

## GI SPECIAL 5D22:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

**“GIs Are Exhausted, And  
We’re Angry”**

**“There’s Going To Be A  
Breaking Point Soon”**

**“When A Bunch Of Uniformed  
Soldiers Say The War Is Fucked  
Up, The Anger Begins To Spill  
Over”**

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

19 April 2007 By Sarah Olson, Truthout Report



Marc Train, Washington March 17, 2007

**“Just because we volunteered, doesn’t mean we volunteered to throw our lives away for nothing. You can only push human beings so far,” says Marc Train, a 19-year old soldier from America’s heartland.**

**“Soldiers are going to Iraq multiple times. The reasons we’re there are obviously lies. We’re reaching a breaking point, and I believe you’re going to see a lot more resistance inside the military.”**

Train’s a private in the US Army, stationed at Fort Stewart in Georgia. But the last time anyone saw him on base was March 16, just before he headed to DC to protest the war he is expected to fight.

Before leaving for DC, Train contacted Garrett Reppenhagen, chairman of Iraq Veterans Against the War. He wanted to participate in the street theater protests Reppenhagen was organizing for Iraq veterans to mark the fourth anniversary of war.

**“When I learned he was coming from Fort Stewart where he was still an active duty soldier, my first thought was: Wow, the kid has guts,” Reppenhagen said.**

**Photos show Train at an anti-war demonstration outside the Pentagon that drew over thirty thousand people on March 17. He was on stage with veterans and other GIs opposing the war.**

**In one hand he held an antiwar banner. The other held a red flag, waving in the wind, high above his head.**

“We parted that evening with plans for Marc to get a ride to the Operation First Casualty preparation the next day,” says Reppenhagen. “Marc never showed. Something deep down inside me figured he wasn’t going back to Fort Stewart.”

Train was an Army brat. His father was stationed in Germany, where Train spent the first three years of his life. All he remembers from that time is that all the houses were yellow and once in a while he and his mom Charlene would watch as MPs rolled through town in Humvees.

Eric Train was responsible for border security between East and West Germany. “He may have seen some bad things there,” his son Marc says, uncertain. “I’ve heard

stories from people stationed with my dad. When people tried to cross from East to West, they'd get pretty torn up. They were shot down. My dad might have been exposed to that."

When the wall came down, Eric moved his family back to the United States. Seeking to spare them the monotony of an active duty lifestyle, Eric transferred to the Army reserves. When he couldn't find a job, he started drinking. Spiraling into debt, Eric and Charlene were in the process of splitting up. When young Train was five, his father shot himself in the head with a deer-hunting rifle.

After that, Train went through a predictable string of psychotropic medications for young people with trauma. At one point, he was admitted to Charter Mental Hospital in Wichita, Kansas. He spent nearly a month there before his mom rescued him. "I'm kind of a mamma's boy," says Train, laughing a little. "For 13 years, I put her through a lot of crap. I never went to class and the school would call her job all the time. We'd get really frustrated and yell at each other. The cops would come and I'd get taken away to jail. My mom always came to pick me up later, though."

Train and Charlene ended up in Salina, Kansas, a city that promised boom-time economic growth, superlative education and health care, and its own symphony. Train bounced from school to school just the same: Salina High School South, an alternative school, and finally the Job Corps. He graduated from the Job Corps with a GED, and a diploma from a high school in nearby Manhattan, Kansas.

Train and Charlene weren't hungry, but they still struggled to make ends meet. Charlene made just enough money that she didn't qualify for government assistance. "Part of the continued assault on the middle class," Train says. The family wasn't homeless, but they occasionally went to stay with Train's grandparents. Mostly, they just kept moving from place to place. Looking around, Train didn't see much in the way of a future ahead of him.

"I was in an economic trap," he says. "I just wanted to find some stability in my life. The Army seemed like just the thing. Going through school, they teach you implicitly that if you're fucked here, you're gonna be fucked forever. I needed a way out of that."

Train signed up for the Army under the delayed-entry program in the summer of 2005. On September 1, he was picked up at his house by a recruiter and delivered to the military entrance-processing station (MEPS) in Kansas City. Nine days later, Train ended up at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he began a new life on September 9.

"That was zero day," Train says, talking about the Army process of breaking down and rebuilding new recruits. "They tried to shatter everybody."

As Train's Midwestern boyhood was being smashed out of him by Army drill instructors, he watched hurricanes Katrina and Rita rip through the Gulf Coast. As the drill instructors tried to remake him into a US Army soldier, Train grew increasingly critical of the government's callousness in response to the death and economic devastation in the region. He knew the National Guard should have been around to assist with the disaster, but the troops were deployed in Iraq instead.

After basic, Train spent 16 weeks at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, learning to be an intelligence analyst. He was given an interim top-secret security clearance, and after an initial investigation would have access to highly sensitive compartmentalized intelligence. “The really spooky, CIA stuff,” Train explains, without going into further detail. In April 2006, he arrived at his first duty station at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Train started a blog critical of the US government’s financial decisions. How could the administration disburse funding to its pals at Halliburton’s KBR and Bechtel, but allocate nothing for the people in the Gulf Coast, he asked.

**Along the way, Train says he may have been a bit disrespectful to those responsible. Since his writings were posted anonymously, it shouldn’t have mattered.**

**But when Train’s commanders discovered his blog, they hit the roof.**

**On the grounds that he was a threat to national security, his clearance was suspended. He went through a months-long investigation that resulted in the revocation of his top-secret security status and other disciplinary action. He could no longer do the only job he knew how to do.**

“No one ever asked me if I intended to overthrow the government, or even if I would have supported that. If they had asked, I would have said no, because I wanted to support my unit,” Train says. “I’d seen movies like ‘Iraq for Sale,’ and I had heard about the scandal at Abu Ghraib. I wanted to use my knowledge to support our mission and help the people in Iraq. But no one asked me. They thought I was an infiltration and espionage threat. They thought I’d support the overthrow and downfall of the United States government.”

In November 2006, Train’s security clearance was formally revoked and his commanding officer started to talk seriously about Train leaving the Army.

Train agreed he and the Army weren’t such a good fit anymore. He filled out a separation packet, and was pulled off the deployment roster in January. His paperwork made its way through the chain of command. By every indication, Train was on his way to getting out of the Army.

**By this time, Train had signed the Appeal for Redress, an online petition for active duty members of the military. He joined Iraq Veterans Against the War and was developing a political critique of the geopolitical policies that supported the Iraq war.**

Some time in February, Train began hearing rumors that his discharge had been rejected and that he would be sent to Iraq anyway. His rear detachment commander eventually confirmed the rumors, saying Train would deploy as an 11 Bravo infantryman, with generic assignments and combat responsibilities.

“Everyone in the Army gets a few combat skills. But infantry? It’s not what I was trained for,” Marc says. “It would have been a suicide mission.”

Train knew the threats were serious when he was sent to the rapid fielding initiative (RFI) and equipped for deployment.

He says the officers laughed a little as they told him he'd be put on shit-burning duty, just like in the movie "Jarhead." That, and because he wasn't reclassified with more useful duties or properly prepared for the ones to which he was now assigned, convinced Train that going AWOL was his best option. He left for the March 17 protests in Washington, DC, knowing he wouldn't return to Fort Stewart.

Train arranged to meet other GIs in DC. Jonathan Hutto is the cofounder of the Appeal for Redress, and he says even though he didn't know about Train's plans, no soldier makes the decision to go AWOL lightly. "I support any and everyone who has been driven to go AWOL," says Hutto, himself an active duty member of the Navy.

**"It's not his fault that he went AWOL - it's the government's fault for committing this war and creating such an untenable situation."**

Like Hutto, Iraq Veterans Against the War's Garrett Reppenhagen says Train going AWOL was an understandable choice given the circumstances. "I also would have supported him if he had gone back and continued service," Reppenhagen said.

"Everyone's situation is different, and you have to weigh your obligations to your country and your oath against your moral compass and your higher conscience. There is never a right or wrong answer when matching such powerful forces."

"I have a huge pain in my heart, like it's literally breaking," Train said after leaving Washington, DC. When one organization invited him to speak in high schools about his time in the Army, Train began to turn his anger into action. "The recruiters are coming into these inner-city schools full of kids who are already going to have a hard life, harder than most people. When the same kids come back with post-traumatic stress disorder, the military denies them benefits. It sickens me because I wore that uniform. I represented a system of treating people like garbage."

Train says the militarization of America's schools is shocking. "They're creating a culture of conformity. They're teaching kids to lash out at anything different." Train notes the metal detectors, the security guards on every floor, students wearing uniform-like clothes.

"I want to counter the whole idea that just because you think you might have messed up one area of your life, your life is ruined forever," Train says. He doesn't know specifics, but in the long run he knows his work will have something to do with giving young people hope. "I want to build support networks for troubled kids so they don't have to join the military."

**"Many people joined the Army wanting to do good and honorable things. They joined as patriots. It's hard for them to speak out," says Train, who believes that patriotism is getting abused by the current administration's relentless charge towards war.**

**"Regardless of what the mainstream media says about troops supporting the war, a lot of people around me disagreed with the policies."**

Iraq Veterans Against the War's Reppenhagen says, "There's an unwritten social contract a service member makes with his nation."

He added, "That contract says he will be sent to war only when peaceful solutions have been exhausted. When that service member comes home, the contract dictates that he is taken care of and given aid. The American people and US government officials are breaking that contract. In light of this, it's very hard to judge harshly those who resist the Iraq war."

**Train thinks the time when soldiers cannot or will not voice their concerns and oppositions is nearing a close.**

"Recruiting is down. The length and number of tours is up.

**"GIs are exhausted, and we're angry. When a bunch of uniformed soldiers say the war is fucked up, the anger begins to spill over.**

**"There's going to be a breaking point soon. The Army already has a situation on its hands."**

---

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Marine Killed In Anbar**

04/22/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West died April 20 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

---

### **U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded In Baghdad**

04/22/07 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND 07-01-03C

BAGHDAD – An MND-B Soldier died and three others were wounded when a combat security patrol was attacked with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in a western section of the Iraqi capital April 21.

---

# **U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad; Two Wounded**

04/22/07 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND 07-01-03C

A Task Force Marne Soldier was killed and two were wounded during an indirect fire attack against a forward operating base southwest of Baghdad Saturday night.

---

## **MND-B LOSES SOLDIER TO NON-BATTLE DEATH**

04/22/07 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND 07-01-03C

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died April 21 due to a non-battle-related cause.

---

## **Local Family Loses Son To War In Iraq**

04/11/2007 By Steve Ramirez Sun-News reporter

LAS CRUCES — Jesse Williams' hometown was Santa Rosa, Calif., but he came to Las Cruces enough to understand the community could be a good place for his young daughter, Amaya, to someday learn about family and neighbors.

But Williams will never be able to bring his daughter. He died Saturday in Balad, Iraq when he was shot by a sniper.

Williams, an Army sergeant, was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq with the Army's 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Williams' mother, Janyce Leone, and his stepfather, Ron, have lived in Las Cruces since 2003. Ron Leone said Tuesday the past few days have been especially hard.

"I've raised Jesse since he was 4. He's my only child, he's everything you could ever hope for in a son," said Leone as he fought back emotions. "Sunday night, it was like one of those horrible scenes you see in a movie. A friend called me on my cell phone and told me that I needed to get home as soon as I possibly could, somebody needed to talk to me. I asked who it was but I was told again that I was urgently needed at home, somebody needed to talk to me.

"I was angry when I got home and I demanded to know what was going on. I was yelling. But I noticed the motion detector lights came on and out of the shadows I saw two soldiers coming up the driveway. I couldn't speak; I knew what it was about."

Williams' death also jolted his father, Herb Williams, who also lives in Santa Rosa, and Bob Blanchard, the mayor of the northern California city, near San Francisco. According to newspaper and television reports in Santa Rosa, San Francisco and nearby Reno, Nev., Williams' death has cast a pall over Santa Rosa residents who knew him.

His death has also affected Las Cruces officials.

"Another one of our own is gone," City Councilor Dolores Archuleta said quietly. "It's just sad, very sad."

Leone said he received a call of condolences from Mayor William Mattiace.

"He called Monday morning," Leone said. "It means a lot to Janyce and I that so many people have been so kind. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the community really does have some of the friendliest people in the world living here. That's why we moved here."

Friends, clients and co-workers of Leone erected a tribute to Williams in the lobby of Emerick Real Estate, where Leone works as a real estate agent. Leone said he and his wife have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support from people during this rough time.

Williams, who has numerous awards and decorations since joining the Army a month after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorists attacks, has also been nominated for the Bronze Star. About a month ago he pulled to safety two soldiers who were trapped inside a burning vehicle that was hit by an improvised explosive device.

"That's just the kind of person Jesse has always been," Leone said.

Williams was awarded a Purple Heart during his first tour of duty when he was hit by shrapnel in his arm while fighting insurgents.

But more than his heroism, or his selflessness, Leone said his stepson was a devoted father.

"In July, when he was getting ready to go away on his second tour of duty, he put ink on his daughter's hands and pressed them to his chest," Leone said. "Jesse wanted a tattoo of his daughter's hand prints. He wanted them, and put them, close to his heart because that's where he always wanted his daughter, close to his heart."

In her only public statement since her husband's death, Sonya Williams said Amaya will still get to know her father.

"I want to teach our daughter to know of her father's heart and honor," Sonya Williams said.

Leone said there are memories that will be shared with their infant granddaughter.



“There’s a photo of Jesse looking down at her just a few days after she was born,” Leone said. “I’ll always remember the look in his eyes, the devotion he instantly had for his daughter. He doted on his daughter.”

Williams will be buried in Santa Rosa, Calif. with full military honors.

---

## The “Joint Security Station” Farce Rolls On: “Foot Patrols Don’t Exist; They Are Not Something We Do”

April 22, 2007 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, New York Times [excerpts]

As American and Iraqi troops set up these outposts in dangerous neighborhoods to take on the insurgents block by block, they find themselves continually facing lethal attacks.

This joint security station in Ghazaliya opened on March 15, about a month after the latest increase in American troops began. The station, inhabited by about 70 soldiers of Company D of the Second Battalion, 12th Cavalry, and their Iraqi counterparts, is named for Specialist Robert Thrasher, a member of the unit killed by sniper fire on Feb. 11 when the company was scouting for a station site.

Thrasher, as the station is known, sits in the southern part of Ghazaliya, one of the roughest areas of western Baghdad.

Sewage pools in the streets. Water and electricity are almost nonexistent, and fewer than half the houses are occupied. The neighborhood graffiti broadcasts the presence of an active insurgency: “Long live Abu Hamza al-Muhajar,” reads one scrawl, referring to a local insurgent leader.

The radio in the joint operations room crackles all day long with reports of bomb explosions or newly sighted explosive devices that must be scouted by the soldiers.

**The distance to the next security station is barely half a mile, but it is so dangerous that the soldiers cannot walk there and do not like to drive more often than necessary.**

**Although one tenet of the Baghdad security plan is that soldiers should patrol on foot to get to know local residents, it was on just such a patrol that Specialist Thrasher died. Now, said Sgt. Trevis Good, 34, “foot patrols don’t exist; they are not something we do.”**

The company’s partner is the Third Battalion, Fourth Brigade, of the Iraqi Army’s 10th Division. The soldiers come from Amara, the largest town in rural Maysan Province in

the far south, a mostly peaceful area where in a year of active duty they never had an injury, much less a fatality.

In just three weeks in Ghazaliya, the battalion has lost two officers and a soldier; 16 troops have been wounded.

**A few hundred Iraqi soldiers live in three attached houses just over a brick wall from the Americans.**

**The houses, beefed up only by sandbags, lie outside the station's fortified area.**

**Visiting their quarters means crouching down and running behind vehicles until entering one of the houses.**

---

## **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: TURN AROUND GO HOME**



A U.S. soldier aboard an armored vehicle in a convoy of U.S. vehicles from Kuwait as they arrive in Basra January 15, 2007. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

---

## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Gates Raises Possibility Of Winter Reduction Of U.S. Forces In Iraq**

# [Jerome Wilson Raises Possibility He Will Win \$137 Million New York Lottery Drawing Next Week]

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: Isn't this the 5,513th time we've heard this "future drawdowns possible" BS?]

Apr 12 By Kristin Roberts (Reuters)

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates raised the possibility on Thursday of a reduction in U.S. forces in Iraq by late 2007 or early 2008, saying the Pentagon's decision to keep combat troops in place longer than expected got the "bad news" out of the way.

"It gets all the bad news out at once because the new news that may come sometime next winter is, oh by the way you don't have to go," Gates said.

Asked if he thought a drawdown by winter was a real possibility, Gates said, "Yes."

"I think it's a possibility," he told reporters en route to Washington after a meeting of some NATO defense ministers in Canada. He added any decision on troop levels would be driven by conditions on the ground in Iraq.

---

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



Army Pfc. James J. Coon's funeral service in Walnut Creek, Calif., April 14, 2007. Coon, 22, of Walnut Creek died April 4, in Balad, Iraq, when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Karl Mondon, Pool)

---

# IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

## **Assorted Resistance Action**

4.22.07 Reuters & By LAUREN FRAYER (AP)

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two car bombers attacked a police station Sunday in western Baghdad. The first driver raced through a police checkpoint guarding the station and exploded his vehicle just outside the two-story building, police said. Moments later, a second car bomber aimed at the checkpoint's concrete barriers and exploded just outside them, police said.

The blasts occurred at about 10 a.m. in Baiyaa, a mixed Sunni-Shiite area of western Baghdad, a policeman said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

He said 13 people died - five policemen and eight civilians - and that 82 were wounded: 46 policemen and 36 civilians.

The casualty toll could rise as rescue workers sifted through rubble for more victims. Thick black smoke billowed up into the sky and ambulances raced to the location with sirens wailing.

**In addition to Baiyaa police officers, the station had been serving as the temporary headquarters for police from Dora, a neighborhood in southern Baghdad. Last month, a truck bomber demolished the Dora station, killing at least 11 people.**

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### **For The War**

From: Rob Brixey  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 18, 2007  
Subject: Bringing the troops home

I agree that it would be great to bring the troops home.

I am a US Navy veteran. My personal experience was in the Persian Gulf in 1979-80.

It is sad commentary that you must use images of men who made great commitments and sacrifices to prop up your traitorous opinion. These men, if the truth were known, would not agree to this usage.

History tells us that there were pacifists and promoters of appeasement in past conflicts. A quick reflection of subsequent events also demonstrates that their judgment was in error. History indicates that fortune favors boldness, and that wars are best fought “over there” as opposed to “over here”.

I take great pride in the job our troops are doing.

Sadly, the world is not now, and never has been – quite as safe a place as you evidently assume.

The military has, for generations, stood guard for people like you. They have made your life secure and free, perhaps to the point that you no longer recognize the hazards of the real world.

The Muslim recognition of your right to Free Speech, which you no doubt cherish, was symbolized by decapitating Daniel Pearl. Muslim extremists have destroyed the World Trade Center, and have committed a litany of attacks against Americans since (at least as far as I can remember) 1972.

Perhaps it will only be worth it once you have lost a family member to a terrorist attack. I hope it never comes to that.

Rob Brixey  
Sanford, NC

---

## ***Iraq Veterans Nail The Pro-War Bullshit***

**#1:**

***Whose Sacrifice?***

**“I Did Not See Any Terrorists  
Killed In Iraq”**

# **“The Best Way To End Terrorism Is To Stop Participating In It” “When A Sovereign Nation Of Working Class People Stand Up To Us And Take It To The Streets, We Call Them Terrorists”**

04/15/2007 by Jeff Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War, [ivaw.org](http://ivaw.org)

Who in America, the overly privileged and placated country that it is, would be willing to make a sacrifice for something as disgusting and immoral as a criminal war?

What American is willing to put his or her life on the line by fighting in this War on Terror in Afghanistan or Iraq?

As an American, would you be willing to watch your son or daughter go fight in this illegal occupation of Iraq and return home in a straight jacket, or worse, a flag-draped coffin?

As a citizen of this imperial nation, are you ready, if need be, to have your draft number called and report for service as a hit man for Uncle Scam's corporate Empire?

What sacrifice are you prepared to make for this?!

Are you ready to answer these questions?

What if a soldier were to ask you?

As a veteran of the war in Iraq, I grow tired of watching the pain in a soldier's eyes after fighting in this war over and over only to see an ever-deteriorating situation in a country that never wanted an American forced democracy in the first place.

**My heart aches when I meet the wife of a soldier in Iraq only to hear that the young couple hates the war, and wants out of the army, but could never otherwise afford the health care needed to provide for the birth of their expecting child.**

**It pains me to see that soldiers, only weeks away from returning home from Iraq, read on the internet about an involuntary 90 day extension pointlessly tying them to a losing war even longer.**

**And my patience grows thin to see Bush, the real enemy of freedom and democracy the world over, chuckle and grin when explaining the urgency of a winning strategy, the “troop surge,” that is desperately needed to hold this sinking ship together for just a little longer. Just long enough to line his buddies pockets with another couple of trillion or so.**

**And as my patience is practically gone, I am tired of trying to explain to Americans why this war is lost, why it was lost from the start, and why it will be a lost cause in the end.**

**If you refuse to see it by now, then you're lost, too.**

For years now there have been a sizable number of antiwar Iraq and Afghanistan veterans trying to express the reasons why the war on terror is a sham, and why its wrong that corrupt politicians are the only ones benefiting from the oppression, pain and misery that their wars inflict on the lower classes of the world.

And every time a veteran had something to say about it, that veteran was called a pinko, or unAmerican, or a traitor.

But every time that veteran proved to be right. That veteran has always been right. The great majority of Americans opposed to the war have only caught on in the last few months.

But that is all behind us now. My only question for anyone is, Are you willing to sacrifice for this war?

What is it worth to you?

All your stupid yellow ribbons mean nothing. A symbol of war and nationalist fervor. May as well be a swastika. What is your level of involvement in this war? Where is your support?

Again, whose blood are you willing to spill for the safety and security that these Republicans and these Democrats are promising you if you just shut up and let them do the talking?

And are your freedoms safe in the hands of warmongering and greedy idiots who not only want to keep young men and women dying in Iraq and Afghanistan, but now want to extend their empty promises and generous offers through a war with Iran?

Every time I hear a politician lie about this war, I don't scream or get mad, I just wish they would cut the bullshit out of it and just be honest with us... "Listen, America, we know that you know that you need that oil, and we're going to get it for you come hell or high water."

God Bless America.

But is it all worth it? Is it worth all the death and pain and misery our wars inflict on other human beings in the world? Is it worth a never ending war sucking our economy dry and leaving us with less resources to help our own poor and needy in America? Is it worth the infringement on civil rights both here and abroad?

Is it worth 3,300 dead sons and daughters of liberty? How many names will be carved on our wall?

Was it worth having a Louisiana National Guard in Iraq during Katrina?

Is it worth the USA Patriot Act?

Was it worth letting Bush nix posse comitatus?

How far will we let the madness continue?

What are the sacrifices we as a country are willing to make?

**Do not tell me this is necessary. Do not try to convince me this is about terrorism.**

**I did not see any terrorists killed in Iraq. I saw women and children blown to pieces by car bombs targeting US forces. I saw dead farmers and dead shopkeepers killed by American munitions.**

**One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.**

Keep allowing these crooks, thieves and criminals to convince you that your life is in danger. Keep letting them coo you to sleep as you walk mindlessly consuming in this decadent and decaying shopping mall of America. Keep believing their lies, like every good American has since 1776.

**We have a history of terrorism in this country.**

**We support brutal dictators all over the world.**

**We destroy any social or democratic movement that dares to surface in Latin America. We arm war lords in Africa. We fund tyrants in the Middle East. We turn a cheek to genocide in East Asia. We are overly complicit in the bloody occupation of Palestine.**

**We are the big bully on the block, and when a sovereign nation of working class people stand up to us and take it to the streets, we call them terrorists.**

**The best way to end terrorism is to stop participating in it.**

You will never convince me that we are right when we treat other human beings so utterly inhumane. I will never believe it, because I am a veteran of an illegal and immoral war, and I saw the immorality of it firsthand in Iraq.

**And other soldiers are seeing it, too.**

I heard a veteran once say that if everyone in America could see what we are doing to the Iraqi people, they would end the war tomorrow. Perhaps that veteran is right. After all, the only power that will stop this war is the power of the people.

Its up to you, America, to determine the costs and ask yourself a simple question,

“Is it worth it?”

And then go out and do something about it.



Because the soldiers who are fighting this never-ending war, and the veterans who cannot get the help they need coming home, and the military families who's tears are shed when a loved one will never return are the only ones making the sacrifices...

...And their patience is running thin.

MORE:

**#2:**

**“The Troop Surge Was Nothing But Bullshit Served On A Red White And Blue Platter”**

From: J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 05, 2007

Surprise, surprise!

The troop surge was nothing but bullshit served on a red white and blue platter.

Interesting how this stupid government keeps consistently shooting itself in the foot.

Can't wait to see what happens next.

MORE:

**#3:**

***Reason for 9/11:***

**“The 9/11 Attacks Had More To Do With Our 700+ Foreign Military Bases, Economic Tyranny, And Meddling CIA Than With Anybody ‘Hating Our Freedom’”**

Reason for 9/11

04/18/2007 by David J. Kalbfleisch, Iraq Veterans Against The War, ivaw.org [Excerpt]

A young woman posted my "Let's get our terminology straight!" post on some military blog, and she received a number of comments blasting her for doing so. To my surprise, they didn't comment on me or what I wrote, but they did tell her that comments such as mine were not welcome on the site because they indirectly "don't support the troops." And they are entitled to their opinions.

What really caught my attention is that one of the comments iterated the premise that "they" demolished the World Trade Center and Pentagon wing because "they" hate our freedom and are jealous. That was Dubya's explanation for the attacks, but I don't see much truth to it. There's more to this story, and the fact that we never had an honest national discussion about why people would do such a thing gets right to the heart of the problem.

Are we really so arrogant and ignorant as a nation to believe that the rest of the world, or at least the middle east, is a wasteland crawling with maniacs from whom we must be protected at all costs?

**I spent time in several middle eastern countries in 2003, and the inhabitants were very polite to me even as my countrymen were bombing Arabs in Iraq.**

**Maybe I just met the "good Arabs" who are the exception to the rule, but it seems to me that people anywhere will treat you with respect, dignity, and courtesy when you offer the same to them.**

**I suspect the 9/11 attacks had more to do with our 700+ foreign military bases, economic tyranny, and meddling CIA than with anybody "hating our freedom."**

**MORE:**

**#4:**

***What Did The Yellow Ribbon On  
Your Car Do For Me?***

**"Support The Troops!" Is An  
Asininely Vague, Often Politically  
Motivated Statement"**

# **“I Suspect ‘Support The Troops!’ Really Means, “Support Bush’s War!”**

**If I threw you into an arena of lions, would observers say I supported you because I gave you a sharp, shiny, new dagger on your way in?**

04/18/2007 by David J. Kalbfleisch, Iraq Veterans Against The War, ivaw.org

**“Support the troops!” is an asininely vague, often politically motivated statement that means different things to different people.**

Let’s try to nail down an interpretation that actually conveys real information.

I spent most of 2003 floating around the Arabian Gulf waiting to be told to launch missiles. Can someone with one of those yellow ribbons on their car please explain specifically how they supported me? Not “the troops,” but me, Dave, one former member of the U.S. military.

If you thought you were supporting me when you paid for your sticker, thanks, but I regret to inform you that I did not receive any tangible benefit.

I didn’t get a pay raise, I spent just as much time staring at gauges that seldomly moved, I didn’t get additional time in a liberty port, and my submarine didn’t get any cool upgrades to make us less likely to be counter-detected.

I DID get George Dubya Bush announcing the end of hostilities. That was almost four years ago now (sigh).

Of course, I was just a submariner--safe from enemy fire (since we don’t invade countries with enough military capability to threaten a U.S. submarine).

**I wonder if the people on the ground felt the support.**

**I bet somebody’s blood actually coagulated miraculously fast to keep them from bleeding to death because that soldier knew people in the United States were putting yellow ribbons on their cars.**

**Or maybe they used a yellow ribbon as a band-aid! It wouldn’t surprise me considering ex-soldiers I know were using plywood as a substitute for metal armor on their vehicles in Iraq.**

**That’s how much the government is supporting the troops.**

**What does it mean to support the troops?**

**If I threw you into an arena of lions, would observers say I supported you because I gave you a sharp, shiny, new dagger on your way in?**

I suspect “Support the troops!” really means, “Support Bush’s war!”

“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



**IRAQ VETS LEADING MARCH ON PENTAGON 3.17.07**

[Photo by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist (jeff@paterson.net) Indybay.org]

## ***NCO Creed:***

**“One Of The Greatest, Most Hypocritical, Brainwashing Pieces Of Military Bullshit Ever Contrived By Commissioned Officers To Ensure That Status Quo Within The Military Survives At All Costs”**

# **“Just So There’s No Confusion, I’m Angry With My Branch Of Service”**

From: [XXXXX]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 18, 2007  
Subject: NCO Creed

**The NCO Creed is one of the greatest, most hypocritical, brainwashing pieces of military bullshit ever contrived by commissioned officers to ensure that status quo within the military survives at all costs.**

**Any good “careerist,” or pig, has one or more copies of “the creed” hanging up in his office and/or above his bed. The really good piggies have the creed committed to memory and recite it to themselves to the point of actually believing it.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***NCO CREED: “NO ONE IS MORE PROFESSIONAL THAN I”***

With professionalism comes a duty to keep your mouth shut and to do what you are told. You can voice your opinion, but not at the cost of your handler’s perceived public reputation.

It helps if your opinion happens to also be “The Army Story.” The pig keeps a good appearance and maintains his dignity, but never forgets who the real leaders of the Army are.

**As a professional soldier, his number one goal is to ensure that he gets promoted to the next rank. As a professional soldier, he will stop at nothing, nor will he let anything get in the way of his getting promoted to Pig Major.**

## ***“I AM A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, A LEADER OF SOLDIERS”***

After squad leader, the leadership role of the pig diminishes the higher he advances in rank. Indeed, for all the fuss pigs go through to remind themselves that they are “leaders,” the semi-intelligent ones realize that, along with Competence, Physical Training & Military Bearing, Training and Responsibility & Accountability, Leadership is only twenty percent of his NCO responsibilities according to the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report.

The smart ones will realize that even though each of those responsibilities seems important, the only one that really matters is Physical Training. The Army separates

soldiers from the service for failing PT tests, and never because of job proficiency, competence, or leadership.

Once Congress selects a soldier to be promoted to Pig First Class, his role shifts more to a logistical role and as an extra rung in the information ladder between the First Pig and the Squad Leaders. His job is to make sure the Platoon Leader has everything necessary to lead the platoon. The Platoon Pig is not the Platoon Leader unless in the absence of an actual commissioned officer. If he is really good at kissing his First Pig's ass, he will be rewarded with being able to write his own evaluation report.

**Once promoted to First Pig, his job is basically to be the messenger of bad news and to repeat word-for-word everything the commander says at the safety brief.**

**It is considered good form if he throws in threats of punishment for anyone who disturbs his weekend.**

**Making sure every soldier is up to date on dental appointments and immunizations is expected, as he is shopping online for things to buy as the soldiers you "lead" die. He will cut down on the time spent in the chow hall only when it is time for him to write his own evaluation report.**

At the exalted rank of Pig Major, the pig's job is to walk around with his hand in the back pocket of the commander of whatever level command he "leads."

**It is good if he spends his free time coming up with ideas that he believes will keep the soldiers motivated, even though in reality the effect will be the complete opposite.**

**This will indicate to any soldiers with a triple-digit GT score what happens when people make rank too quickly.**

At the rank of Pig Major, he has already spent much more time in the military as a "chief" than an "Indian" so it is expected for him to continually prove that he's forgotten what it is like to be a soldier.

It's a good idea if he keeps up appearances and leaves the FOB on occasion in order to appear stoic. He will do everything in his power to make sure he is incredibly safe so that he doesn't die before retirement. Dying is for a first-term soldier who enlisted for the college money to do.

**As the Pig Major goes up in echelons, he loses all relevance until you get to the Pig Major of the Army at which point one asks "What the hell has he done lately?"**

***AS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, I REALIZE THAT I AM A MEMBER OF A TIME HONORED CORPS, WHICH IS KNOWN AS "THE BACKBONE OF THE ARMY"***

As "The Backbone of the Army," it is the pig's responsibility to never question what "The Backbone of the Army" really is. The Backbone's job is to act as a buffer between the

commissioned officers and the soldiers and to stay busy so that he never realizes that he is, in fact, following the orders of someone else and isn't actually leading anything at all.

***I AM PROUD OF THE CORPS OF NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND WILL AT ALL TIMES CONDUCT MYSELF SO AS TO BRING CREDIT UPON THE CORPS, THE MILITARY SERVICE AND MY COUNTRY REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION IN WHICH I FIND MYSELF.***

This is the meat and potatoes of what it means to be a pig as well as illustrating the mentality of the pig. The pig may tell himself and may tell others that he chose military service out of patriotism, but in choosing a military career, he's actually put loyalty first and foremost to the NCO Corps, secondly to the Army, and last (and certainly least) to the country.

Why is the responsibility falling on the lower enlisted to speak out publicly against the war?

The pigs don't want to tarnish their careers "regardless of the situation" in which they find themselves. This is an evident truth.

***I WILL NOT USE MY GRADE OR POSITION TO ATTAIN PLEASURE, PROFIT, OR PERSONAL SAFETY.***

As a pig, the senior NCO's goal is to keep their fingers crossed that they survive that last deployment and submit that retirement packet as soon as possible. This means going outside the FOB as infrequently as possible and making sure adequate security is in place before attempting to appear fearless.

The bane of every pig is having his hand stuck in the back pocket of a leader who feels he has something to prove.

***COMPETENCE IS MY WATCH-WORD:***

***My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind-- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient.***

***I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership.***

***I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.***

**There isn't a single line in this paragraph that isn't one-hundred percent bullshit.**

Considering that promotion to sergeant requires only three years of service (but the really good little piglets can make it in eighteen months) and considering that now, in this "leadership crunch" the Army has adopted a "Promote ASAP" policy, most of the pigs have been pigs longer than they've been real soldiers.

Everyone has known at least a few incompetent pigs. Are they still holding rank? Yes. The only crime in the world of the pigs is embarrassing the Corps. If a pig is judged to be incompetent, he will be rewarded with a job that doesn't require much responsibility.

Remembering that the role of the pig is to get promoted at all costs, the pig will, in fact, fulfill "all responsibilities inherent in that role."

**The only line that isn't bullshit is the last line. The pig will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment by 1) rarely, if ever, recommending rewards and 2) always pushing for maximum punishment.**

### ***OFFICERS OF MY UNIT WILL HAVE MAXIMUM TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR DUTIES***

***Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!***

The opening of this paragraph talks about commissioned officers and earning their respect and mentions the soldiers only as an aside at the end. Of course, an officer usually serves as reviewer on the evaluation report.

**The third sentence, being loyal to seniors, peers, and subordinates alike goes out the window as soon a soldier decides he doesn't want to conform. As soon as one little robot becomes aware, and therefore a bruise on the pig's record, that loyalty goes out the window.**

Exercising initiative in the absence of orders means he is only a "leader" in the absence of an officer.

The pig will only compromise his "integrity and moral courage" when his evaluation report depends on it.

And the last line is some "hooah" bullshit to circulate in the minds of pigs therefore propagating the brainwashing effect.

\*\*\*\*\*



**So you might be wondering how the creed came about?**

**Well, during Vietnam there was a problem. Soldiers were killing their officers.**

**Have you heard the phrase “an Officer and a Gentleman?”**

**Well it turns out that being killed by your own soldiers isn’t exactly honorable or gentlemanly.**

**There needed to be more of a buffer between the officers and the lower enlisted. There needed to be a “Backbone of the Army.”**

**When there’s bad news to be distributed, news that will be very unpopular with the soldiers, it will be disseminated to the unit by the commander only if it won’t affect the reputation of higher officers.**

If it will affect how the soldiers view their officers, it will come out at the platoon sergeant meetings. There’s a lot to be gained by having the pigs appear to be the “bad” messengers.

If the commander is instituting a new policy that he knows will be unpopular with the soldiers, he will disseminate through subordinate commander down to the company level.

From there it will be disseminated by the first pig at the platoon sergeant meetings or it will be disseminated through memorandums.

**It will be very hands off and detached. (Did everyone sign General Betrayus’ letter?) The exception is when the bad news does not come from military sources.**

**For example, this latest deployment extension gives the commander the opportunity to speak to his soldiers and remind them that he is “one of them.”**

**Just so there’s no confusion, I’m angry with my branch of service.**

***[Comment: T: For the record, and in fairness, some of the most determined, outspoken and effective organizers against Bush’s wars have been Sgts, all the way up to E7. All honor and respect to them for standing up and speaking out.]***

#### **Troops Invited:**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to 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.**

# “Talk About Motivation For Immediate Withdrawal”

Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier who sent this in, with the headline. NOTE WELL: GI Special rarely runs a new live URL, because Assholes On Line (AOL) have a habit of blocking transmission to their subscribers if one is included.

But this one is unusual, to say the least. **WARNING: X RATED.** T

**“Hot Country Singer Has Message for the Troops”**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cAChVVZaM>

---

## A Letter From The Heart

From: Debbie Anderson  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 18, 2007  
Subject: Re: GI Special 5D7: GI Special Needs Some Backup Now

I will send in what I can now before the May 10th prize deadline, but it may not be much at this time. Alycia Barr is a beautifully talented artist who I met back in 2004. It's always great to see her work.

In a couple months I can send in more since the rain here (8 inches total) put a damper in my wallet (due to some flooding in my finished basement and then finding out due to the flooding that I have a severe termite infestation, actually thanks to the flooding, otherwise I may have never known).

**But these are small problems in comparison to what our troops are going through, problems they wish they had the opportunity to deal with at this very moment I am sure. I pray everyday for all our men & women still in harms way and hope this hellish nightmare ends soon so they can come home.**

**I know my husband takes things in quite differently then he did before he was sent to Iraq. Some for the better, but then some not. One thing is for sure, we are lucky to have him home with us now and retired from the military (after 23 years).**

I will definitely skip some Chinese take out and a movie ticket to keep the GI Special going.

Keep up the Great work and I hope the tech issues ease up for you guys.....

Peace, Debbie A

---

## OCCUPATION REPORT

### **60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Killed [Big Surprise]**



An Iraqi citizen protests as foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Delta company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment get ready to break into an Iraqi home in Baghdad's northwest Sunni neighborhood of Ghazaliya March 30, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch (IRAQ)



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment holds prisoner at gunpoint the Iraqi owners and employees of mechanics shops while troops search their shops in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

[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. T]

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

### **Received:**

### **“Thanks To All Of The Brothers And Sisters”**

From: Marcus A  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 12, 2007

My thanks to all of the brothers and Sisters who make this great work possible.

I wish I could do more, but you will receive another contribution from me soon.

In Solidarity,  
M

---

## **Computer Problems At GI Special**

From: JF  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 17, 2007  
Subject: Re: Trouble?

Sorry to hear of the [computer] problems. Send along the issues as you can.

Looks like you've really been making headway where it counts lately!

Please keep up the good work. Respect to you.

**REPLY:** This email comes from someone in another country who has stepped up to help GI Special time and time again. He, and others, are doing most of the good work, especially the troops who are writing in now from Iraq to express their opposition to Bush and his Imperial Wars. Respect to all concerned. T

**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

## **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/qispecial/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>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**