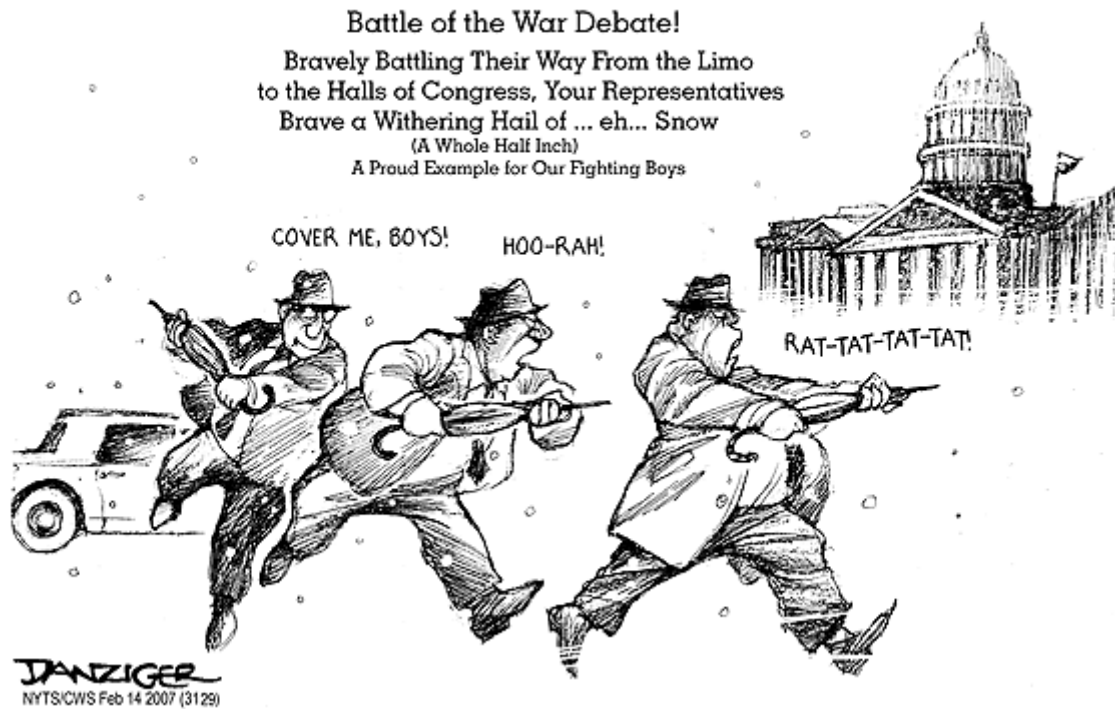


## GI SPECIAL 5C10:



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

# Lying Rats Alert:

## Asshole #1: West Point Lying Rat

Feb 15 By ANNE FLAHERTY, Associated Press Writer

“This nonbinding resolution serves no purpose other than pacifying the Democrats’ political base **and lowering morale in our military,**” said Rep. Geoff Davis, R-Ky., a West Point graduate who was a flight commander with the Army’s 82nd Airborne.

## Asshole #2: Vietnam Veteran Lying Rat

16 February 2007 The Associated Press

Republicans like Rep. Sam Johnson - a distinguished Vietnam War veteran - are on the House floor explaining **the demoralizing impact that the majority's political maneuvers will have on our men and women in uniform,**" said House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

2.17.07 Wall St. Journal

Republicans hammered home the argument that passage of the resolution could **damage the morale of troops in Iraq.** Invoking memories of Vietnam, the part chose to close debate with an emotional appeal by Rep. Sam Johnson (R., Texas) an Air Force Veteran and former POW from that war.

**MORE:**

**“The Protests In The U.S. Are Not Demoralizing Troops In The Field”**

**“It Was, In Fact, Very Much A Morale Builder”**

**“I Think The Protesters May Be The Only Ones Who Really Give A Damn About What's Happening”**

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

### **A Letter From A Combat Soldier:**

**“November 5, 1969**

“It has been argued by people, such as Vice President Agnew, that the peace demonstrations are demoralizing and dispiriting to those fighting in Vietnam and therefore should not take place.

“I returned from Vietnam on October 15 and found nothing to be further from the truth.

**“In my own infantry company, which I believe to be fairly representative, the Moratorium [mass demonstrations nation wide against the Vietnam War; about 200,000 nation-wide] had wide support.**

**“It was, in fact, very much a morale builder.**

**“The men are intelligent enough to realize that the peace demonstrations are on their behalf.**

**“They realize that the greater the pressure kept on President Nixon, the sooner they’ll get home.**

**“Even more importantly, the fewer will be their friends who do not return.**

“It has also been advanced by these same people, that unless you’ve been to Vietnam, you don’t know what is really going on there, and have no right to criticize it.

“While this is an obviously fallacious argument, being there does add a personal perspective to the situation, which makes many of your men fighting in Vietnam the biggest critics of the war.

“They can see what is going on, not what is screened through the media.

**“While many wore black arm bands for the October 15th Moratorium, they are for the large part prevented from demonstrating their feelings on the war.**

**“They can give only moral support to the Peace Moratorium, and hope that it is successful.**

**“Peace and Love, Sgt. James C. Ruh”**

\*\*\*\*\*

Interviews conducted by Hal Wingo, a reporter for Life magazine, supported Sgt. Ruh’s perception that dissent was widespread among soldiers in Vietnam. Wingo (1969) interviewed one hundred GIs from I Corps in the north to III Corps in the south.

**His findings, as reported in Life on October 24, were that “many soldiers regard the organized antiwar campaign in the U.S. with open and outspoken sympathy,” and that, “the protests in the U.S. are not demoralizing troops in the field.”**

**Pfc. Chris Yapp, a Fourth Division civil affairs team member in a Montagnard village told Wingo, “I think the protesters may be the only ones who really give a damn about what’s happening.”**

Pvt. Jim Beck, a 101st Division medic, who had gone to Vietnam partly to avenge the death of his brother at Khe San a year earlier, said, “The demonstrators are right to speak up because this war is wrong and it must be stopped.”

**MORE:**

# “The Troops Themselves Will Certainly Support Going Home”

3.5.07 By Michael Kinsley, Time Magazine

The Vietnam antiwar movement saved the lives of untold thousands of Americans by getting us out of that war — not quickly, but eventually.

If the Iraq antiwar movement manages to do the same, even as its proponents are accused of failing to “support the troops,” the troops themselves will certainly support going home.

**MORE:**

## Demoralizing The Troops? Her Marine Cpl. Son Isn't Demoralized: He's Traveling With Veterans For Peace

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

**You see, this morning I was disappointed because I was hoping to see my son on spring break. But he had decided to go on the Veterans for Peace Bus leaving Fayetteville, North Carolina, on March 17, heading down to New Orleans to help with reconstruction.**

26 February 2007 By Tina Richards, Truthout Guest Contributor. **Tina Richards's son Cloy is a corporal in the United States Marine Corps who has served two tours in Iraq.**

Demoralizing the troops ...

Those were the words that inspired me to challenge Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) in a Senate hearing a few weeks ago. Those were the words that echoed so loudly in my mind I couldn't - no, I wouldn't stay silent.

Demoralizing the troops ...

Today I had to drop off Polly, a friend who flew out to help me this last week in DC with my occupation project (details at website <http://grassrootsamerica4us.org/>), at the Baltimore airport.

When we arrived, the majority of customers waiting in line were soldiers. All were in desert camis.

Instantly, I thought of the days when I saw my son off to war dressed in those same camis and tears came to my eyes.

I think the second-to-worst event for a mother is seeing her son off to war, unknowing if he'll return. The worst is when he doesn't return.

But these troops were smiling, relaxed and relieved. Sitting down for a cup of coffee before Polly's flight took off, we were mixed in a sea of beige and brown. A conversation started about returning to family and where home is for each.

One soldier was from Springfield, Missouri. "Missouri? Well, I'm from Salem," I said. The soldier's family was from Salem, Missouri, and we quickly struck up a conversation. "Is the water tower still standing?" he asked. "Yes, right next to the high school," I said.

He told me of his time in Afghanistan and how honored he was to be on Nancy Pelosi's guard duty when she was there a couple of months ago. "She so small," he said, "but a great lady." You could see the grin on his face as he recalled stories about her. Proud to be on guard for the speaker of the House.

When I told him why I was in DC and not Missouri, he hung his head low and shook it back and forth.

**He told me of the year before when he was in Iraq. He told me about a buddy who was injured in an explosion. His friend was from Michigan and had dreamed his whole life of being a policeman, like his dad.**

**Just before his dad had died of cancer, he had left him a knife. Not an expensive knife, but one with great sentimental value. As his fellow soldier was being evacuated, he asked him to hold onto the knife. "You never know what's going to happen."**

**He wanted it safe. He promised to return it to his brother-in-arms. He kept his promise. When they met up, his friend couldn't move his arm from the battle injury. He couldn't become a cop either.**

**"Now he's a security guard, making \$10 an hour and has to pay for his own car and gas." The VA only gave him 10 percent disability, \$200 a month. "What kind of life is that?" the soldier asked me.**

**Demoralized? You bet.**

**Not from photos in the Washington Post or Democrats and Republicans arguing about what direction to take.**

**But from one soldier seeing how a fellow brother-in-arms is being treated by their own government after they honorably serve, risking life and limb, doing everything asked of them. Promises broken.**

As Polly and I left, I told the soldiers we would keep fighting to ensure their brothers and sisters-in-arms would be taken care of, and work to make sure they get the time off to spend with their families. They smiled and thanked us. We welcomed them home.

**You see, this morning I was disappointed because I was hoping to see my son on spring break.**

**But he had decided to go on the Veterans for Peace Bus leaving Fayetteville, North Carolina, on March 17, heading down to New Orleans to help with reconstruction. I was feeling pretty useless and wasn't sure if anyone wanted to hear from me. I'm just one voice.**

But that café filled with soldiers, their thank yous and smiles that "we the people" are fighting for their rights, has given me encouragement to continue, no matter how small the one voice is.

Because Polly's voice working in Rochester, New York, to rally the youth to end the war; Chuck Smith in St. Louis, driving anywhere to support a fellow soldier who chooses to become a war resister; Gael and Medea with Code Pink, whose creativity inspires thousands of women throughout the world; Stacey Hafley from Columbia, Missouri, who is holding down the fort while her events coordinator is in DC; or the Mt. Rainier Neighbors UFPJ who share their homes with strangers working for peace; or Tom Seagar and Ruth Gilmore in Rolla, Missouri, who lead a vigil with five or six others every week.

We are all important, bringing our different ideas, skills, talents, efforts, money and voices to end the war. One voice alone, I would be useless. But being united with thousands across this country makes us a force to be reckoned with.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Marine Killed In Anbar**

March 9, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070309-03

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West was killed March 9 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

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# Mineral Man Killed In Iraq



BARNETT

February 27, 2007 By LEE MORRISON, T-R Business Editor, The Times-Reporter

Those who knew Sgt. Jeremy D. Barnett, 27, of Mineral City say it was typical for him to volunteer for the kind of duty that cost him his life.

Barnett answered the call for a volunteer to help on patrol Wednesday at Ad-Dujayl, Iraq, which is north of Baghdad.

"It was his day off, but he volunteered, even though I'd told him not to before he left," his father, David Barnett of Mineral City, said Monday night. "He was a good kid."

"He told me he was not going to be a 20-year man who retired without ever seeing combat duty," said Jeremy's uncle, Craig Barnett of New Philadelphia.

Jeremy's mother is Michele Barnett of Hartville, the former Michele Fiddler of Mineral City. He also is survived by three sisters, Natalie of Mineral City and Emily and Rebecca of Hartville.

The soldier died Saturday in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at Landstuhl, Germany, from "wounds sustained from a landmine detonation," according to an announcement Monday by the U.S. Department of Defense, which stated he died supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Barnett was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He leaves behind his wife of six months, Stephanie, who is a member of the Texas National Guard and resides at Fort Hood. She is from Texas, and they met in the service, David Barnett said.

"It was an explosion, but no one seems to know exactly what happened," Barnett said. "I'm assuming they were out on patrol. I know he got out of the Humvee to check on something and got hit. I heard that it was a rocket propelled grenade. I don't know if anybody else got hurt."

Barnett had been staying in contact with his son via e-mail, last being in contact last week.

"We were just talking," he said. "There's not a whole lot they can say. He was talking about hunting and that when he would get home, he had a lot of hunting and fishing to

catch up on. Deer hunting was his favorite. He hadn't done any good (hunting) around here on leave, but he did all right while in Texas. Hunting and fishing, that was his life."

Jeremy attended Sandy Valley High near Magnolia until his junior year and graduated in 2000 from Warren G. Harding High at Warren. He signed up to join the Navy and went in right after graduation, his father said.

"He spent four years on the aircraft carrier George Washington and said he'd seen enough ocean," his father recalled.

Six months after getting out of the Navy, Jeremy went into the Army. He was in his third year of a four-year hitch and had spent a year stationed at the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea. Jeremy had earned medals for serving in Korea and other medals for his Navy service, his father said.

"He enjoyed the service, and he did well at it," Barnett said.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Finefrock-Gordon Funeral Home at Magnolia.

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## **KIA February 2007**

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

March 5, 2007 by Debi Smith, Common Dreams [Excerpt]

In Memoriam:

Army Spc. Eric R. Sieger, 18, of Layton, Utah

Army Sgt. Maj. Michael C. Mettille, 44, of West St. Paul, Minnesota

Marine Cpl. Richard O. Quill III, 22, of Roswell, Georgia

Army Pfc. Kenneth T. Butler, 21, of East Liverpool, Ohio

Army Pfc. David C. Armstrong, 21, of Zanesville, Ohio

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Terry J. Elliott, 34, of Middleton, Tennessee

Navy Hospitalman Matthew G. Conte, 22, of Mogadore, Ohio

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason G. Defrenn, 34, of Barnwell, South Carolina

Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Yoakum, 41, of Hemet, California

Army Capt. Kevin C. Landeck, 26, of Illinois

Army Staff Sgt. Terrence D. Dunn, 38, of Houston, Texas



Army Spc. Alan E. McPeek, 20, of Tucson, Arizona

Army Pvt. Matthew T. Zeimer, 18, of Glendive, Montana

Army Staff Sgt. Ronnie L. Sanders, 26, of Thibodaux, Louisiana

Army Sgt. Randy J. Matheny, 20, of McCook, Nebraska

Army Pvt. Clarence T. Spencer, 24, of San Diego, California

Marine Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Van Parys, 20, of New Tripoli, Pennsylvania

Marine Sgt. Joshua J. Frazier, 24, of Spotsylvania, Virginia

Army Pfc. Brian A. Browning, 20, of Astoria, Oregon

Marine Cpl. Jennifer M. Parcell, 20, of Bel Air, Maryland

Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Gilbert Minjares Jr., 31, of El Paso, Texas

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Manuel A. Ruiz, 21, of Federalsburg, Maryland

Marine Pfc. Tarryl B. Hill, 19, of Shelby Township, Michigan

Marine Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Ellis, 40, of Ashland, Ohio

Marine Cpl. Thomas E. Saba, 30, of Toms River, New Jersey

Marine Capt. Jennifer J. Harris, 28, of Swampscott, Massachusetts

Marine Sgt. James R. Tijerina, 26, of Beasley, Texas

Marine 1st Lt. Jared M. Landaker, 25, of Big Bear City, California

Marine Sgt. Travis D. Pfister, 27, of Richland, Washington

Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew P. Pathenos, 21, of Ballwin, Missouri

Army Pvt. Raymond M. Werner, 21, of Boise, Idaho

Army Sgt. James J. Holtom, 22, of Rexburg, Idaho

Army Spc. Ross A. Clevenger, 21, of Givens Hot Springs, Idaho

Army Sgt. James J. Regan, 26, of Manhasset, New York

Army Staff Sgt. Eric Ross, 26, of Kenduskeag, Maine

Army Spc. Leeroy A. Camacho, 28, of Saipan, Mariana Islands

Army Staff Sgt. Alan W. Shaw, 31, of Little Rock, Arkansas

Army Sgt. Long N. Nguyen, 27, of Portland, Oregon

Army Capt. Donnie R. Belser Jr., 28, of Anniston, Alabama

Army Sgt. Robert B. Thrasher, 23, of Folsom, California

Army Spc. Dennis L. Sellen Jr., 20, of Newhall, California

Army Sgt. Russell A. Kurtz, 22, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Laquita Pate James, 23, of Orange Park, Florida

Army Pfc. Nickolas A. Tanton, 24, of San Antonio, Texas

Army Pfc. Branden C. Cummings, 20, of Titusville, Florida

Army Spc. Ronnie G. Madore Jr., 34, of San Diego, California

Army Sgt. John D. Rode, 24, of Pineville, North Carolina

Army Sgt. Carl L. Seigart, 32, San Luis Obispo, California

Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel T. Morris, 19, of Crimora, Virginia

Army Sgt. First Class Allen Mosteiro, 42, of Fort Worth, Texas

Marine Cpl. Timothy D. Lewis, 20, of Lawrenceburg, Kentucky

Marine Capt. Todd M. Siebert, 34, of Baden, Pennsylvania

Marine Lance Cpl. Brian A. Escalante, 25, of Dodge City, Kansas

Army Spc. Christopher K. Boone, 34, of Augusta, Georgia

Army Sgt. 1st Class William C. Spillers, 39, of Terry, Mississippi

Army Pfc. Justin T. Paton, 24, of Alanson, Michigan

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Scott E. Duffman, 32, of Albuquerque, New Mexico

Army Pvt. Kelly D. Youngblood, 19, of Mesa, Arizona

Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Hershel D. McCants Jr., 33, of Arizona

Army Pfc. Kristofer D. S. Thomas, 18, of Roseville, California

Army Pfc. Ryan C. Garbs, 20, of Edwardsville, Illinois

Army Spc. Brandon D. Gordon, 21, of Naples, Florida

Army Spc. Travis R. Vaughn, 26, of Reinbeck, Iowa

Army Sgt. Adam A. Wilkinson, 23, of Fort Carson, Colorado

Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 John A. Quinlan, 36, of New Jersey

Marine Lance Cpl. Blake H. Howey, 20, of Glendora, California

Army Sgt. Matthew S. Apuan, 27, of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Army Pfc. Chad E. Marsh, 20, of Wichita, Kansas

Marine Pfc. Brett A. Witteveen, 20, of Shelby, Michigan

Army Sgt. Pedro J. Colon, 25, of Cicero, Illinois

Army Spc. Montrel S. Mcarn, 21, of Raeford, North Carolina

Army Sgt. Buddy J. Hughie, 25, of Poteau, Oklahoma

Army Pfc. Matthew C. Bowe, 19, of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

Army Pfc. Adare W. Cleveland, 19, of Anchorage, Alaska

Army Sgt. Shawn M. Dunkin, 25, of Columbia, South Carolina

Marine Sgt. Clinton W. Ahlquist, 23, of Creede, Colorado

Army Sgt. Richard L. Ford, 40, of East Hartford, Connecticut

Army Spc. Louis G. Kim, 19, of West Covina, California

Army Pfc. Jason D. Johns, 19, of Frankton, Indiana

Army Staff Sgt. David R. Berry, 37, of Wichita, Kansas

Army Staff Sgt. Joshua R. Hager, 29, of Broomfield, Colorado

Army Pfc. Travis W. Buford, 23, of Galveston, Texas

Army Pfc. Rowan D. Walter, 25, of Winnetka, California

Army Spc. Ethan J. Biggers, 22, of Beavercreek, Ohio

Army Sgt. Jeremy D. Barnett, 27, of Mineral City, Ohio

Marine Lance Cpl. Anthony Aguirre, 20, of Channelview, Texas

Army Sgt. William J. Beardsley, 25, of Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Army Pfc. Daniel Zizumbo, 27, of Chicago

Marine Sgt. Chad M. Allen, 25, of Maple Lake, Minnesota

Marine Pfc. Bufford K. Van Slyke, 22, of Bay City, Michigan

Army Sgt. Richard A. Soukenka, 30, Oceanside, California

Army Spc. Jonathan D. Cadavero, 24, Takoma Park, Maryland

Army Cpl. Lorne E. Henry Jr., 21, Niagra Falls, New York

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers from Company A of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment patrol a street in New Baghdad, an eastern neighborhood in Baghdad Dec. 27, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

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## **Occupation Worker Killed**

3.89.07 By MARK HAYWARD, New Hampshire Union Leader

A Berlin native who worked in Iraq dismantling and destroying confiscated explosives and ordnance died yesterday when ammunition he was handling detonated, his sister said.

Donald Neil, 44, worked for Tetra Tech, a California-based company.

Two others were injured, one with shrapnel wounds to his abdomen, the other with burns to his hands and legs.

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### **Notes From A Lost War:**

# **Petraeus' Stupid "Surge" Vs. Reality: "A Wrangle Of Competing Commanders, Bruised Egos And Conflicting Priorities"**

Mar 8, 2007 By Ryan Lenz - The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. soldiers paced around their new outpost in Sadr City, checking their watches, drinking coffee and waiting for their Iraqi partners.

They finally rolled up more than two hours late.

**It was supposed to be a seamless display of Iraqi and American cooperation in the urban fiefdom of Iraq's most powerful Shiite militia.**

**What it became, however, was a wrangle of competing commanders, bruised egos and conflicting priorities.**

The troubles in launching just one joint mission late Tuesday pointed to the larger — and long-term — challenges of trying to mesh battle-hardened U.S. forces with untested Iraqi recruits as Baghdad's 3-week-old security crackdown tries to hold the ground it's reclaimed.

**"If we get out of here by midnight, I'll call this a success," whispered Capt. Josh Taylor, 28, of Florence, Ala., a company commander from the Army's 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment.**

Hours before, U.S. soldiers arrived at a former police station being converted to an Iraqi-U.S. compound.

**The patrol was scheduled to get under way about 7 p.m. — with one of the first stops to see an informant promising to identify Mahdi Army members in hiding.**

**But there were no Iraqi forces around except for the handful of local policemen permanently stationed at the outpost.**

**The nearly 60 Americans went upstairs to wait. The Iraqis stayed in a makeshift lounge, nibbling on bread and cheese and watching the reality show “Pimp My Ride” on a satellite channel.**

U.S. soldiers broke out some coffee. Some plugged in their iPods. Taylor and a few others reviewed plans for the mission.

Still no Iraqis. More coffee. More tunes. And more grumbling.

**They began to show up about 9 p.m., but the full contingent of about 20 Iraqi troops was not ready until a half hour later.**

**The Iraqis were not prepared to hit the streets just yet, however. There was negotiating ahead.**

First up: Who would ride in Humvees and who would walk? Standing on opposite sides of the white plastic table, Iraqi and U.S. commanders hashed it out through interpreters. The agreement:

**Officers from both sides could ride and lower-ranking soldiers would walk.**

**Taylor assured the Iraqis the U.S. mission was to teach them how to keep their neighborhoods safe — not to play big brother — and that cooperating was the only way to stop the violence.**

**The Iraqis rolled their eyes and sighed quietly.**

A cell phone rang and the Iraqi lieutenant left the room to chat, cutting off Taylor in mid-sentence.

“I would have already smacked him in his face,” Sgt. Chase Decker, 23, of Port Orchard, Wash., muttered from a corner where he and three other U.S. soldiers were watching the culture clash unfold.

**After hours of debate, midnight neared and the Iraqi commanders heard a translator explain the operation.**

The Iraqis would take the lead. The Americans would follow to observe and help if problems erupted. But it was an Iraqi operation through and through, stressed Taylor.

“Insha’allah,” the Iraqi lieutenant said — or “God willing” in Arabic.

With a note pad, Taylor outlined how close someone could get before the Iraqis could use deadly force on their patrols. He diagrammed how they could best stop traffic — and even where to point their guns when the patrol was moving.

But the informant was no longer part of the plan. He had long since fallen asleep.

Taylor instructed his men to watch for anything suspicious. He barred them from knocking on doors at the risk of angering anyone sleeping inside.

It's part of the Pentagon's soft-touch approach to Sadr City, which they fear could turn from grudgingly accommodating to downright hostile at the slightest provocation.

Taylor and 1st Lt. Eroch Cordts walked to the company's Humvees, which had been idling for hours.

**Streets that just hours ago were buzzing with traffic and pedestrians had grown deserted. The night was quiet except for the hum of floodlights on the outpost.**

Cordts, a 24-year-old platoon leader from Burlington, Iowa, pumped a fist into the air.

"Let's go catch some bad guys," he screamed.

Taylor sighed and smiled.

"Baby steps, now," he cautioned both sides. "Baby steps."

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The remains of Marine Pfc. Bufford 'Kenny' VanSlyke at MBS International Airport in Freeland, Mich. March 6, 2007. VanSlyke, 22, died Feb. 28 after being shot at a checkpoint in Anbar province, Iraq. (AP Photo/The Bay City Times, Kevin Hagen)

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# Iraq War Veterans And Activists Announce Series Of Antiwar Events Near Fort Drum

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

March 9, 2007 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker

IRAQ WAR veterans and activists are working together to hold a series of antiwar events near Fort Drum in upstate New York, with the hope of increasing resistance within the military.

The events are built around Different Drummer Café, a GI coffeehouse started last fall by Citizen Soldier director Tod Ensign. The other chief sponsor is Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW).

Fort Drum has become an important Army base in the last 10 years. Three brigades are stationed there--with a total of almost 14,000 troops--and they have been heavily deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. In March, a whole brigade returns from deployment to Iraq.

The first event, on March 9, features Ret. Col. Ann Wright speaking on "Dissent in Democracy: How to Avoid the Next Avoidable War."

Wright has a combined 29 years of experience in the Army and Army Reserve, serving primarily in special operations units. In 1987, she entered the foreign service, but resigned in 2003 in protest of the Bush administration's rush to war with Iraq. Since then, she has worked to ensure that the needs of the men and women of the Armed Forces aren't ignored by the Bush administration.

Wright will speak in the afternoon at Jefferson Community College and later in the evening at Different Drummer.

On March 16, IVAW members Drew Cameron, Matt Howard and Matt Hrutkay will speak about their experiences on deployment in Iraq and how soldiers can join the movement to bring the troops home.

Hrutkay was stationed at Fort Drum until November 2006. Cameron and Howard spoke to the Vermont state legislature before it voted last month to call on Congress and Bush to immediately begin the withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

"Withdrawal is what we as veterans want, it is what the people of this country want, and it is what the Iraqis want," said Howard. "You can't win a crime, you can only stop it."

**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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

## **Navy Veteran Attacked By Tacoma Cop Filth For Protesting Iraq War; “The Police Rubbed My Face In The Gravel, Causing Wounds I Still Have On My Face”**



Patrick Edelbacher, left, and Sam Edwards, right, demonstrate in front of police dressed in riot gear at the gate of a Port of Tacoma staging area where Stryker vehicles and other military equipment were entering to be held in a holding area to await shipment to the war in Iraq just before midnight March 6, 2007 in Tacoma, Wash. About 75 protesters and a strong police presence met military convoys that entered the gate overnight Tuesday. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

**[The Tacoma Cowards In Blue need a fast trip to Iraq. Let's see how brave they are against the Iraqi resistance. But no, they have neither courage nor honor. They beat up an unarmed veteran, but let our troops go to Iraq and do the dying. In addition to all the other reasons to bring our troops home now, we need them and their arms to protect us against rats like this. Let's see how brave the Tacoma PD are facing a platoon ready to defend our liberties. T]**

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



A protester flashes a peace sign to troops as a convoy of Stryker vehicles pass behind a police line at the gate of a Port of Tacoma March 6, 2007. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

### 3.8.07 Democracy Now [Excerpts]

**We end the show in Tacoma Washington where peace activists have launched a campaign to prevent the military from shipping 300 Stryker armored vehicles to Iraq.**

On Sunday night four activists were arrested at the Port of Tacoma. The protests are expected to intensify this weekend as activists are planning to engage in acts of civil disobedience to prevent the Stryker vehicles from leaving the port.

**Last year dozens of people were arrested at the Port of Olympia in similar actions. Following those protests, the military decided to stop using the Port of Olympia.**

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**Wally Cuddeford: Navy veteran who was arrested and tasered on Sunday at a protest at the Port of Tacoma.**

*AMY GOODMAN: Navy veteran Wally Cuddeford joins us on the phone. He was arrested Sunday and was tasered by the police. Why were you arrested? What happened exactly, Wally?*

**WALLY CUDDEFORD: I was standing in the crowd of protesters, and the police grabbed me and threw me down on the gravel, rubbed my face in the gravel, causing wounds I still have on my face.**

**While being under a pile of about four police officers, they began applying their taser to me in my back ordering me to put my arms behind my back. My arms were pinned under my own body. I could not move them.**

**They tasered me three times while I was down on the ground and then dragged me across the pavement and charged me with third-degree assault.**

During this time, they also assaulted another port militarization resistance organizer, Caitlin Esworthy, and later on that evening shot another organizer, Jeff Berryhill, in the leg with a rubber bullet.

**And we were all three charged with third-degree assault. The county has since dropped those charges.**

*AMY GOODMAN: Why are you protesting?*

**WALLY CUDDEFORD: Oh, our goal is to stop military shipments from Fort Lewis going to Iraq. We were successful in stopping those shipments through the Port of Olympia, and now we are helping our friends in Tacoma stop the shipments there.**

The shipments are Stryker vehicles. They are speedy combat transports, armed transports. They are the backbone of the occupation. Half of these Stryker divisions are out of Fort Lewis. If we are able to cut off Fort Lewis's supply of Stryker vehicles to Iraq, we could easily end this occupation.

*JUAN GONZALEZ: And what kind of coverage have you gotten in the local press there or attention that's been given to the protest locally?*

**WALLY CUDDEFORD: We've been given lots of coverage, especially after I was assaulted.**

Some of the coverage has been strange. I was ejected -- actually I was ejected from the Tacoma city council meeting and arrested the following night for trying to tell them what had happened to me, and they didn't seem to care. And a lot of the news coverage has been like "Unidentified protester arrested at Tacoma city council meeting," even though I gave my name five times.

AMY GOODMAN: Wally Cuddeford, I want to thank you for being with us. We'll continue to follow this protest through the weekend. Navy veteran arrested on Sunday at a protest at Port of Tacoma in Washington.

## **HERE ARE THE ENEMIES OF OUR LIBERTIES; BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**



Tacoma police at the Port of Tacoma staging area March 6, 2007 in Tacoma, Wash. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

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# **Pentagon Survey Finds Troops In Iraq And Afghanistan Suffer From Chronic Shortages Of Armored Vehicles;**

## **72 % Of Army Brigades Have Served Multiple Tours Of Duty**

[Thanks to Alberto Jaccoma, The Military Project and Veterans for Peace, who sent this in.]

3.8.07 Thinkprogress.org

The Center for American Progress has released a new study on the state of our military readiness. The report — “Beyond the Call of Duty: A Comprehensive Review of the Overuse of the Army in the Administration’s War of Choice in Iraq” — undertook a “massive research project to identify, brigade by brigade, the number and duration of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan by the active Army.” The report found a large majority of Army brigades have served multiple tours:

- Brigades with one tour in Iraq or Afghanistan: 12
- Brigades with two tours in Iraq or Afghanistan: 20
- Brigades with three tours in Iraq or Afghanistan: 9
- Brigades with four tours in Iraq or Afghanistan: 2

**The report also points out that a total of 420,000 troops have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan more than once, and over 84,000 National Guard and Reservists have done multiple tours.**

The multiple deployments and extended tours of duty are taking a serious toll on our soldiers.

Two-thirds of Army brigades are “not ready for wartime missions,” and one Pentagon survey found that troops in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from chronic shortages of armored vehicles, heavy weapons, and communications equipment.

In addition, an Army survey conducted last year found “U.S. soldiers serving repeated Iraq deployments are 50 percent more likely than those with one tour to suffer from acute combat stress, raising their risk of post-traumatic stress disorder”:

President Bush's escalation strategy will push these overstressed troops even further. "Our Army is in bad shape," report co-author Lawrence Korb said, "and the surge will only make it worse for the Army and the country."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Their Relatives Killed By The Bush Occupation, Women Sign Up To Blow Up Occupation Forces**

8 March 2007 (IRIN) [Excerpts]

Um Abdallah, 41, has a difficult task ahead of her - she has to learn how to use a gun and begin preparing for a day she believes is going to be one of God's forgiveness and revenge against foreign forces occupying her country.

"I'm going to be a suicide bomber in the name of God," Um Abdallah said. "I will be one of the Iraqis who will take revenge for all suffering that US and Iraqi militaries have caused in the past years and force them to leave the blessed land of Iraq.

"I know I will die but for a good reason. When I die I will be beside my loved ones who were killed without [good reason]," she added.

"I wasn't forced to be a suicide bomber. One day I woke up with this feeling, found the right person to help me to realise this dream and today I'm with five other women of different ages, preparing for the day of God's forgiveness," she said.

Um Abdallah is one of thousands of Iraqis who have lost their relatives in the past four years. Her two boys and one girl were killed during a US military attack in her neighbourhood.

"My husband was killed four months ago by Iraqi forces. Killed alongside him were my son-in-law and his two children. I cannot even remember how many bullets the children had in their bodies," she said.

She does not know exactly when she is going to detonate herself but she is sure she will be ready whenever she is asked.

More women are being encouraged to help the insurgency and sometimes even to become suicide bombers.

Insurgents believe there are no differences between women and men when talking about God and the wish to become a martyr.

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# Assorted Resistance Action

March 9, 2007 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer & (Reuters)

**TEN Iraqi policemen were missing after insurgents attacked a police station north of Baghdad overnight, killing one policeman and wounding three more.**

**A group of insurgents stormed the police station in Hibhib, in Diyala province, setting fire to vehicles and destroying the building, according to witnesses.**

The source said a group of insurgents stormed the police station in Hibhib, in Diyala province. The attack raised fears the missing men could have been captured.

Police said a car bomb exploded near an Iraqi police patrol in Mosul, killing two policemen.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed in a drive-by shooting in Hawija, 150 miles north of Baghdad, police said.

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

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

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

**OCCUPATION REPORT**

# ***Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!***

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. 3rd Squadron of 61st Cavalry Regiment kicks open a cupboard to search for suspicious items in a suburb of Baghdad March 7, 2007. Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

**[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?]**

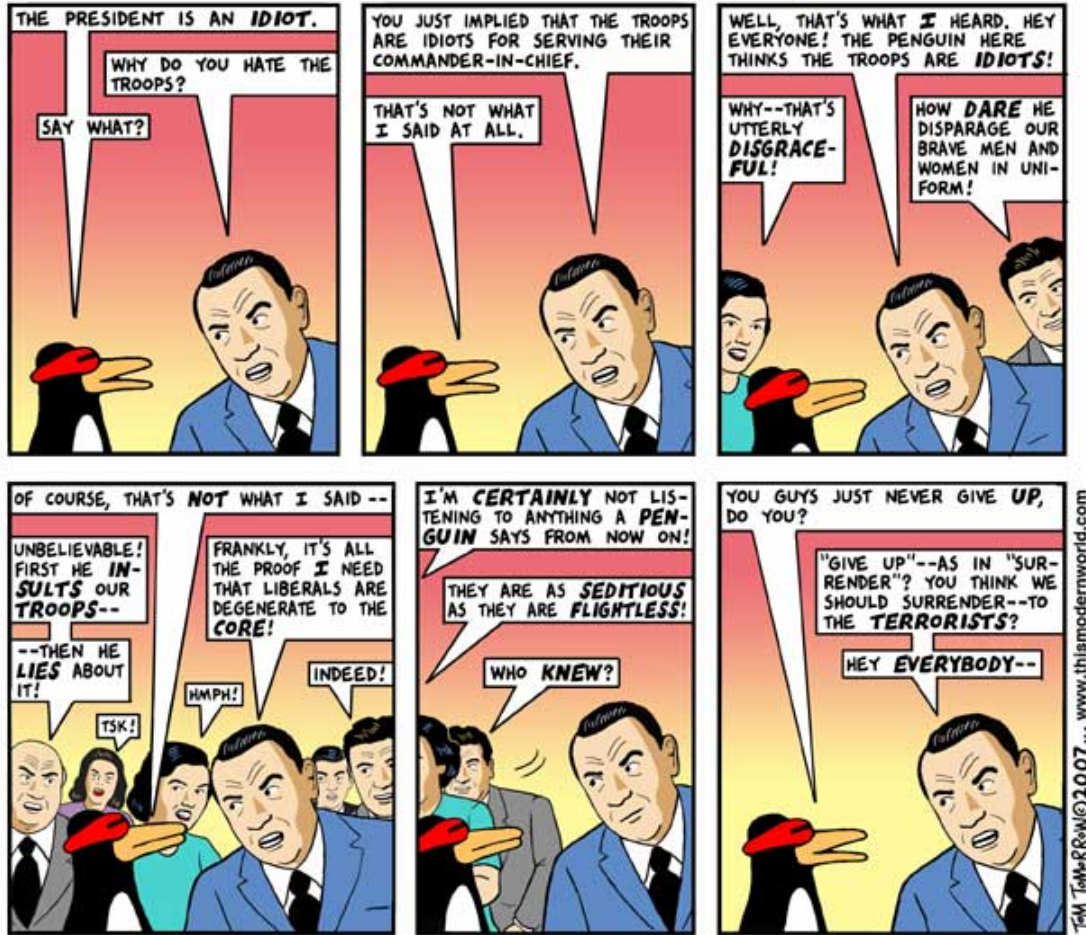
**"My sons and wife were very terrified," complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. "Does the security plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?" BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007**

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

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

## **THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



“From The Standpoint Of The Democratic Party’s Leadership, A Few Thousand More Dead American Troops Is A Small



# Price To Pay For So Glowing A Political Victory”

## “The Only Way To Support The Troops When A War Is Lost Is To End The War And Bring Them Home”

March 8, 2007 by William S. Lind, Anti-War.com [Excerpts]

It's springtime for Congress, and the Washington Dodgers are batting 1,000 in the exhibition season. No, I'm not talking about baseball. I have just enough interest in sports to know that the Dodgers play in Brooklyn and Washington's baseball team is the Nationals.

The Dodgers I'm talking about are the Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate, for whom it is always exhibition season and dodging means not ending the war in Iraq.

Two examples show how in this game, no balls count as a home run. The Washington Post Express reported on March 2 that

**"Just hours after floating the idea of cutting \$20 billion from President Bush's \$142 billion request for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan next year, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad was overruled by fellow Democrats Thursday.**

**"It's nothing that any of us are considering,' Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev, told reporters."**

Then, the lead story in today's Washington Post begins with this paragraph:

**"Senior House Democrats, seeking to placate members of their party from Republican-leaning districts, are pushing a plan that would place restrictions on President Bush's ability to wage the war in Iraq *but would allow him to waive them if he publicly justifies his position.*"**

That's not pushing a plan, it is pushing on a rope, and the House Democratic leadership knows it.

**You can almost hear their giggles as they offer the antiwar voters who gave them their majority one of Washington's oldest dodges, "requirements" the Executive Branch can waive if it wants to.**

The kabuki script currently goes like this.

**Congressional Democrats huff and puff about ending the war; the White House and Congressional Republicans accuse them of "not supporting the troops;" and the Democrats pretend to be stopped cold, plaintively mewling that "Well, we all agree we have to support the troops, don't we?"**

"Supporting the troops" is just another dodge.

The only way to support the troops when a war is lost is to end the war and bring them home.

Nor is it a challenge to design legislative language that both ends the war and supports the troops.

All the Democratic majorities in Congress have to do is condition the funding for the Iraq war with the words, "No funds may be obligated or expended except for the withdrawal of all American forces from Iraq, and for such force protection actions as may be necessary during that withdrawal."

If Bush vetoes the bill, he vetoes continued funding for the war. If he signs the bill, ignores the legislative language and keeps fighting the war in the same old way, he sets himself up for impeachment.

What's not to like?

**For the Democrats, what's not to like is anything that might actually end the war before the 2008 elections.**

The Republicans have 21 Senate seats up in 2008, and if the Iraq war is still going on, they can count on losing most of them, along with the Presidency and maybe 100 more seats in the House.

2008 could be the new 1932, leaving the Republican Party a permanent minority for twenty years.

**From the standpoint of the Democratic Party's leadership, a few thousand more dead American troops is a small price to pay for so glowing a political victory.**

#### **Troops Invited:**

**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 email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.**

# Imperial Democrats Agee On Plan To Let Bush Keep The War Going As Long As He “Certifies” This And That And “Waives” Their Silly Rules

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: Truly pathetic.]

Mar 8, 2007 By Rick Maze, Army Times Staff writer & March 6, 2007 By Jonathan Weisman, Washington Post Staff Writer

**Senior House Democrats, seeking to placate members of their party from Republican-leaning districts, are pushing a plan that would place restrictions on President Bush's ability to wage the war in Iraq but would allow him to waive them if he publicly justifies his position.**

Unveiled on Thursday by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the bill is called the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act, and includes an array of provisions aimed at getting bipartisan support.

The draft bill, to be taken up next week by the House Appropriations Committee, sets three requirements for deployment of U.S. troops: no one can be deployed in Iraq for more than a year, no one can be redeployed without a year at home, and no one can be deployed without proper training and equipment.

The president could then waive such certifications if doing so is in "the national interest."

**The bill would not let him waive a second set of provisions.**

***This contains a series of deadlines, beginning July 1, when President Bush would have to certify progress is being made on a series of benchmarks for the Iraqi government, such as having fully ready Iraqi security forces, allowing all sects a role in the government, and having an oil revenue sharing agreement. If progress isn't being made, a phased withdrawal of combat troops would immediately begin that would take six months.***

***The second deadline is Oct. 1, when the president would have to certify that all of the benchmarks have been met.***

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**CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# International Terrorist Scum Meet In Brazil



The traitor Bush hugs his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Guarulhos, Brazil. (AFP/Antonio Scorza)

[Bush's occupation slaughters them in Iraq. Da Silva's occupation slaughters them in Haiti. What a perfect matched pair of killer rats. T]

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## Happy Brazilians Welcome Bush



Sao Paulo police agents arrest demonstrators during a march to protest against the visit of US President George W. Bush, in the main avenue of Sao Paulo, Brazil's economic capital. (AFP/Evaristo Sa)

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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

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

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