senator, it's nuts over here," Dodd quoted Freeman as saying.

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**“A Returning Soldier Has To Wait An Average Of 165 Days For A VA Decision On Disability Benefits; “Appeal Can Take Up To 3 Years”**

# **“A Backlog Of 400,000 Cases” For PTSD Treatment**

**[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,488<sup>th</sup> time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]**

04 February 2007 By Andrew Weaver and Ray McGovern, The Baltimore Sun [Excerpts]

The California Nurses Association reported that in the first quarter of 2006, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "treated 20,638 Iraq veterans for post-traumatic stress disorder, and they have a backlog of 400,000 cases."

A returning soldier has to wait an average of 165 days for a VA decision on initial disability benefits, and an appeal can take up to three years.

This is unacceptable and reprehensible.

At the same time, we are hearing disturbing news reports that these traumatized soldiers are not receiving the mental health care they urgently require. Last month, National Public Radio journalist Daniel Zwerdling did an extensive story on the military's treatment of personnel returning from Iraq who suffer from emotional problems, including PTSD.

Veterans coming home stated that their superiors have harassed and punished them for seeking help for psychological problems triggered by their service in Iraq. Several of the soldiers' supervisors acknowledged the callous treatment.

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## **Stand Against Iraq Sends Officer To Trial**

05 November 2007 By Tomas Alex Tizon, The Los Angeles Times

Olympia, Washington - The soldier stands in his living room eyeing all the cool soldier stuff he never got to use in a real war. Such as the helmet with not a single ding and the sleek body armor with not a scuff. The gear piles high on the carpet.

First Lt. Ehren Watada is giving it all back and, out of courtesy, packing it up. The Army had treated him with utmost respect until the moment it decided to court-martial him. It was nothing personal. The Army does what it has to do.

Just like Watada himself did what he believed he had to do seven months ago when he became the first - and only - commissioned officer in the United States publicly to refuse deployment to Iraq.

His conscience, he said, had overtaken him. He told the world what he had privately told his superiors months earlier: that he believed the war was illegal and immoral, and he would play no role in it.

Watada tried to resign; the Army denied him. He said he was willing to fight in Afghanistan; the Army refused him again: A soldier cannot pick and choose where he fights. As his unit shipped off to Iraq, Watada stayed to face the consequences.

At the end of 2005, he was convinced the Bush administration purposefully manipulated intelligence to justify the invasion and the congressional approval of the war therefore was based on lies.

He said he was so anguished by his conclusion and the knowledge that he would soon be "participating in the madness" that he grew deeply depressed. In December 2005, he sought guidance from a chaplain and a mental-health counselor. Neither helped. He considered filing for conscientious objector status but could not in good conscience, he says, because he does not oppose bearing arms.

In January 2006, he submitted a letter of resignation, was refused, and the process rolled to where it is today.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

## **Roll Of Honor: Courage To Resist**

**At a recent meeting in New York City organized by Courage To Resist to provide support for the decision of First Lt. Ehren Watada to refuse orders to deploy to Iraq, a number of people who spoke criticized his position that instead of going to Iraq he would accept orders instead to deploy to Afghanistan and participate in the war of Occupation there.**

**Respect and honor to Courage To Resist for that.**

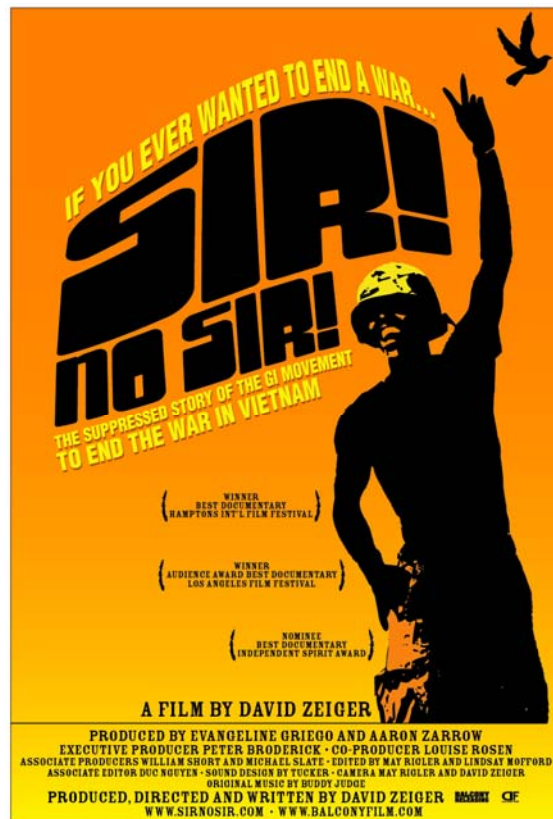
It is possible to support one of his decisions, and defend him against government attack for his position on Iraq, and completely reject the politics of another, his politics about Afghanistan.

That's called critical support.

We can walk and chew gum and the same time.

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At: [http://www.sirnosir.com/home\\_dvd\\_storefront.html](http://www.sirnosir.com/home_dvd_storefront.html)

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**Stolen Time, Stolen Lives, A  
“Memorial” In The Rayburn Building;**

# **“The Capitol Police Were Milling Around Us From The Very Instant We Unfurled That Large Black Banner”**

February 4, 2007 by Elaine Brower, Opednews.com. Anti-war activist, mother of U.S. Marine currently returned from Fallujah; member of Steering Committee for the "World Can't Wait, Drive Out the Bush Regime" and Military Families Speak Out.

Tens of Thousands of anti-war activists descended on Washington, D.C. last weekend to express our deep commitment to ending the illegal occupation of Iraq, stop the meaningless death of our military and end the killing of innocent people in Iraq and to head off a war with Iran.

All of us spent thousands, if not a total of a million dollars to get to Washington. People from all States, various organizations, and those who have never attended a protest before came. An honest cross-section of this Nation appeared to express how disgusted they were with the leadership of this Country and the direction we are headed. It was truly a moving site, and brought me to tears.

Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, Labor Against the War, Military Families Speak Out, Gold Star Families for Peace, World Can't Wait, Impeach Bush Committee, 9/11 Truth, Christians Against the War, Palestinians for Peace, Jews for Peace, Buddhists, Baptists and an entire assortment of people who span the generations stood on the Mall for hours holding signs, singing, yelling and listening in solidarity with every single message given from the stage. News media outlets from every Country were assembled on a platform, including a wonderful gentleman that interviewed me from Al Jazeera. He asked me why I was here today and I said "to Impeach Bush and Cheney for War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. I want all people of this world to know we are here and want the killing to stop."

The message went to not only our Country's elected leaders, but to any one who may stand in the way of this movement of the masses. On Sunday, much to my amazement, there were hundreds of people still around attending workshops on so many topics. Seminars on "How to Lobby your Congressperson", "How to perform non-violent Civil Disobedience", "Why we should Impeach," and so many others were held in a local High School. These were serious people who meant business. I was there with fellow citizens who gave up their weekend of shopping, movies, family dinners and relaxation to gobble up all the knowledge they could to enter the Halls of Congress the next day and do battle with the people they had chosen to sit across the table from. I called home and told my husband "This movement is better than the 60's. People that are here are savvy, span the generations and come from all over the Country, and they really mean business." I was impressed.

Early Monday morning, I entered the Congressional Building known as the "Rayburn" to see the Halls churning with the same faces I had seen all weekend. Vermont, Oregon, Washington State, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Florida were all in the "House." As well as many other States I may have missed mentioning. For the first time in a while I thought "this just might work." It was exhilarating and



exhausting all at once. Democracy at work, that is what I was witnessing. This just might keep my Marine son from going back to Iraq, for yet another tour of duty.

At noon my friends arrived ready, willing and able to participate in calling further attention to the death and destruction that the illegal war with Iraq caused. Our destination was the "reflecting pool" in the Atrium located right in the center of the Rayburn. We wanted to give a boost to the courage and further inspire all those citizens who spent thousands of dollars and so much of their time to visit with Congress members. And we did not want anyone to forget the blood spilled by this current Administration.

**Entry into the Atrium was made with the press following us. Many people in the building already knew that we would be conducting a Memorial to "Endless War," and started gathering in the Atrium, and hallways of the building. Our 5 x 20 foot black banner which read "WAR" in white letters was unfurled. Cards with our message of "We Will Not Be Silent" adopted from the "White Rose" underground student resistance movement in Nazi Germany along with 1,200 white roses were laid out in the Atrium to be tossed into the reflecting pool.**

Seven of us participated in the action, 3 holding the banner, 2 reading the names of the dead marines, soldiers, sailors, and Iraqis, and 1 ringing a chime after each name was read, and 1 tossing roses. We were freezing, tired and hungry, but only thought of those who in far away countries were dying, being executed or tortured and had it so much worse than we did. Names of young soldiers and young Iraqi's, women and children alike, cast a dark mood in this bright, beautiful setting.

Those inside the building were compelled into the Atrium once again in solidarity with our commitment to bring peace to the world. Strangers picked up our white roses and tossed them into the pool of half-frozen water. The white roses floated and bobbed as the names were being read. Envision each individual person participating in this Memorial to "Endless War" without being asked to attend by a flyer, no organizational banner giving any credit to a particular group, and mostly without pomp and circumstance. This was truly a moment of the People.

**The Capitol Police were milling around us from the very instant we unfurled that large black banner.**

The Press kept taking pictures and looked as somber as we did. The Police were determined to stop us by issuing warnings and taking away postcards that announced "We Will Not Be Silent". They snapped plastic handcuffs as they removed them from their belts and bags so we could overhear them. The cold did not make me shake but I shuddered to think of what the Police were about to do. Our little group kept standing there as the names were being read. No one in the Atrium moved. Some held hands, some kneeled in prayer and others sang. The names of the dead were endless. Warnings to "cease and desist" were issued through a bullhorn.

**The Capitol Police were then determined to clear the Atrium. First they announced to those that joined us to leave the area or risk being arrested. I watched in amazement as no one moved. Again they announced the looming threat of arrest. People reluctantly started milling away and towards the doors. The Press was told to leave or they would be arrested, which did not make them**

happy, but they left us there. There we were again, the seven of us, and two who joined in solidarity with us.

**They came into Congress that morning to meet with their representatives but remained there thinking it was far more important to share this moment.**

Nine were arrested in the quiet Atrium that moments before was filled with many, many people from all walks of life. But the White Roses remained in the reflecting pool to honor the dead and dying at that very moment.

This action was not staged, was not part of any one specific "anti-war organization", but a melding of people who believe that the world is in a serious state of danger. We don't have a color associated with us; we don't believe in fundraising, we paid for the entire Memorial with our own money. Those who joined us knew that, you could see it in their eyes, and hear it in their shouting from the hallways and stairs "The Whole World Is Watching" as the Police walked us out of the building. We Nine, although scared, cold and tired, felt proud to be a fraction of the whole group of citizens who, like us, spent their own personal money and time to earnestly seek an end to all the atrocities of war and to bring to justice those who have lied and who keep lying to the masses of People who want these elected representatives to "cease and desist."

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## **Disgusting Anniversary: February 6, 1943**



Carl Bunin Peace History February 5-11

The U.S. government required the 110,000 dispossessed Japanese-Americans forcibly held in concentration camps to answer loyalty surveys.

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# **“The One Who Fomented Chaos In Lebanon, Who Destroyed Lebanon, Who Killed Women And Children, Old And Young In Lebanon, Is George Bush”**

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

Jan 30 By Yara Bayoumy, Reuters

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah accused President Bush on Tuesday of creating chaos in Lebanon, rejecting his charge that the militant group and its allies were causing the violence.

Sectarian clashes in Beirut last week between pro- and anti-government supporters left seven people killed, bringing back memories of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

**Addressing hundreds of thousands of Shi'ite Lebanese gathered in Beirut's southern suburb for the climax of the annual Ashura religious ceremony, Nasrallah challenged Bush's latest attack against the group and said the U.S. had ordered Israel to launch last year's war against Hezbollah guerrillas.**

On Monday, Bush accused Hezbollah and its allies Iran and Syria of stirring up the latest violence in Lebanon in a bid to topple its government and said "those responsible for creating chaos must be called to account."

**"The one who fomented chaos in Lebanon, who destroyed Lebanon, who killed women and children, old and young in Lebanon, is George Bush and (Secretary of State) Condoleezza Rice who ordered the Zionists to launch the war on Lebanon," Nasrallah said in a fiery speech.**

The July-August war killed nearly 1,200 people in Lebanon, mainly civilians, and 157 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

"The one who must be punished, who must be tried, is the one who ordered the launching of war on Lebanon.

**“George Bush wants to punish you because you resisted, he wants to punish you because you won,” Nasrallah said addressing a sea of black which converged on Beirut's southern suburb to commemorate the killing in battle of the Prophet Mohammad's grandson, Imam Hussein.**

"George Bush knows ... and we reiterate to him -- and the whole world should hear --, that we are a nation that doesn't succumb and can't be humiliated."

**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.**

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi family held at gunpoint as foreign occupation soldiers the U.S. search their home near Youssifiyah, 12 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 3, 2007. Iraqi citizens can be arrested, beaten or killed by the foreign troops if they resist the searches. They have no right observe the search to see what the foreign troops take from their homes. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

**"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."**

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

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

## **The Great Iraqi Collaborator Training Farce Rolls On: "They Find Half The Police On-Duty Sleeping"**

Feb. 5, 2007 CBS News correspondent Cami McCormick [Excerpts]

**U.S. soldiers pay a surprise visit to an Iraqi National police checkpoint in the middle of the night. They find half the police on-duty sleeping, and none of them aware of an impending attack.**

Intelligence indicates gunmen may be massing for an attack here, Checkpoint 2 in Rasallah, Baghdad Province — one of the most dangerous. It's targeted nightly.

**Lt. Col. Anthony Cornett, the U.S. team leader, urges the Iraqi captain to wake up his men and defend the checkpoint.**

"I told him, 'let's get the other men up and get them fully prepared for the attack.' These gunmen generally attack at the same time every night. They know that. I know that. So they should be prepared, not waiting to call the Americans to come and help them," Cornett says.

"They can fend this off by themselves. They can do this," he says.

**The Iraqis listen to Cornett but make no move to wake the others.**

They are polite, and intrigued by the American visit, but they seem unafraid — even as the Iraqi captain acknowledges the gunmen are there and are trying to chase them off.

"This is a very crucial checkpoint that we can't afford to get rid of," Cornett says. "They have to protect this checkpoint and they have to get aggressive about patrolling outside of it so the enemy doesn't get that close."

But the Iraqis complain the fighters they're up against have better weapons and more ammunition.

"Safety equipment, helmets, vests, boots, food, ammo, those things are tight. You have very little of it and there is no making a call and getting an abundant re-supply like we do," explains Master Sergeant John Yarborough.

American soldiers sometimes spot police wearing sandals with their uniforms because they don't have boots.

**A lack of hardware, and footwear, is only the tip of the iceberg — many of these men have no formal law enforcement training.**

"They come straight off the street," Cornett says. "They throw on a haphazard uniform and now they're out there doing something that they have no training to do."

Militia influence is also a problem, especially in the Iraqi National Police ranks.

"Some of them have allegiances to these different organizations that are Sunni or Shiite," Cornett says.

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

***This Is Not A Parody:***

# U.S. Government Stops Payment To Writers Who Report On Cuba

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

February 5, 2007 Duncan Campbell, The Guardian

An Oslo hotel, owned by the US Hilton chain, refused a booking by a Cuban trade delegation to the city's travel fair last month because of the US embargo of the communist Caribbean island.

The Hilton group is also banning Cuban delegations from all of its hotels around the world as are other American hotel companies, a Hilton spokeswoman in London told the Guardian yesterday.

Norwegian trade unions and anti-racist organisations complained about the Scandic hotel's actions and are now moving union conferences elsewhere until the policy is changed.

"It is not allowed by law in Norway to discriminate on grounds of gender, religion or nationality," said the deputy leader of the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees, Anne Grethe Skaardal. "It is unacceptable for the US to dictate to the whole world."

The hotel ban is just one of the latest of many similar actions prompted by the US embargo of Cuba.

**Last month freelance journalist Tom Fawthrop, who has written for the Guardian and the Economist, was puzzled that he had not been paid for an article in the Sydney Morning Herald that he had written about the Cuban health service.**

**On enquiring what had happened, he received this message from Citibank Global: "Due to US sanctions, your payment was stopped for the following reason - reference to Cuban doctors. The Office of Foreign Asset Controls is requesting clarification. Please advise details of Cuban doctors and also purpose of this transaction."**

**Last year, Ann Louise Bardach, the American journalist and author who wrote the book Cuba Confidential, was also puzzled that she had not received payment for consultancy work on the Channel Four Film, 638 Ways to Kill Castro.**

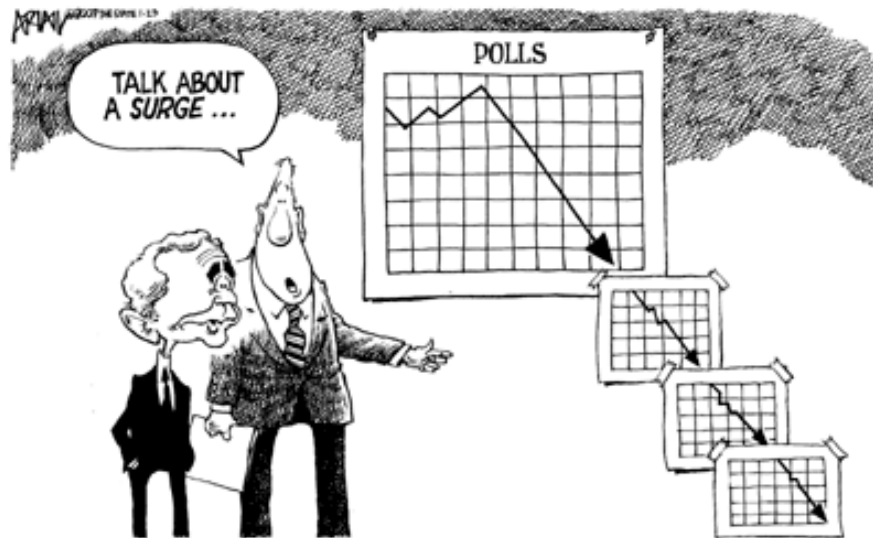
**She took the matter up with the production company in London and it transpired that the payment had indeed been sent but had been held up in the US because the word "Cuba" appeared in reference to the payment.**

The hotel ban has also operated in different parts of the world. Last year, the Mexican government fined the Sheraton Maria Isabel hotel in Mexico City around £60,000 for expelling 16 Cuban guests.

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

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

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



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

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

***Win One For Our Side:***  
**Immigration Command Scum**  
**Forced To Release Some Kids**  
**From Texas Prison**



February 3 / 4, 2007 By GREG MOSES, CounterPunch. Greg Moses is editor of the Texas Civil Rights Review and author of Revolution of Conscience: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Philosophy of Nonviolence.

For three painful months while his brother's family was imprisoned by USA immigration authorities, Ahmad Ibrahim, a United States citizen of Palestinian heritage, kept his faith that "the people of America are good people."

But Ahmad did not know that the one good American who would finally orchestrate the dramatic release of the family had himself been exiled by USA immigration authorities to China. So Ahmad's faith in America had to hold strong from the beginning of November through the sacred Eid ul-Adha season of early January, until the exiled American could return.

On January 8, when Dallas real-estate developer Ralph Isenberg landed in Dallas from China with his wife and infant daughter, the wheels of the Ibrahim family release were soon to roll.

**On or about January 10, New York immigration attorney Theodore Cox sent Isenberg an email, asking if he'd heard about children imprisoned by the federal bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).**

"Essentially, I'd had my run-in with immigration," explained Isenberg over the telephone Friday night. "My wife had been detained at the immigration prison in Haskell, Texas, deported with our 3-month-old daughter to China, and I had to leave my adopted 16-year-old daughter in America in order to live with them and fight for their re-entry." That fight lasted 14 months. "So I knew how lovely ICE could be."

**Following up on the email from Cox, Isenberg says he "looked at pictures of the kids in prison, found out it was in Texas, and I just went berserk.**

**"You do not imprison kids in Texas, the U.S., or anywhere. No, no, no, no, no. Goodness gracious, kids in prison? Give me a break!"**

As a big-city real-estate developer, Isenberg knew the difference between wishing and doing, so he got busy grinding out results. By Jan. 26, Ahmad Ibrahim had a brand new friend and two new lawyers. How could anyone know that because of these things, release of his brother's family was only one week away?

This past Thursday, Feb. 1, attorney Cox and his colleague Joshua Bardavid filed habeas corpus motions in federal courts of Dallas and Austin, stating shocking facts about the treatment of mother Hanan Ibrahim and her four children.

The children sobbed uncontrollably at times.

Hanan had been denied pre-natal vitamins for her pregnancy. Trips to the doctor were 8-hour ordeals during which the children back at jail fretted and cried.

**Hanan was placed in shackles for medical transport.**

She was torn between her children and her health care.

When Cox and Bardavid walked into the federal court building in Dallas, accompanied by Ahmad Ibrahim and his tiny niece Zahra--who had been separated from her family and placed into her uncle's care--they were greeted by a half-dozen television cameras, a lobby full of reporters, and a phalanx of federal marshals. Whatever went on next between the legal professionals in those closely-guarded chambers of the Dallas federal court changed everything very quickly. Freedom for the Ibrahim family was only 48 hours away.

**On Friday afternoon, Dallas attorney John Wheat Gibson sent out a jubilant email titled "Amazing Grace." The Bureau of Immigration Appeals (BIA) had caved overnight.**

Suddenly, after years and months of denying Gibson's pleas in behalf of the Ibrahims, the BIA reversed course completely.

Gibson's November 2006 appeal for the family's asylum would be considered. And if the family was now eligible for asylum, then there could be no legal basis for their imprisonment.

**"Now there is no excuse for the Gestapo to keep the children in prison any longer," wrote Gibson.**

"I have never heard of the Board granting such a motion for Palestinian asylum seekers before, even though many people have tried," wrote attorney Bardavid Friday evening. "I believe that the pressure put on the government by the actions filed in the federal courts, the media attention . . . and good work and thorough preparation of Mr. Gibson in his motion on behalf of the Ibrahims resulted in this outcome."

"It's the Declaration of Independence for the Palestinian people," said Isenberg in a giddy mood Friday night. "We got the American government to blink!" How can he help but mention that he is proud of this achievement? How can he help but reflect that he is a son of Holocaust survivors?

Meanwhile this Friday night, Jay Johnson-Castro, faithful organizer of three vigils outside the Hutto prison, promises to send photos of three ugly walls that stand between the USA and California: "I mean they are ugly ugly."

It is past dark now and he stands upon a mass grave at the Holtville Cemetery near San Diego, where border crossers are buried who don't make it over alive. "They are found dead and turned over to be buried." It's not the only mass grave at the border. There will be more to visit as the Marcha Migrante II Border Caravan begins its trek from San Diego to Brownsville and back.

"They say women are brought here in the middle of the night to do the burying," says Johnson-Castro. "The federal government contracts with Imperial County to pay the city to bury these people, and nobody knows who they are. These are totally anonymous people who died as a result of our pathetic immigration system. Nobody is thinking of these people. The bodies are just thrown into the ground and dirt is pushed over them with a blade."

From Holtville Cemetery, Johnson-Castro will caravan along the border, through the cities of the Rio Grande, making his way back to Hutto prison for his fourth vigil on Feb. 12. The release of the Ibrahim family is great news.

But we know there are more Palestinian families in there along with anonymous border crossers and their children.

"We're going to shut that prison down," is something that Johnson-Castro and Isenberg have both promised over the phone tonight. In those merging voices, the faith of Ahmad Ibrahim is redeemed.

"I'm just enjoying the day," says Ahmad Saturday morning, speaking by cell phone from a limousine that is somewhere between home and Hutto prison. The voice of his little niece Zahra chatters in the background. "It is a good day

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