

GI SPECIAL 5C24:

**NOT ANOTHER DEATH!
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR!
NOT ANOTHER DAY!**



U.S. soldiers and army paramedics load a comrade who was injured during a mission, into a rescue helicopter at FOB Loyalty in Baghdad March 15, 2007. Two soldiers were seriously injured during the mission, a paramedic said. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

**“If I Lose My Life Over
Here, I Will Not Feel Like
I Died For My Country”
Fallen Trooper Didn’t Believe In
War:**

“U.S. Troops Dying Overseas For No Good Reason”



Christopher R. Brevard talked of futility of war

For example, the Iraqi police, who are supposed to be preparing to take over the country's security, sometimes flat-out refused to perform their duties, her son wrote.

"They told our guys, 'Why don't you fucking go home.'"

03.21.2007 By Carol Ann Alaimo, Arizona Daily Star

As a kid growing up on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Christopher Brevard dreamed of military glory.

As an adult, he spent the last months of his life fighting a war he didn't believe in.

In e-mails to his family, the Army paratrooper, a father of two who considered himself a patriot, talked about what he saw as the futility of military operations in Iraq.

He worried about the chronic exhaustion of the soldiers he led and felt U.S. troops were dying overseas for no good reason.

"He said, 'Mom, I would lay my life down in a heartbeat fighting for America. But if I lose my life over here, I will not feel like I died for my country,'" said the soldier's mother, Michele Brevard, 51.

On Friday, she received word that her 31-year-old son had been felled by a homemade bomb in Baghdad.

The sergeant first class was killed in action on March 16 — the 29th service member with Southern Arizona ties to be claimed by the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His hometown was mistakenly listed as Phoenix in a Defense Department news release, his mother said. In fact, Christopher Brevard was born in St. Louis and spent his formative years — from ages 6 to 16 — in Tucson, attending Borman Elementary School and then Palo Verde High School, until his Air Force father was transferred to Alaska in 1991.

Even as a child, Christopher Brevard was enraptured with the military, his mother said.

By age 9, his bedroom ceiling was strung with model warplanes and camouflage net, and his favorite backyard pastime was playing battle games, complete with homemade slingshots and trip wires.

His father, Christopher E. Brevard, now 49, was a career airman who spent a decade stationed at D-M, much of it with the 41st Electronic Combat Squadron.

His son, then finishing his sophomore year at Palo Verde, "did not want to go," when it came time to leave Tucson, the father recalled Tuesday.

After enlisting in the Army, the younger Christopher Brevard ended up stationed in Alaska himself. He was in Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, from Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Michele Brevard said no one in her family, including her son, agreed with the U.S. government's decision to wage war in Iraq.

But when it came time for him to deploy last fall, he put on his game face and set his personal feelings aside, she said, because "military people don't have a choice."

Her son's messages from the front lines often were wrenching, Michele Brevard said.

He was distressed, she said, that the soldiers in his platoon were severely sleep-deprived, often going for 10 days at a time with no more than a two-hour nap here and there.

And he was outraged at the attitudes of the Iraqis he met.

For example, the Iraqi police, who are supposed to be preparing to take over the country's security, sometimes flat-out refused to perform their duties, her son wrote.

"They told our guys, 'Why don't you fucking go home," she quoted her son as saying.

"He said, 'Our guys are dying over there, and those people don't even care,' " Michele Brevard said.

She said she's sharing her son's observations because she believes it is what he would have wanted.

He strongly believed the U.S. public does not fully understand how badly things are going in Iraq and how thinly stretched the military is, she said.

Funeral services for Christopher Brevard will be held in Alaska. He leaves a wife, Amber, 35, and the young daughters he adored, ages 7 and 9.

As she mourns her son, Michele Brevard said she'll continue praying for all those still overseas.

"Just because I don't agree with the president doesn't mean for one minute that I don't support the troops," she said.

"I respect every one of those men and women with every fiber of my being."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four U.S. Troops Killed By Diyala IED; Two Wounded

March 25, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070325-12

TIKRIT, Iraq – Four Task Force Lightning Soldiers were killed Sunday when an improvised explosive device exploded near their patrol in Diyala Province.

Two other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack and were taken to a Coalition Forces' medical treatment facility.

Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier; Two Wounded

March 25, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070325-08

BAGHDAD – While conducting a route clearance mission, a MND-B Soldier died when an improvised explosive device detonated near the Soldier's position in a northwestern section of the Iraqi capital March 25, wounding two others.

Texas Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED



U.S. Army, Spc. Lance C. Springer II was killed in Baghdad March 23, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during a patrol. The 23-year-old from Benbrook, Texas, was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Richardson, Alaska. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Marine Killed In Anbar



Marine Lance Cpl. Trevor A. Roberts was killed Saturday, March 24, 2007, during combat in the Anbar province of Iraq. (AP Photo/Family of Trevor Roberts)

South Portland Soldier Killed In Iraq



Army Sgt. Jason Swiger from the 82nd Airborne Division (AP Photo/WCSH-TV)

March 26, 2007 WMTW

PORTLAND, Maine -- Another soldier from Maine has been killed in Iraq.

A family member told News 8 that Sgt. Jason Swiger, of South Portland, died while he was passing out candy to Iraqi children.

His sister, Angelica Cole, said, "Somebody on a motorbike detonated a bomb, and I believe he and two others were killed. And the guy driving the Humvee was OK."

Swiger, a 2000 graduate of South Portland High School, was serving his third tour in Iraq, according to his family.

They -- and others who knew him -- remembered Swiger as a selfless young man who loved to serve his country.

South Portland High School Principal Jeanne Crocker said Swiger was known as a leader and often returned to the school in uniform.

"Though it may sound cliché, I think what we all remember most is how very proud Jason was to be in the military and to be in service with his country," she said.

Yoder Family Mourns Killed Marine; "He Wanted To Come Home"

Mar. 21, 2007 By Joe Dominguez, KRDO

A 20-year old marine, shot and killed by a sniper in Iraq over the weekend, spent much of his childhood in Fountain.

Harry Timberman, Jr. went from being a kid to a marine almost overnight. His family says spontaneous decisions were always his trademark.

"He was quiet but he loved people," says Harry's brother Brad Timberman.

Though he talked to his family about wanting to help people in Iraq, Harry Jr. (also known as Bubba and Junior) was fresh out of boot camp and only in the country for about two months.

"When he left here on New Year's I knew he wasn't coming back home," says his father Harry, Sr. Junior was patrolling in the highly volatile Al Anbar Province and he was scared.

"He says 'I never know what's going to land next to me or who's going to walk up next to me; if they're going to blow up,'" recounts Harry, Sr. "He said 'I can't get attached to any (Iraqis) because I don't know who's on my side, who's not; but if I could I would help them all.'"

In regular conversations with his father, Junior would talk about returning home and refurbishing old racecars with his father and brother.

A recently purchased 1974 Camaro was going to be a surprise present for Junior because his dad says it's a car he dreamed of bringing back to life.

"Saturday morning I bought him a Camaro, Saturday night they told me he was dead," says Harry, Sr. unsuccessfully fighting back tears. The family patriarch says he is proud of his son for following through on his commitment to the Marines despite the young man's fear.

"He was just so terrified, he wanted to come home," says his father.

Lance Corporal Harry Timberman, Jr. was a rifleman based out of Twentynine Pines, California. His funeral services will be held in Wisconsin where his mother lives.

His family in Yoder says they also plan to honor Harry with a ceremony complete with a 21- gun salute and the traditional folding of the American flag.

They say they'd like to have that ceremony in Yoder about four weeks from now. His father says Junior treated everyone he met like family and still knew a lot of people from going to elementary and middle school in Fountain.

He expects a big turnout at his place in April to say goodbye to Harry, Jr.

Family Grieves Loss Of Claiborne Co. Soldier Killed In Iraq



March 18, 2007 By SONU WASU, (WATE)

SPEEDWELL: A Claiborne County family is just beginning to mourn the loss of a soldier killed in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Terry Prater, 25, was killed in a blast when they came upon an explosive device in eastern Baghdad during a search mission.

Prater was serving with the 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st U.S. Cavalry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas. Three other soldiers died in the bombing.

6 News spoke to Prater's wife, Amy, who said this is the news every military family dreads. She said her husband loved serving his country.

"He was one of the greatest soldiers in the world, one of the best fathers, best husband."

Two of her best friends came in from Fort Hood to stay by her side during this tragic time.

"This is your worst fear come true. You keep thinking somebody is going to call and say they were wrong, but you know that they're not." Staff Sgt. Prater's wife said he loved being on the front lines of the war on terror.

Despite the superman face he tried to put on, she said, deep down he was afraid. "He was scared to death. He just didn't want to show it."

The small community of Speedwell has lost a soldier, and two young children, ages five and two, have lost a father.

"My son just can't understand the concept of his daddy being gone and that's going to take time, and if he never heals I'll understand."

This was Sgt. Prater's second tour of duty in Iraq. He was deployed last October.

Prater won a Purple Heart and Silver Star in 2004 for shoving a soldier out of the way when someone threw grenades at them.

Amy Prater says her husband loved to fish. They plan to cremate him, then scatter his ashes on Lake Norris. The family is hoping someone in the community will come forward and let them borrow a Ranger fishing boat so they can do that.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete but Claiborne Funeral Home will handle the arrangements.

Basra British Consulate Mortared

March 27 (VOI)

The British Consulate came under mortar attack late Sunday, a security source in Basra police department said

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: TIME TO PACK UP AND GO HOME



U.S. soldiers of the 1st Platoon Alpha company 2nd Battalion 12th Cavalry Regiment run for cover during a patrol in Baghdad's Al-Ghazaliyah neighborhood March 19, 2007. (Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters)

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise; “At Each House, Soldiers Marked The Back Of The Neck Of Each Male With A Number Inked In Black Marker”



U.S. soldiers move house to house in Qubah, Iraq. Yuri Kozyrev for TIME

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. After reading this, it would take major effort 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]

Mar. 26, 2007 By MARK KUKIS/QUBAH, Time Magazine

The attack on Qubah opened in the hours before dawn March 24 with the sounds of a flotilla of helicopters thundering through the darkness over the river valley outside Baqubah. At about 4 a.m. local time, seven Chinooks, four Blackhawks and two Apache gunships rose as one from Forward Operating Base Warhorse, the main U.S. military base in Baqubah. Moments later, the helicopters descended on Qubah, a village at the northern edge of the river valley used by insurgents as a safe haven.

The helicopters barely touched the ground at the edge of Qubah long enough for 241 soldiers to leap out and begin moving into the town to go house to house in search of insurgents as artillery fire shattered trees in the surrounding palm groves. At the same

time, a convoy of 19 Humvees, two Bradley tanks and several other vehicles rumbled toward Qubah from the opposite end.

Gunfights broke out as soon as U.S. troops from the air assault reached Qubah's ruddy streets, with insurgents letting machine guns loose from several buildings. One U.S. soldier took a burst of fire in the chest at virtually point-blank range that knocked him on his back. But his body armor saved him from serious injury, and a moment later he was up after emptying his own weapon into the gunmen while on his back.

Overhead, the Apaches circled the battle, occasionally strafing insurgent positions with cannons and sending Hellfire missiles whooshing into buildings soldiers were attacking from the ground.

The fighting slowed as daylight filled the cloudy skies over Qubah, where 16 suspected insurgents lay dead after initial clashes that also left three Americans wounded. Among the dead found later in the rubble was a suspected insurgent holding an Iraqi passport who'd recently traveled to Yemen, Jordan, New York and Boston.

For the rest of the day, Qubah remained largely quiet as U.S. forces fanned out through the city.

At each house, soldiers marked the back of the neck of each male with a number inked in black marker.

By the end of the day, most every man in Qubah bore numbers like 600-10 and 730-5, designations for the neighborhood and home they were from according to a grid U.S. troops drew over the village.

Lt. Col. Andrew Poppas said the numbering system allowed U.S. troops to tell whether anyone was moving about the village despite a lockdown.

U.S. forces estimated that roughly 50 fighters managed to slip from town and into the nearby palm groves, where Poppas and other commanders believed insurgents have been stashing weapons and running small training camps for months. The following morning, U.S. troops lined the road edging Qubah with their backs to the village and then marched slowly into the breezy hush under the canopy.

Shots sounded among the thick undergrowth throughout the day as insurgents fired on U.S. troops combing the thickets, but there were no casualties on either side. U.S. forces say they found two large arms caches in the palm groves outside the village, however, as well as signs of crude guerilla training facilities.

While U.S. forces struggled to find guerilla fighters in the palm groves, insurgents hit back at U.S. forces with several roadside bomb attacks.

Twice a U.S. convoy was struck by roadside bombs as it made its way from Qubah. Apache gunships watching overhead identified suspected triggermen on the ground and opened fire, leaving 12 dead in two separate incidents.

And as dusk settled over Qubah, a roadside bomb exploded next to a parked Humvee where several soldiers were on foot. The blast killed four soldiers and wounded two

others. An Iraqi child of no more than eight died as well in the explosion, which also wounded another Iraqi boy.

The U.S. move on Qubah leaves the village of Zaganiya as the last insurgent stronghold in the Baquba River valley that U.S. forces have not entered in their effort to regain control of the area.

Capt. Mike Few admits being impatient about a return to Zaganiya, where he worked with local leaders when he patrolled the river valley in the fall. Capt. Few said he had a tense relationship with the head sheik in Zaganiya, Septar al-Zuharie.

The American officer suspected that al-Zuharie was cooperating in some way with insurgents when he was last in Zaganiya. Capt. Few continued to work with al-Zuharie nonetheless, warning him in parting that allowing insurgents into his village would bring trouble.

Few plans to seek out al-Zuharie again with the same message if and when U.S. forces attack Zaganiya. "I think he'll be very receptive this time," says Few.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Stupid Occupation Commanders Bring Same Tactics To Afghanistan That Built The Iraqi Resistance Movement: “The Local People Complained Against The House To House Search”

March 26, 2007 PakTribune

KANDAHAR: More than 4000 NATO and 100 Afghan forces personnel are busy in house to house search activates in Kandahar and Zabul provinces of Afghanistan. They heavy presence of Taliban and their successful attacks on the NATO forces causing them heavy losses have forced them to carry out search operation, BBC radio reported.

The house search continued for the last 15 days, which has caused frustration among the local people. NATO forces want to engage the local chiefs but the Public have shown non cooperation to the alien forces.

The local people complained against the house to house search and said that their culture did not allow a stranger to enter their living place. Local asked that the forces should go and fight with the Taliban rather than searching them there. Would Taliban say and wait them here in the houses, they asked.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Sgt. Michael Peek, who was killed in Iraq on March 3, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery March 20, 2007 in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

“If They’re So Confident About The Reliability Of The M4, Why Not Go To Afghanistan, Pick Up An M4 And Go Out On A Few Patrols Themselves”

There is a better weapon that could be put in the hands of soldiers and they’re (complaining) about money now? I saw first-hand what happens when your weapon jams up because of the harsh environments we have to call home there.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
March 26, 2007

My unit, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was deployed to Afghanistan from April 2005 to March 2006. While there, we were attached to Special Forces at Camp Tillman on the Afghan border.

I can't believe what I'm seeing in your paper ("Out of reach: Why you won't get your hands on the Army's best carbine," Feb. 26).

There is a better weapon that could be put in the hands of soldiers and they're (complaining) about money now?

I saw first-hand what happens when your weapon jams up because of the harsh environments we have to call home there.

An 18B weapons sergeant was shot in the face due directly to his weapon jamming.

I just can't believe that after things like this happen, the Army is still buying more M4s.

Why not rotate them like we used to before the war? All rapid-deploying units used to get the new M4, the support units would get the excess M16s and so on.

I'm not saying they need to outfit the whole Army with a new weapon, but why not start phasing it in?

If they're so confident about the reliability of the M4, why not go to Afghanistan, pick up an M4 and go out on a few patrols themselves.

They should see how they feel after their weapons jam in combat.

Some of the scariest moments in my life were when my weapon went down.

Soldiers' lives are on the line. Why is it a hassle to make an improvement that could save lives?

The M4 isn't a bad weapon; it just needs improvements.

It's about time people stop fighting to keep things the same and start moving towards a better weapon system.

Sgt. Charles Perales
Fort Bragg, N.C.

Bringing The War Home Now:

“IVAW Running A Mission That Included Interrogations Of Civilians, Taking Hostages, And Displaying The Hostility That An Occupation Force Must Possess”



On patrol: Photo by Lovella Calica [www.ivaw.org]

March 21, 2007 bp101stairborne@aol.com

Truth is the FIRST CASUALTY of WAR

It was a remarkable privilege to witness IVAW running a mission that included interrogations of civilians, taking hostages, and displaying the hostility that an Occupation Force must possess.

IVAW certainly learned from us VVAW Vets of R.A.W. (Rapid American Withdrawal) and our Labor Day weekend, 1970 March, from Mooristown, NJ, to Valley Forge, PA.

Our VVAW March had incredibly long stretches thru the countryside, where nobody but pheasants and farm animals saw us, over 3 days.

IVAW's run, from Union Station, Congress, the Nat'l Mall, Wash Monument, etc., only took 8 hours, and garnered worldwide attention.

The varied reactions of passersby ran the gamut: Fear, consternation, shock, appreciation, and many expressed great PRIDE in IVAW's Guerilla Theater.

My favorite moment was when I informed 3 or 400 high school kids, [in the RED Tee-shirts] what the IVAW mission was, and they broke out in wild applause & appreciation.

All You Cute Guys, Don't Look Now But He's Taken! **U.S. Colonel Dating Diyala Province Governor**



AFP Photo: 3.25.07

Date: 3.25.07

From: Twinkie Star, Your IZ inbed reporter; undercovers of course.

To: GI Special

Subject: Dishing The Latest

Naughty naughty!

We caught Iraqi Diyala province Governor Raad Rashid al-Tamimi holding hands with US Army Colonel David Sutherland as they left the launching ceremony of the Independent Radio and Television Network (IRTN), a US Embassy sponsored station in Buhruz, northeast of Baghdad.

Later, the happy couple went dancing at *Don't Tell*, that hot new after-hours club in the IZ.

What happened after that? We're certainly not telling, but rumor has it that the rest of the evening was more explosive than an IED!

Well kiddies, General Petraeus did order our troops to get closer to the Iraq people, and it looks like Col. Sutherland is leading by example from the front, or the back, as the case may be.

A big salute to the happy couple! And don't pay any attention to those silly rumors that there's a certain Captain on Suthie's staff that's very unhappy about all this.

Come on, admit it, don't you think those BDUs are just too steamy!

And that perfectly placed thigh holster with those darling little straps is an accessory that certainly qualifies Suthie as a top contender for eye-candy of the week!!

Twinkie Star
Dishing The Latest

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



A destroyed Iraqi police station following a truck bomb that exploded inside their compound in the al-Dora neighborhood of southern Baghdad, 24 March 2007. (AFP/File/David Furst)

3.25.07 Reuters & 3.26.07 By KIM GAMEL, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & By Alexandra Zavis, The Los Angeles Times & March 27 (VOI)

Guerrillas on Monday detonated an explosive charge near a pipeline that links Kirkuk oil fields to Baiji refinery, said a security source adding that the pipeline was set ablaze

A rocket landed in Baghdad's heavily fortified international Green Zone on Monday, rocking the U.S. embassy but causing no casualties, witnesses said.

Insurgents killed an Iraqi contractor working for the U.S. forces in a drive-by shooting on Sunday in a town near the city of Kut, 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

In the southeastern Baghdad district of Zafaraniyah, a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol went off at 10:55 am, killing a police officer and wounding three, including a police captain, police said. Two civilians also were injured.

Guerrillas in two cars fatally shot an off-duty police officer walking near his home in the northern city of Mosul, according to Brig. Mohammed al-Wagaa, director of police operations in Ninveh province of which Mosul is the capital.

Guerrillas killed a police major and a Facilities Protection Service captain in the northern city of Mosul on Sunday, police said.

A roadside bomb killed three Iraqi soldiers and injured a fourth near Baiji, police said.

Fighting broke out in the afternoon in Fadhil, Baghdad. Three Iraqi soldiers were wounded.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol, killed an Iraqi soldier near Yarmouk hospital in western Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed a captain and wounded three other policemen in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, the Iraqi-U.S. Joint Coordination Centre said.

An Iraqi army vehicle was destroyed when an explosive charge went off near a vehicle patrol in eastern Falluja, 45 km west of Baghdad, a police source said

A total of seven Iraqi army troops were wounded on Monday when a bomb went off near their checkpoint, a source in Babel police department said

One policeman was wounded when an explosive charge went off southeast of Baghdad on Monday morning, an Iraqi police source said

In Diala province, 57 km northeast of Baghdad three policemen were wounded as a car bomb detonated near a checkpoint in Baaquba, capital city of the province.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Honest Abe Says...



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: March 20, 2007
Subject: Honest Abe says...

Honest Abe says...

What Happened to my country?

**Peace Rally in Portland, Oregon
March 18, 2007**

**Iraq--one of the worst quagmires
in world history.**

Mike Hastie

Vietnam Veteran
March 20, 2007

Photo and caption 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) T)

The GI Revolt That Ended A War

March 16, 2007 ERIC RUDER, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

During Vietnam, the 1968 Tet Offensive--a coordinated guerrilla uprising against U.S. troops in nearly every South Vietnamese city--demonstrated that U.S. prospects for victory ranged from dim to none.

Yet the war went on for another seven years while American political leaders searched in vain for an end to the war that would preserve the "credibility" of the U.S. as a military power to be reckoned with.

If the war was a lost cause, what was the point of losing one's life for it?

For officers, there were reasons to be enthusiastic--carrying out missions and confirming kills was a sure path to promotion. But they weren't the ones risking their necks. And for increasing numbers of GIs, the sheer brutality of the war--the killing of poor farmers and their families--led to even greater questions.

For Black soldiers, discrimination by their commanders--such as being assigned to the most dangerous missions and few opportunities for promotion--combined with a growing confidence inspired by the civil rights movement led to even more immediate identification with the GI antiwar movement.

The debate about the war grew in the ranks, with whole units avoiding combat or outright refusing to go on patrols. Some soldiers targeted gung-ho officers rather than the Viet Cong. It is estimated that 25 percent or more of the officers and noncommissioned officers killed in Vietnam were killed by "fragging"--a term coined from the fragmentation grenades that were often rolled under a commanding officer's bunk.

In 1971, the Armed Forces Journal reported, "Our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse...with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and noncommissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near-mutinous."

With the effectiveness of the U.S. military as a fighting force ground away to almost nothing, U.S. war planners had no alternative but to withdraw.

During the Vietnam War, hundreds of GI newspapers sprung up on bases across the U.S. and in Vietnam--to give voice to soldiers' grievances, and to define and debate the strategy and tactics of the GI movement.

The GI movement came to see that its main enemy wasn't the Viet Cong--after all, it wasn't so hard to identify with poor farmers who wanted their country to be free of a hostile occupying force.

Within the movement, GIs concluded that the main threat to the lives of soldiers was the officer class that sent them on pointless missions in the futile pursuit of "victory." Many went from opposition to the war in Vietnam to opposition to U.S. imperialism in other parts of the world.

These same questions and challenges face the GI movement today.

Like during the Vietnam War, the most politicized GIs will have to figure out how to build a bridge to soldiers who are just beginning to draw the same conclusions. That means a constant effort to move soldiers beyond opposition to the war in Iraq alone, and to recognize that Iraqis who oppose the occupation and have suffered far greater losses have a just cause.

Many soldiers join the military because they want to "help people" or "make a difference." They didn't realize they were joining an institution that can't carry out such a mission.

The military reflects all the contradictions of U.S. society--a society divided between rich and poor; a "democracy" where a candidate for president needs \$500 million to have a chance; a system where oil companies have more say over policy than 100 million voters, and where no expense is spared in pursuit of advanced weapons systems while the government skimps on medical and mental health care for the soldiers it routinely describes as heroes.

Soldiers can "make a difference" and "help people"--by joining a movement to end the war and fight for a different kind of society that puts the needs of working men and women before those of war profiteers and oil companies.

And everyone else can support antiwar soldiers by building a stronger movement that shows unwavering support for those who refuse to deploy and resist within the ranks.

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

“The Incendiary, Anti-War Song ‘Captain Sterling’s Little Problem’ Aims To Encourage G.I. Dissent” “The People That Are Directly Affected By This War Are Going To Have To Act”

From: D and Phil G
To: GI Special
Sent: March 21, 2007
Subject: Boots Riley of the Coup wants you to send songs to Iraq

Boots Riley of the Coup wants you to send songs to Iraq

Boots Riley, the outspoken mastermind behind Epitaph hip hop act The Coup, has launched a new campaign against the war in Iraq. Riley is encouraging people to download the incendiary, anti-war song "Captain Sterling's Little Problem" taken from Pick a Bigger Weapon and send it via email or a burned CD to people in the military.

The track, which features equally outspoken guitarist Tom Morello, aims to encourage G.I. dissent which will hopefully encourage Congress to act more decisively. Boots explains:

“I have this suggestion: the soldiers should demand to be returned home, using any means necessary to make this happen, This would lead to a swift end to this war, saving countless lives, both U.S. and Iraqi...”

“Congress hasn't done more than give lip service to wanting the war to end. The people that are directly affected by this war are going to have to act.”

"Captain Sterling's Little Problem" was originally recorded as the theme for "Sir! No Sir!," David Zieger's recent documentary of the Vietnam War.

Inspired by the stories that some of the veterans tell in the film, Boots reports that "at one point a Pentagon report deemed half of the soldiers in Vietnam were 'mutinous and not to be trusted'," adding that "the largely unreported G.I. rebellions played a very important role in stopping the Vietnam war."

**You can listen to and download the song here:
<http://www.myspace.com/thecoupmusic>**

Lessons Of The Antiwar Movement And The Washington Post's Lessons Of The War;

“The Only Question Left To Ask Is This: How Soon Are We Going To Bring The Troops Home?”

From: Ron Jacobs
To: GI Special
Sent: March 25, 2007 9:12 AM

I didn't make it to the march on the Pentagon. The storm up and down the east coast of the United States knocked down a thirty foot tree in my yard in Asheville, North Carolina, messed up my flight from Asheville to Washington, DC and left me with a choice of being stranded in Atlanta or staying home in Asheville and dealing with the tree. I spent Saturday dealing with the fallen tree. My new chainsaw works quite well.

In retrospect--and after communicating with some of my friends in New England and New York--I am one of the lucky ones. I didn't have to deal with sleet, snow and a scheduled bus that couldn't get out of the city it originated in. All of this, of course, made the march on the Pentagon smaller than it would have been had Mother Nature cooperated. Nonetheless, the march and the civil disobedience that preceded it made the weekend a worthy one for the antiwar movement. I ended up watching the rally on CSPAN.

The biggest impression I got was that it might be time for an umbrella organization that would encompass the two current supposedly umbrella antiwar organizations: UFPJ and ANSWER.

Both groups have proven their ability to draw crowds and both organizations seem unwilling to move beyond the folks in each group that refuse to compromise and cooperate on the calling of national protests.

I say this because the March 17, 2007 march on the Pentagon was called partially to summon forth the spirit of the 1967 march on the Pentagon against the US war in Vietnam. That protest was called by the New Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam or New Mobe. It was an amalgam of hundreds of organizations against the war. Churches, communists, liberal Democrats, labor unions, civil rights organizations, student groups, socialists, anarchists, hippies, people without a group or ideology, and a multitude of others. The groups within the Mobe worked together on the national stuff and left each local group to its own agenda. UFPJ does this to an extent and so does ANSWER. If there were a coordinating group that existed solely to organize large gatherings, there would most likely be fewer such gatherings, but the ones that did occur would enjoy the unconditional support of the entire movement.

A model that seems quite workable is the week or two of actions that took place in late April and early May of 1971.

The week began with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War Dewey Canyon encampment and protests, and ended with the massive direct action to shut down the war machine organized under the auspices of the Mayday Tribe. Sandwiched in between were several protest and actions called by numerous groups and individuals.

The antiwar movement took over the streets of official Washington for more than a week. Official Washington could not ignore the war and the demand to end it. Indeed, many congresspeople and their staffers joined in some of the protests. The White House chose to arrest over 12,000 folks. This week required a good deal of planning and a committed and large movement. Today's movement might be large, but a question remains as to its commitment.

On Saturday March 17th, An Appeal for Redress co-founder Liam Madden and a number of other Iraq vets stood on the stage near the Pentagon and called for people to move from protest to resistance.

Madden's call echoed similar suggestions that have been coming up more frequently among movement activists.

In fact, some groups have already begun this move, occupying legislator's offices and insisting that they do more than say they are against the war while they vote to continue funding it. In Washington state, activists with the Port Militarization Resistance have attempted to block shipments of Stryker vehicles and other supplies on their way to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from the ports of Olympia and Tacoma. On March 16th, Christian antiwar activists participated in a sit-in across from the White House to protest the war. In New York, 200 SDS members occupied a recruiter's office until they were cleared by police. These instances are but a few examples of how the momentum of the movement can be pushed forward. Although the actions at the ports in Washington and the recruiters' offices are the only actions designed to actually prevent the war from being conducted, the others do serve as vehicles for inspiration to other antiwarriors and can acts as effective organizing tools.

The Washington Post Finds Its Head Up Its Ass

The Sunday, March 18, 2007 editorial in the Washington Post is a prime example of how far the establishment media in the United States has its collective head up its ass. The editorial, titled "Lessons of War," does a good job of proving why the US establishment is not only still in Iraq, but why it is sending more troops over there.

"The decision was right, the execution wrong," states the collective wisdom of the Post editorial board. It was so right, in fact, that the Post recommends more of the same.

Not once in the entire piece do the writers challenge the fundamental wrongness of the war. Indeed, they barely challenge how it was begun or even how it continues to be waged. "Unquestionably," writes the Post, "the experience has shown the risks of preemptive war." Despite this unquestionable bit of wisdom, however, the Post insists

that sometimes preemptive war is necessary because after all, "not acting also can be dangerous." The editorial does not contain a single challenge to the legality or morality of such wars, it only speaks to the dangers they might invoke to the nations that start them.

The Post editors do acknowledge that the failure of diplomacy in the case of Iraq should not have been seen as a "sufficient argument for war," but they fail to mention entirely the fact that what the Bush administration called diplomacy was in reality nothing more than a series of ultimatums and threats followed by the complete and total disavowal of any attempts at conversation put forth by the Hussein government.

For those readers who don't remember the so-called attempts at diplomacy before the invasion of Iraq in 2003, all they need do is look at the series of threats and ultimatums the US is now making against Tehran. Despite what should be considered genuine attempts by Tehran to negotiate a solution to the nuclear program of the Iranians, Washington continues to march bullheadedly on towards another military conflict in the Middle East. There has been no serious attempt by the White House to sit down with either Tehran or Damascus to move towards an understanding of the nations' differing views on Iraq and other problems. So, instead, the dogs of war continue to gather off the coast of Iran while Bush and his bullies issue threats that the US public has come to think of as diplomacy.

The Post editorial pretends to ask serious questions and provide equally serious answers to the situation created by the occupation of Iraq. However, it fails miserably in its attempt. As long as those in the media and government fail to acknowledge the wrongness of the war, they will continue to make the same mistakes.

The only question left to ask is this: How soon are we going to bring the troops home?

The only lesson to be learned is that war is not only unpredictable but that imperial war is fundamentally wrong and will be resisted by those one attempts to subjugate.

Only when the media cheerleaders accept that this exercise in empire is not only wrong, but a complete failure will the wise men and women of the fourth estate conclude that the project can not be saved and that the only honorable and moral thing left to do is to withdraw all of the occupying forces from the countries of Iraq and Afghanistan immediately. If the Washington Post's editors are any indication, that conclusion is a long way off.

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment prepare to break into an Iraqi citizens home in western Baghdad's neighborhood of Ghazaliyah, March 21, 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. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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

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

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

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. YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.07

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Afghan Leader Says Bush Regime Using Education As A Weapon Of Terrorism

"The enemies of democracy in this country, the enemies of stability in this part of the world, are actually using education as a weapon of terrorism." Mar 26, Bronwen Roberts, AFP

**LIAR
TRAITOR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/File/Tim Sloan)

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:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

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