

## **GI SPECIAL 5C22:**

**BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG:  
TIME TO PACK IT UP AND GO HOME, NOW**



A U.S. army soldier from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment in west Baghdad's dangerous Ghazaliyah neighborhood March 24, 2007. U.S. forces persisted with the security sweep, continuing house searches throughout t Ghazaliyah Saturday. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnyakovic)

***Bringing The War Home Now:***  
**“I Was A Veteran, And  
Goddamnit If I Didn’t Know  
From The Bottom Of My Heart  
That I Was Against The ‘War’”**  
**“I Walked Point In Our Squad As We  
Patrolled Washington”**



Sniper hit: Photo by Lovella Calica [www.ivaw.org]

**[See another article covering the IVAW patrol in domestic enemy-held territory: TROOPS NEWS section, below.]**

03/20/2007 by Adam Charles Kokesh, Iraq Veterans Against The War [ivaw.org]

It is 0230 and I should be asleep. Instead, I am crying my eyes out as I sit in front of my computer, reading again the story of Marine Jonathan Schulze. I am glad that I am crying. I feel like a real human again.

The past week has been incredible for me.

**I only joined IVAW a month ago. I joined because I had no choice. I didn't even really know that they existed, but I went online to find something I could do, not even knowing what I was looking for.**

**When I finally came across ivaw.org, I couldn't deny that that was me: I was a veteran, and goddamnit if I didn't know from the bottom of my heart that I was against the "war."**

As Dante said, "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in times of great moral crises maintain their neutrality."

**It dawned on me that even if you only want to bring the troops home for one reason, you should be ashamed not to do what you are called upon to do to speak out in whatever capacity you can. It is thus by the authority of my soul that I had no choice but to join IVAW and become a part of the cause.**

I eagerly accepted “speaking gigs” before panels at University of Maryland and Howard University. I was interviewed by the BBC for a segment on Fallujah. I got to introduce Michael Franti and Spearhead at their sold out show at the 9:30 club, and then sit behind him onstage at our benefit. I got interviewed by Al Arabia that night, and early again the next morning so that they could get a shot of me with a crowd in the frame. Then I was treated to no less than ten cameras pointed at me for hours as I marched behind our banner and in front of the thousands of marchers that came to support our message and to march on the pentagon.

It was also by the authority of my soul that I participated in Operation First Casualty.

**I walked point in our squad as we patrolled Washington to bring home the truth of the war and call attention to our cause.**

**I didn’t want to do it.**

**I was scared.**

**I feared that violating the sanctity of the Marine Corps utility uniform would be sacrilege. I think if I was still on active duty right now, and was watching fellow former Marine Sergeant and IVAW member Liam Madden marching through the capitol in his utilities, I probably would have called him a “shit-bag.”**

**But to not participate when perfectly able would have been to betray myself.**

**In light of the stakes, making a parody of military operations is the pettiest of transgressions.**

What we did was a little bit crazy, and you have to be a little screwy to do something like this.

But we’re the lucky ones.

We are among the relatively safe and sane of the returning vets.

Take the case of Jonathan Schulze who killed himself after being turned down twice at a VA hospital after telling them twice that he was suicidal. How many more vets need help that don’t even know that they need help? We are starting to see the first homeless vets of this war trickling into shelters. This disgrace is the best proof that our elected officials are only paying lip service to the idea of supporting the troops.

But then there are the real crazies, whose ranks I once was a part of, who want to go back to Iraq. I wanted to go back because I didn’t get a purple heart the first time. That is not a normal thought for a human being to have. Had I told any mental health professional outside of the military that I wanted to go back to get injured, I would have been committed.

For better or for worse, this sentiment is somewhat typical in the service. The dedication of our all-volunteer army is the best weapon of defense this country has. The guys in the rear resent being, “one of the guys that didn’t go to Iraq.” And the guys like me look up to the recipients of the purple heart and say, “those are the guys that really sacrificed.” And

the guys with the purple hearts say, “Man, I didn’t do shit. The guy standing two feet away from me didn’t make it home in one piece.”

**The people that feel this way do so because they love their country and they want to lay down the lives for our safety and security. That was why I served.**

**Towards the end of Operation First Casualty, former Army Sergeant Aaron Hughes, a member of our squad of veterans, pointed out to me that “people are just done,” as we were walking towards Arlington Cemetery for our memorial service.**

**I had suggested we continue to move in a tactical column, as we had been all day, instead of just mobbing over “like a bunch of nasty civilians.”**

**It was then that I realized, standing between fields of crosses stretching into the horizon, that I was done.**

**And I lost it and couldn’t stop crying.**

**At the service, it was all I could do to keep from falling out of formation.**

Previously as a reservist, I had served on flag details at funerals and on twenty-one gun salute teams. I had always been able to take the tragedy and put it away and not even think about it.

Now I am able to cry about it – the way that an ordinary human would if faced with such tragedy.

**I cry for Jonathan Shulze, a Marine I never knew, because I nearly was him. Maybe I was one incident away. Maybe it could have been your son.**

**Maybe it could have been your friend from high school.**

**Or maybe it was just another stranger who had taken an oath to risk his life when called upon in order to defend your quality of life.**

**Maybe I’m still a little crazy as I go through the process of becoming human again.**

**Maybe I’m just a little riled up from what we did today.**

**But I would have to be fucking nuts to not do anything.**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO  
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS  
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS  
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A TRAITOR WHO LIVES  
IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE**  
**That is not a good enough reason**



US soldiers take cover after being fired on while on patrol in southern Baghdad, 22 March. (AFP/David Furst)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

***Bringing The War Home Now:  
Iraq Veterans Against The War  
Walk Combat Patrol In Occupied  
Washington:***

# **“When IVAW Went To Capitol Hill, Cops Were Shocked To See Soldiers On The Capitol Lawn In A Combat Posture”**

**[If That Shocked Them, They’ll Need CPR When  
An Active Duty Battalion Or Two Show Up Battle-  
Ready To Express Their Views Of The Politicians  
Who Won’t Stop The War]**



Photo by Lovella Calica [www.ivaw.org]

3.19.07 Indymedia.org [Excerpt]

On Monday, March 19-the 4th anniversary of the war, combat veterans from IVAW walked a simulated combat patrol downtown, "detaining" volunteer activists. One place this was done was the recruiting center at 13th and L St.

IVAW(Iraq Veterans Against the War) began their combat patrol a little after 0800 hours outside Union Station.

**Bystanders were shocked to see uniformed soldiers detaining and screaming at people-and hooding and cuffing them as well!**

**When IVAW went to Capitol Hill, cops were shocked to see soldiers on the Capitol lawn in a combat posture (same at Lafayette Park later). As a result, while**



**everyone was on the Hill, one of the shadowing cops carried his M-16 in plain sight.**

Cops rushed up and detained IVAW for a few minutes, finally agreeing to escort everyone to the press conference at the Cannon Building.

As the day went on, IVAW's patrol went onto the Mall-and that recruiting center at 13th and L St. The mass detention scenario reenacted there presented a special problem, as the window spider-cracked by the Bloc on Jan 27 has not been repaired. IVAW and their "civilians" were careful not to have anyone lined up against that window, using instead the other window and the wall of the recruiting center to line up hooded detainees.

**After the recruiting center, events climaxed at the White House, where shocked tourists photographed a screaming mock detention scene straight from the street of Occupied Iraq.**

All persons "detained" were activists who trained together with IVAW for this mission, and performed their tasks admirably. This simulation was shockingly realistic as antiwar veterans simulated selective detentions, mass detentions, and contact with opposing forces wounding a member of the patrol.

**Especially visual was that car search scenario, where two "civilian" volunteers drove up in a car and were "detained" and searched. You could almost feel the tension of expecting the next bag in the car to be a deadly IED like it would so often be in Iraq.**

Finally, at the end of the day everyone headed to Arlington Cemetery, where IVAW members played Taps in honor of personal friends who did not make it back from the war.

**At one point, one of the veterans asked how it feels for DC to be occupied. Well, those who live under the siege of gentrification and police brutality every night in the neighborhoods know very well what it feels like.**

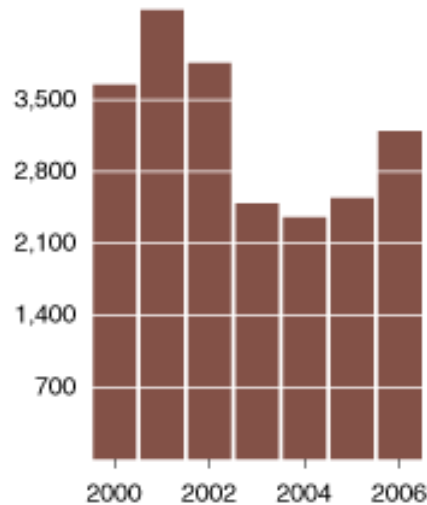
I can hear the sirens right now where I am sitting.

**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**

**“You Want The Truth?”  
“You Can’t Handle The Truth!”**

## Army Desertions

The number of active-duty soldiers deserting the Army each year.



Source: United States Army The New York Times

3.22.07 New York Times [Excerpt] [Thanks Katherine GY, The Military Project, Clancy Sigal, and Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

A soldier is considered a deserter if he leaves his post without permission, quits his unit or fails to report for duty with the intent of staying away permanently. Soldiers who are absent without leave — or AWOL, a designation that assumes a soldier still intends to return to duty — are automatically classified as deserters and are dropped from a unit's rolls if they remain away for more than 30 days.

The new figures also show a faster acceleration in the rate of desertions over the previous two fiscal years than announced. In 2006, for instance, desertions rose by 27 percent, not 17 percent, as the Army had previously reported, a spokesman said.

The revised figures show 2,543 desertions in the fiscal year 2005, an 8 percent increase from the 2,357 the year before. Previously, the service said 2005 desertions dropped by 17 percent, to 2,011 from 2,432.

But from the fiscal year 2000 through 2003, there were hundreds fewer desertions than the Army had previously reported.

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## Army Gear Made In Massachusetts Sweatshop By Immigrant Labor:



# **“A 7-Year-Old Child Calls Up A State Hotline Looking For Her Mother, And Learns She Was Shipped To A Detention Center In Texas”**

**Workers were paid an average of \$7 an hour, were docked \$15 for every minute they were late to work, and were given \$20 fines for spending more than 2 minutes in the bathroom or talking while working.**

March 16, 2007 By Keith Rosenthal and Brian Chidester, Socialist Worker

A 7-year-old child calls up a state hotline looking for her mother, and learns she was shipped to a detention center in Texas. Frantic parents search for five children who were arrested and sent to a prison in Miami in the middle of the night. Hundreds more are detained and “disappeared” within 48 hours, to places far from their home.

These are the cruel consequences of a March 6 raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on a sweatshop in New Bedford, Mass. Three hundred and sixty-one workers, mostly Guatemalan women, were captured in the sweep.

**The raid occurred at the Michael Bianco Inc., textile plant, which has a \$91 million contract with the U.S. Army to produce protective gear for U.S. troops.**

**Conditions for the mostly immigrant workforce were deplorable. Workers were paid an average of \$7 an hour, were docked \$15 for every minute they were late to work, and were given \$20 fines for spending more than 2 minutes in the bathroom or talking while working.**

**The March 6 raid was a scene of terror. With 300 federal agents storming into the plant, workers frantically attempted to escape, only to be turned back by the freezing cold outside. Many were trampled, and several had to be hospitalized.**

**Those who couldn't immediately prove their citizenship were rounded up and shipped to various prisons around New England, and even as far away as New Mexico--leaving scores of children stranded at school or at home.**

“They (ICE agents) were insisting sign here, sign here,” Norma Urbina, one of the women rounded up, told the Boston Globe. “We didn't even know what we were signing. There were people who signed deportation orders because they couldn't read.”

Public shock at the havoc wreaked by the raid was immediate. The Boston Globe described the whole fiasco as a “human crisis” and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick went to New Bedford to extend his sympathies.

**To add insult to injury, while three top managers at Michael Bianco were arrested at the time of the raid, they were quickly released--and back running the plant the**

**next day. Meanwhile, hundreds of immigrants who labored under there are not so fortunate--they continue to languish in prison for the “crime” of wanting to make a good life for their families.**

The response from immigrant rights organizations and activists has been varied. Some have turned to relief-oriented work in a local church in New Bedford, providing services to family members of the detained. Others, including some of the bigger immigrant rights organizations in Massachusetts, remained focused on lobbying in Washington, D.C., hoping to achieve immigration reform legislation.

Still others are looking to organize mass actions and protests in response to this injustice. In nearby Boston and Providence, activists are planning a series of pickets and protests that will target ICE offices.

“We need to protest, scream, organize,” says Guadalupe Hernandez, one of the activists organizing the ICE protest in Boston. “If we just sit and wait to see what happens by lobbying the politicians for immigration reform, there’s just going to be more raids. We have to organize--that’s the only thing we can do to stop this.”

### **MORE:**

## **“Activists Are Organizing”**

March 23, 2007 Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

IN THE wake of a number of raids and deportations targeting undocumented immigrants, activists are organizing to send a message that we support immigrant rights.

In Boston, there has been flurry of activity since a March 6 raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Michael Bianco Inc. textile plant in New Bedford, Mass., which rounded up 361 immigrant workers, mainly Guatemalan women.

On March 13, Maya K’iche, a Mayan community organization based in New Bedford, Mass., organized a forum at Trinity Church in Boston. An extremely diverse crowd of around 700 people came to hear testimonies from three of the detained workers. One asked, “Why is it that I came to this country because of civil war, supported by the U.S., only to work hard and get treated like an animal here?”

The next day the May Day Coalition organized a rally outside of the ICE headquarters in Boston. More than 100 people showed up from around the city, including a large number of students.

And on March 17, more than 600 turned out for a rally in New Bedford called by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Agency, The rally had to be moved inside a high school due to bad weather, and approximately 150 people had to stand in the lobby because the auditorium had reached capacity.

An impromptu speak out was organized, where Alex, the husband of a detained worker, told the crowd that his 8-month-old baby was hospitalized after being separated from her

nursing mother for five days. When a speaker called for amnesty and to open the borders, the crowd erupted in applause.

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## **Fucked Over Shipyard Workers Strike War Profiteer; “The U.S. Navy Provided The Company With A \$2.7 Billion Contract”**

**Workers concluded that the meager wage hike would leave them the same or worse off after three years, especially after a 50 percent increase in their monthly health insurance premium was taken into account. The workers voted down the deal, again by a wide margin, and began their strike on March 8.**

March 23, 2007 By Alan Maass, Socialist Worker

PASCAGOULA, Miss.-- More than 7,000 workers are on strike at a defense contractor's shipyard on the Gulf Coast in a battle with reverberations that go back to the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Earlier this year, Northrop Grumman tried to push through a contract with no wage increases and increased health care costs--on workers who live in towns that still haven't recovered from the hurricane. Almost every one of the strikers lost a home or a car.

Nick Mariakas, an electrician at the Ingalls shipyard, told Labor Notes magazine that some of the Grumman workers “are still in FEMA trailers--and FEMA's fixing to take those trailers away. We can't live off what they're trying to pay us.”

**When the workers--members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 733 and more than a dozen different craft unions--voted down the no-wage-hike contract by a 90 percent margin, the company came back with a slightly better deal.**

But though the new proposal included a wage increase of \$2.50 over three years, the cost of living on the Gulf Coast has increased sharply as a result of Katrina. For instance, a gallon of milk now costs almost \$5 in Pascagoula.

**Workers concluded that the meager wage hike would leave them the same or worse off after three years, especially after a 50 percent increase in their monthly health insurance premium was taken into account. The workers voted down the deal, again by a wide margin, and began their strike on March 8.**

There are three other Grumman shipyards nearby in Mississippi and Louisiana, where workers voted to accept the revised contract proposal. But the Ingalls facility is the biggest and oldest and will set the terms of the contract at the other yards.

**Gulf Coast towns like Pascagoula are still rebuilding from Katrina, but Northrop Grumman made big bucks off the disaster, thanks to their friends in Washington. The U.S. Navy provided the company with a \$2.7 billion contract to repair damage at the Ingalls shipyard, and FEMA kicked in another \$356 million.**

**But while billions went into the repairs, workers say they still face hazardous conditions at the plant, working with toxic chemicals and in high heat that often causes fainting.**

To build support for the walkout, more than 2,000 strikers held a six-mile march on March 12, from the plant gates to the town. Workers at the other three Grumman shipyards are still on the job, but many have come to Pascagoula to walk the picket lines.

**Strikers say that other unionists and members of the community have also showed their support. “We’ve still got people coming in left and right,” Bobby Hinger, a carpenter, told a local newspaper.**

**“We’ve got the support. The community has stepped up to the plate to help with donations.”**

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



(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

The coffin of U.S. Army Sgt. Ed Santini, who was killed in a bomb attack in Iraq last week, as his remains are returned to his native Puerto Rico, Friday, in San Juan, March 23, 2007.

The impending arrival of Santini's first child and his mother's advice that his job at a fast-food joint would not get his family ahead led him to enlist in the military at the age of 20.

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

# Get The Message? Time To Get The Fuck Out And Go Home



A U.S. army soldier from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment listens to gunfire while guarding a position in west Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood, Iraq, Saturday, March 24, 2007. The U.S. and Iraqi forces persisted with the security sweep, continuing house searches throughout the dangerous Sunni Arab area of Ghazaliyah Saturday. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# Iraq Veteran Has A Question:

**“What Would You Do If Your Country Was Invaded By Another In The Name Of Spreading Communism, Toppling Your Despotic Leader, And Removing Your Illegal WMD's?”**  
**“Would You Call Yourself A Patriot, Or A Terrorist?”**

03/21/2007 by Vic Blazier, Iraq Veterans Against The War; <http://www.ivaw.org>

It's now four years since we invaded Iraq.

FOUR YEARS, dammit!

It's time the America people looked themselves in the mirror and asked some painful questions. Namely, are we a nation full of self-righteous hypocrites? Not sure? Think good and hard while pondering the following...

Regarding the legitimacy of preemptive warfare - The world agrees it was wrong when Napoleon, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, and even Saddam Hussein did it.

Why then is it permissible for America to preemptively invade other sovereign nations?

Regarding the justifications for the Iraq invasion- Why did the U.S. ultimately spit in the face of the U.N. to invade Iraq for apparently spitting in the face of the U.N.?

Why did we use dangerous nuclear weapons in the form of depleted uranium (DU) as we invaded Iraq looking for supposed "dangerous nuclear weapons programs"? Will we also use our "dangerous nuclear weapons" on Iran in order to keep them from obtaining "dangerous nuclear weapons"? If not, are we providing others, perhaps Israel, with similar weapons for use on their enemies much as we feared Iraq and Iran would if they secured advanced weaponry?

Regarding who and who can't have WMD's - Why are we, the only country in the world to actually use nuclear weapons on another country (TWICE!), reserving the right to determine who can have this technology? If we're so worthy of our right to have nuclear weapons, why are we considering the use of nukes on another country (Iran) in order to stop them from developing the same weapons we use so willingly?

Since countries that actually have nuclear weapons are left unmolested by the U.S., are we inadvertently encouraging other countries to race for Nuclear Club status as a form of deterrence against American empirical aggression?

Regarding spreading democracy - The American people went to war in Korea and Vietnam to stop the spread of communism - an unsavory but, none the less, internationally recognized form of government. Why are we now the ones spreading our own form of government throughout the World? Is this a democratic ideal that we should be proud of?

**Regarding the cleverly marketed Global War on Terror (GWOT) - Are we not supposed to notice that George Bush's "war on terror" happens where 3/4 of the world's remaining oil and natural gas reserves are located?**

**If Iraq was the worlds second largest exporter of carrots, would we have invaded?**

If what a country exports doesn't matter, why don't we have 150,000 troops on the ground all over Africa spreading democracy, preventing human rights violations, building schools and hospitals, and deposing of terrorist cells and tyrannical despots?

**Regarding the meaning of the word "patriotism" - Iraqis fighting for freedom from oppression get called things like "terrorists", "insurgents", "evil-doers", and even ironic things like "Islamofascists" by shallow-thinking Americans.**

**Did King George of England call George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Ben Franklin similar names? Should we stop celebrating these guys on the 4th of July every year and denounce them as "terrorists", or something else even more hypocritical?**

**What would you do if your country was invaded by another in the name of spreading communism, toppling your despotic leader, and removing your illegal WMD's? Would you call yourself a patriot, or a terrorist?**

Regarding America's paranoia towards Islam - So-called religious Americans who go to church once or twice a week seem to think everyone who practices Islam are heathens and that George Bush is a religious man doing God's work.

Exactly what is the difference between George Bush using the word "God" while saying his God wants him to strike down the terrorists, and Osama bin Laden saying he will banish America to hell on behalf of Alah?

Is the God most Americans worship somehow superior to "theirs"? Are these dedicated worshipers of God and followers of George Bush aware that for those who practice Islam, every single day is Sunday?

**Regarding the value of life - If the religious right is against abortion, stem cell research, and killing, why no fuss about the "full-term" abortions happening in Iraq every single day?**

Does your religion tolerate the wholesale waste of life if camouflage, crude oil, and M-16s are involved?



Does the lack of outrage over the loss of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives mean this rule only applies to white Anglo-Saxon protestant stem cells, embryos, and fetuses?

Do we view ourselves to be superior beings, much like the Nazis did?

Are you a racist?

Would calling Iraq America's most productive abortion clinic wake anybody up?

Regarding right and wrong - Will you continue supporting this Administration and the wars it fosters? Or, are you content with being a hypocrite?

**When you finish with your mirror, will you finally do something for change?**

**Vic Blazier  
Proud IVAW Member**

**“Hypocrisy: prejudice with a halo” -Ambrose Bierce**

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## Beyond His Years



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 24, 2007

### **Beyond His Years**

**Sitting on top of a car along the parade route of the peace march**

in Portland, Oregon, on March 18, 2007, this boy yelled at the passing crowds:

"What Do We Want?"

And the passing crowds would yell back:

"Peace."

And he would yell again:

"When Do We Want It?"

And the passing crowds would yell back:

"Now."

This chant went on for an hour,  
as several thousand people marched past his perch.

Hundreds of people took pictures of him,  
as if he was a famous person.

On that day,  
in that moment in world history,  
this boy from America,  
was indeed famous.

And,  
thousands of Iraqi children who have  
perished as a result of America's genocide  
since 1991,  
are related to him.

America does not recognize its heroes.

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
March 24, 2007

Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

## Spitting Image

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 23, 2007

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

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## Spitting Image

By now, the baby killer lost his heavy helmet for a cloth boonie hat, no backpack, entrenching tool, just a T-shirt, pants of many pockets, boots that no longer could be shined, lots of ammo, a 16.

"It's a hot LZ," the helicopter pilot shouted between the thumping blades.

The baby killers just stared at nothing, they'd lost track of the magic carpet rides.

The pilot swoops in low and immediately takes enemy fire. "Jump, jump!" he shouts desperately as the helicopter hovers.

The first baby killer jumps and explodes, his intestines, hair, skin, brains and meat splatters and hangs from the bottom of the chopper in the black smoke.

The remaining baby killers refuse to jump as the pilot screams hysterically,

"I'm going to go down!"

"No, you are not, we are in a mine field, just move over that way and we will jump,"

Lt. Calley says, in a voice like a boy god.

Raise your sights, soldier haters, Calley did not decree it a "Free Fire Zone" or a "Search & Destroy."

"I would have turned my rifle around and shot Calley," said a soldier afterward who was not there.

### 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.

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# 60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



A foreign occupation soldier of the U.S. Delta company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment guards an Iraqi citizen after her husband was taken away prisoner during a raid in Baghdad's neighborhood of Ghazaliyah March 24, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch (IRAQ)

**[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?**

**[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. It would take a drooling idiot not to understand why. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist.**

“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.”

## **REPEAT: 60% Of Iraqis Favor Killing U.S. Troops; Big Surprise**



Soldiers of the 6-9 squadron, 3rd brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, stand by a suspect just outside Muqdadiyah, Iraq, 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad, March 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

**[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. After reading this, it would take a drooling idiot not to understand why. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist. T]**

March 12, 2007 By YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal

AL-SALAAM, Iraq -- It was just after 5 a.m., and the American military interrogators had to make a decision about the blindfolded Iraqi man shivering against the wall.

The soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division had swept into this tiny village by helicopter to search for Islamic militants.

**The paratroopers blindfolded and handcuffed all the men they found, but after questioning each of them individually, the soldiers were left with just one potential insurgent -- a middle-aged man named Tariq.**

Sgt. Joshua Cullen-Carrozza, who had been interrogating Tariq for nearly an hour, told a small group of other soldiers about what he had found. Tariq didn't possess any weapons, and the Iraqi's story -- that he was a livestock merchant from Fallujah visiting relatives in the area -- had remained consistent, Sgt. Cullen-Carrozza said.

On the other hand, Sgt. Cullen-Carrozza noted that certain aspects of the Iraqi's account raised questions. If Tariq had made the trip to Al-Salaam to purchase animals, why had he come by taxi rather than driving his car? Why did he seem so uncertain of the exact date he had arrived in the village? And what were soldiers to make of the fact that Tariq was from Fallujah, a well-known insurgent stronghold?

**"We don't have anything on him, and my vote would be to let him go," Sgt. Cullen-Carrozza said to the soldiers huddled around him. "But that's a call for the higher-ups."**

**A few minutes later, senior officers relayed their decision over the soldiers' radios -- Tariq was to be detained and brought to a nearby American military base for further questioning.**

**Many of the soldiers said it was an unsatisfying end to a mission that had begun with great promise two weeks earlier when an Iraqi informant said four senior al Qaeda militants were using al-Salaam as a base.**

**After nearly nine hours in al-Salaam, Tariq was the closest thing to a militant that they had found.**

The story of what went wrong on the raid highlights one of the biggest challenges facing the American forces hunting ..... insurgents across Iraq -- the difficulty of working with Iraqi informants.

Even with some of the most advanced electronic surveillance and eavesdropping systems in the world, U.S. commanders depend heavily on tips from the Iraqis who call U.S.-run hotlines or approach American patrols with information about possible insurgent activity in their areas.

Most Iraqi informants speak little to no English, however, and critical details often are lost in the interpretation from the informants' native Arabic.

Many informants have a hard time providing exact directions to where they believe the insurgents are hiding, especially in rural areas that lack discernible landmarks or street names.

**In the case of al-Salaam, U.S. commanders concluded the informant had meant to direct them toward a different village less than a mile from the site of the raid. By**



**the time U.S. forces made their way to the new location, any militants who might have been hiding there were long gone.**

Planning for the raid began late last month, shortly after the informant contacted U.S. forces with word that al Qaeda militants were hiding in walled compounds in the windswept village. The military began to amass satellite imagery and high-definition aerial photographs of the site, and organized a strike force of three helicopters and more than a dozen armored Humvees.

Late Tuesday night, Lt. Col. Barry Di Ruzza, the soft-spoken officer who led the raid, summoned his senior officers to a small wooden trailer at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, a sprawling American military base on the outskirts of Tikrit, for a final briefing on the raid. He told them that the strike, codenamed Operation Phoenix, was meant to capture or kill four midlevel al Qaeda militants suspected of using kidnappings and black-market oil sales to finance a wave of assassinations and roadside bombings.

"We got some good human intelligence, and we're going to try and exploit it to keep the element of surprise," he told the officers. "We're going after one of their safe havens."

At about 3 a.m., Blackhawk helicopters carrying some two dozen heavily-armed soldiers took off for al-Salaam.

**Humvees raced into the village as soon as they got word that the airborne troops had broken into the houses and subdued the men they found inside.**

In the targeted houses, the Iraqis had been separated by age and gender.

**The women and children were moved into a room, where they huddled together in silence.**

**The men had been forced down onto their knees wherever they were apprehended, their hands secured behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and their eyes covered by makeshift blindfolds.**

**Apart from a single AK-47 rifle, which is legal for civilians to possess in Iraq , no weapons were found in any of the houses.**

Sgt. Cullen-Carrozza made his way to each of the Iraqi men, trailed by his translator Zee, a female contractor with a strong British accent, and the informant himself, who was wearing U.S. Army fatigues, a black ski mask and black goggles.

Zee lifted the blindfolds so the informant could see the face of each detainee and then questioned them in Arabic about their names, families and jobs. After seeing each man, the informant slowly shook his head.

**The soldiers took photographs of each man and placed the detainee's personal effects in a plastic bag attached to a cord around his neck. Lt. Daniel Blankenhorn took a black marker and wrote a number, in small digits, on the foreheads of the men to make it easier for the military to process them.**



By 5 a.m., Sgt. Cullen-Carrozza had concluded that five of the six men had no connection to the Islamic militants. The only one he wasn't sure about was Tariq. Zee, his translator, was more unequivocal.

**"There's nothing on him and he's going to be taken all the way to the base and left to walk home alone," she said. "It's just pointless, totally pointless."**

U.S. commanders said they were troubled by apparent flaws in Tariq's account. With insurgents active in the area, they said that there were too many discrepancies to simply let him go.

"To me, his story doesn't make sense -- it doesn't jive," Lt. Col. Di Ruzza said. "So we want to thoroughly interrogate him. If he's innocent, he'll be let go." The sun was up when Tariq was lifted to his feet by two American soldiers and led to a U.S. military vehicle. Along the way, he stopped to ask for a cigarette.

American officers say he will be held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher for about two weeks while they decide what to do with him.

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</b></p>
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# **Petraeus Gets Caught In Lie About Returning Iraqis: Bush's Pet Commander, Desperate For A "Hopeful Sign" To Justify Killing Off More U.S. Troops, Stupidly Fakes Metric Easy For Press To Check**

March 24, 2007 By Rod Nordland & Salih Mehdi in Baghdad

Baghdad, March 24, 2007. The Baghdad Security Plan is going so well that Iraqis displaced by sectarian violence are flocking back to their homes in Baghdad, so a number of officials are telling us.

The only problem with that: it's probably not true.

**General David Petraeus, in an interview with the BBC on March 18, said hundreds and even up to a thousand Iraqis had already returned, although he warned the plan is still in its early stages--a hopeful sign.**

On March 20, a Pentagon official, Major General Michael Barbero, gave a briefing in Washington during which that statistic morphed into hundreds of Iraqi families, which at a conservative multiplier of six to a family, bumps that number well above a thousand people.

Meanwhile, Brig. General Qassim Atta al-Moussawi, the Iraqi spokesman for the Baghdad Security Plan, confidently asserted that 2,000 families had returned.

Good luck finding them all.

**Tufan Abdu-Wahab, head of the Baghdad section in the Ministry of Migration and Displaced People, said in an interview that only a handful of Iraqi families had returned, and most of those were Shias returning to Shia districts, rather than to formerly mixed communities.**

Officials have a pretty good handle on this, he said, because the government is offering a bounty of 250,000 dinars (about \$192) to each family that returns to its home, and they also pay a small benefit to families who are displaced, so people both fleeing and returning have a big incentive to register.

So as of the end of February, 35,000 families--210,000 people approximately--had registered as displaced, he said.

Of those, Abdu-Wahab says that only about 1 percent have come back--which would be 350 families in the first month of the security plan--but many of those have only returned to check on their belongings and leave again.

Meanwhile, families continue to flee at the rate of 25 a day, according to the ministry's registration statistics, easily outstripping any returns. "Before it was 350 families a day leaving, so that's a big improvement, but it's still a lot. People still don't feel secure," Abdu-Wahab said.

And those statistics only provide minimum figures, because people who flee the country do not register, since they're not entitled to any payment from the government; those numbers only include those who remain inside Iraq. About 1.9 million Iraqis are internally displaced, according to U.N. statistics, and 2 million have become refugees, most of them in Jordan and Syria.

So where do these optimistic returnee figures come from?

**A spokesman for General Petraeus said he stands by his figure of up to a thousand Iraqis returning to their homes in Baghdad, and said it is based on reports from U.S. military units around the capital, and from Iraqi government sources.**

Azhar al-Samuraie, a member of the Iraqi national assembly's committee for displaced and migration, and a Sunni, claims that the real number of displaced families is far higher than the registrations with the ministry of migration would indicate.

"Attacks on people based on sectarian motives and deliberate displacement operations are still going on, despite the security plan, and the total number of displaced families is still increasing," he said.

He estimated them at 162,000 families, or 972,000 people, as of this week--which he says is an increase from 94,000 families at the end of February. That's nearly a fifth of the capital's 5 million population; his figures may well be on the high side, although if you count people who have just changed their residence to live in a safer neighborhood, that could be within the realm of the possible.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **The Democrats' Plan To (Not) End The War; “Underneath All The Platitudes And Rhetoric, Washington, D.C., Is A Place That Hates Democracy”**

March 16, 2007 Socialist Worker Editorial [Excerpts]

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS have finally responded to the voters' mandate in the 2006 election with a proposal about the U.S. war on Iraq. Their plan? Keep the war going until the next election in the fall of 2008.

That deadline gives Bush political cover to seek funding to continue the war until 2009, when his successor will take office.

It was left to a protester to challenge the Democrats in a way that the Washington media elite will not. "They're continuing to fund the war, and it's ridiculous if you say you're against the war to keep funding it," said Toby Blome, who organized the small march of antiwar activists to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home in San Francisco on March 11. "It's shocking how little the Democrats are doing to stop this war."

The Democrats' reasons for avoiding the question of a funding cutoff is based on electoral calculations. They want Bush and the Republicans to bear the blame for an unpopular war, while preventing the GOP from denouncing them as "soft" in the war on terror.

Journalist David Sirota, formerly the Democrats' spokesperson on the House Appropriations Committee, denounced the party for refusing to respond to the antiwar majority.

"The message from Washington, D.C., to all of us out here in the heartland is very clear: Our government is the exclusive gated community of Big Money interests, their appointed pawns in Congress, and a select group of self-declared 'experts' in the media and at think tanks (which are, of course, funded by many of those same Big Money interests)," he wrote.

**"Inside this gated community, actually listening to or shaping policy on behalf of the vast majority of Americans is considered either laughably outdated or disgustingly unsavory...This is why, months after being elected to the majority on an antiwar mandate, we have a congressional Democratic Party that still refuses to do anything to end--or even slow down--the war.**

"Because underneath all the platitudes and rhetoric, Washington, D.C., is a place that hates democracy."

THE DEMOCRATS' cowardice, in turn, gives political oxygen to apologists for the war who argue against an immediate withdrawal. But the stay-the-course and get-out-when-things-improve arguments don't hold water.

**Consider the main case against a pullout from Iraq now: that it would "abandon" U.S. troops in the field and fail to show the support necessary for troop morale.**

**The idea that a vote to cut off war funding would suddenly mean that soldiers in Iraq would be left without gasoline for their Humvees is nonsense.**

Another familiar argument--that Congress must continue war funding to "support our troops"--is simply obscene in light of the Walter Reed Medical Center horror show, where wounded Iraq vets receive substandard care, often lie in filth and routinely get lost in a bureaucratic maze.

Given the \$141 billion likely to be spent on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008 alone--more than \$385 million per day--this treatment of the wounded veterans is even more disgusting.

Then there's the proposed law on Iraqi oil production--written by the U.S. and Western oil companies--which would strengthen the tendency toward sectarian and ethnic divisions by allocating oil revenue on a regional basis, while reserving a huge share of profits for transnational companies.

Strip away the rhetoric, and the U.S. troops have no reason to be in Iraq other than to grab the country's oil and use its territory as a launching pad for further military attacks.

That's why the antiwar movement must reject the Democrats' maneuvers.

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# CLASS WAR REPORTS

## Capitalism At Work:

# Government Says Having A Million \$ Does Not Qualify You To Be Considered "Rich" Anymore

March 16, 2007 By ROBERT FRANK, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

**The Securities and Exchange Commission has redefined what it means to be rich.**

**The SEC proposal says investors need to have investible assets of at least \$2.5 million, excluding equity in any homes or businesses, to be eligible to sign on a hedge fund's dotted line.**

That's a huge jump from the current requirement, which says individuals have to have a net worth of at least \$1 million, including the value of primary residences, or an annual income of \$200,000 for the previous two years for individuals or \$300,000 for couples.

The SEC Web site has been barraged with hundreds of comments from irate investors saying the new definition is elitist. Ross G. Kaminsky, an investor in Colorado who qualifies under the old SEC rule but says he wouldn't make the new cut, said the SEC should reconsider the proposal.

Yet the SEC isn't the only institution changing its definition of "rich." With the number of millionaire households in the U.S. soaring to nine million as of 2004, according to the Federal Reserve, definitions of what it takes to be wealthy are ratcheting higher throughout the economy. Rising real-estate prices since the 1990s, and the flood of new global capital, have made past benchmarks, such as the millionaire standard, obsolete.

To make it into the richest 1% of U.S. households in 2004 took at least \$6 million including homes, the Fed says. That's twice the amount required in 1995. Joining the richest 1% of tax filers (individuals or households filing jointly), required \$314,408 of income in 2004, up from \$252,071 in 1995, according to data compiled by income researchers Emmanuel Saez and Thomas Piketty.

**When it opened in 2000, the Yellowstone Club in Montana, a private golf and ski resort, required members have a minimum net worth of \$3 million. (They also must buy or build a home at the club.)**

**But with Yellowstone's land prices rising to more than \$2 million an acre, most new members have net worths in excess of \$7 million, a de facto raising of the bar, the club says.**

Cutoffs at private banks and brokerage firms are also soaring. To get into Smith Barney's more sophisticated "family office" services, clients need at least \$25 million.

Even dating services have upped the ante for what it takes to be rich. A new one in New York, called Natural Selection, which pairs "rich" men with "beautiful" women, requires that men under 25 must make \$200,000 a year, while those over 30 must earn \$500,000 -- higher than the cutoff for many existing high-end dating services.

Not working?

Not a problem to get into Natural Selection, as long as you have at least \$1 million in invested assets or a \$4 million trust fund.

## **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.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## **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:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

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

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

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