

GI SPECIAL 5D8:

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



U.S. Army soldiers evacuate soldiers wounded during a U.S. military operation against insurgents in Qubbah, Iraq, March 24, 2007. REUTERS/Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano/U.S. Air Force/Handout.

**The SSgt. Says:
“It’s Depressing That We Have
Gotten To The Point That Your
Publication Is Good Reading”**

**From: Staff Sergeant [XXXXXX]
To: GI Special
Sent: April 07, 2007
Subject: G.I. SPECIAL IS GOOD STUFF**

I just wanted to take the time to tell you that the “G.I. Special” is good reading. Let me rephrase that – it’s depressing that we have gotten to the point that your publication is good reading.

I try to catch the early bird news compilation every day I can. Today I found an article titled “The Few, The Proud, The Disillusioned” which immediately caught my eye. As I read it, I found a reference to the militaryproject.org website. Curious, I had to check it out.

Wow. The feeling I get from what I read is right where I am.

It is unfortunate we have been misled into the quagmire where we find ourselves.

I am going to turn my family and friends on to your site so they have no question about where I stand on this whole mess.

I have been in trouble in the past for speaking out about this debacle, so please do not send my name and address around. I do what I can, but I have to be careful also.

SSgt [XXXXX]

REPLY: [Excerpts]

Nothing that comes in from anybody serving anywhere is ever published in GI Special or circulated privately within The Military Project with any form of ID intact unless the individual specifically requests he or she be IDd. This means name, email address, and any other info that would enable anybody out there to see who wrote in, is cut out.

Anytime you feel like writing anything to express your views, that's what we're here for, with the protections described above in place by default.

You are 100% right to be careful.

People who get kicked out of service or locked up are less effective in advancing the cause.

Here is what one 1st ID member from a group of anti-war soldiers in Iraq wrote to GI Special:

“Before any soldier risks going to prison he should realize that his ability to communicate with other troops will be limited. “We choose our battles and continue to speak out in our underground action.”

“There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect.”

Respect for your service,

T

MORE:

“I’m Sick Of Seeing Yellow Ribbons And ‘Support Our Troops’ Bumper Stickers,” Iraq Vet Says: “They Mean Nothing. This Idea That Anti-War Is Anti-Troops Is Completely Backwards”

April 3, 2007 By Joe Maniscalco, Carroll Cobble Courier (Brooklyn, NY) [Excerpts]

A cadre of enthusiastic youngsters carrying homemade banners and balloons called for an end to the Iraq war this weekend in a kid-centric “peace parade” stretching from the playgrounds of Carroll Park to the arch at Grand Army Plaza. “Money for schools, not for war,” the children shouted from their Razor scooters and inline skates as they moved up Union Street. “Impeach Bush.”

Adults from Midwood to Park Slope including members of Brooklyn Parents for Peace, First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn, the New York State Green Party and a drum corps called The Himalayas accompanied the kids, filling three-quarters of the block between Smith Street and 3rd Avenue at the outset of the march.

At Sixth Avenue, onlookers outside the Union Market applauded and cheered on the children while moms on porches unfurled banners denouncing the Bush agenda.

Automobile horns and joggers flashing peace signs greeted the marchers at 7th Avenue.

Iraq war veteran Fabian Bouthillette looked out over all the peace signs stenciled on helium balloons and kid-crafted slogans like “Iraqi Children Make Peace” and “War Is The Opposite Of Life,” and addressed the crowd.

“I get choked up seeing all these kids,” said Bouthillette, now a teacher in Manhattan. “Seeing these kids is energizing. It’s all I need to keep going.”

A member of Iraq War Veterans Against the War, Bouthillette said he was studying at the naval academy when war broke out and was later stationed on a destroyer in the Arabian Gulf where three of his shipmates were killed by suicide bombers.

“I’m sick of seeing yellow ribbons and ‘support our troops’ bumper stickers,” he said. “They mean nothing. This idea that anti-war is anti-troops is completely backwards. Bush has been more detrimental to our Constitution than anything else.”

The Iraq war veteran blasted the billions of U.S. dollars already poured into the conflict - 10 percent of which he charged could have been used to restore hurricane ravaged New Orleans.

One of the hardest things he's ever had to come to grips with, Bouthillette revealed was, "coming to believe" that George Bush - his commander-in-chief - had lied to him about the war.

IRAQ VETS LEADING MARCH ON PENTAGON 3.17.07



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

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier,

Four Wounded

April 7, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070407-03

BAGHDAD — While conducting a combat security patrol, one MND-B Soldier died and four others were wounded when an explosively-formed projectile detonated in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital April 6.

IED Kills One U.S. Soldier; Three Wounded In West Baghdad

April 7, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070407-06

BAGHDAD — One MND-B Soldier died and three others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated in a western section of the Iraqi capital April 6.

The unit was attacked while conducting a security patrol of the area.

Expecting Father From Brockton Dies In Iraq

Apr 7, 2007 (WBZ) BROCKTON

Massachusetts has lost another soldier to the war in Iraq.

Army Capt. Anthony Palermo Jr., 27, of Brockton died on Friday when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Palermo was supposed to fly to Germany later this month to be with his wife when she gave birth to their first child. According to the Brockton Enterprise, she is also an army captain and has been stationed in Wurzburg.

Meredith Griffin, Palermo's cousin, told the paper the family is devastated. She said he was always worried more about his men than himself.

According to the Enterprise, Palermo lived with his family on Hillberg Ave. in Brockton before leaving for school in 1998. He was accepted to Norwich University in Vermont on a scholarship, the paper reports. He spent four years at the school and later graduated from Bridgewater State College in 2003.

Army Soldier From Picayune Dies In Iraq, Family Says

April 7, 2007 The Associated Press

An Army soldier from Picayune who had already received Purple Hearts for injuries he sustained in previous deployments has died in Iraq, his family says.

Army Staff Sgt. Jerry Clark Burge Jr., 39, was killed Wednesday by a roadside bomb, his family told The Picayune Item newspaper.

He was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas, and was stationed near Baghdad when a vehicle he was traveling in passed over an explosive device, said Rosalie Gower, Burge's ex-wife.

Burge was a demolitions expert and engineer with his battalion. His friend, James Taylor, said Burge received Purple Hearts for injuries during previous missions.

LI Soldier Killed In Iraq

April 7, 2007 BY SUSANA ENRIQUEZ, Newsday

A Levittown teenager who always wanted to be a soldier because he wanted to make a difference was killed two months into his first tour in Iraq.

Army Pfc. Daniel Fuentes, 19, died Thursday after a device detonated near him, said his mother, Nancy Fuentes, 38, of Levittown, late Friday night. The location of his death was not disclosed to the family, she said, and the Department of Defense did not release a statement about his death.

"He didn't think of himself, he thought of others," his mother said. "We raised a wonderful, loving and special son."

Fuentes, who was deployed Feb. 4., was on his first tour in Iraq and was a gunner. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, the "Black Lions," 4th Infantry Combat Brigade, 1st Infantry Division based at Fort Riley, Junction City, Kan.

Fuentes joined the Army Sept. 15, 2005, just months after graduating from Island Trees High School in Levittown.

In an e-mail to his mother on March 3, Fuentes said he got his strength and determination from her. "Many say we are heroes," he wrote. "I say the mothers are."

In addition to his mother, Fuentes is survived by his father, Armando Fuentes, 39; his brother, Julio Fuentes, 17; and his sister Tatyana Fuentes, 7.

Fuentes also leaves behind a fiancée who is four months pregnant. The couple was planning to marry next year, after he completed his tour in Iraq.

Services will likely be held next weekend, his mother said.

Good Soldier Remembered As An Unselfish Team Player



Mar 30 2007 By Kay Kirkland Managing Editor, Southeast Sun

Former Daleville High School basketball coach Andrew Sewell wasn't surprised to learn that former Warhawk player Curtis Glawson Jr. loved the Army.

"He was unselfish. He was at home with the team concept," Sewell said.

That's why Sewell is confident that Glawson was a good soldier, one that understood he might have to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Glawson, a 2000 DHS graduate, made that sacrifice March 20 in Baghdad, Iraq. The 24-year-old son of Yolanda Brooks died of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He had been assigned to the 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. He was a light wheel vehicle mechanic.

News of Brooks' death shook the Daleville School System, where Glawson's sisters Kierra and Jasmine attend.

"All of us in the Daleville City School System are shocked and saddened by the loss of Curtis," said Superintendent Andy Kelley. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family."

Kelley said Glawson was well-liked and very popular when he was a student at DHS.

"He always had a smile on his face," Kelley said.

Sewell, who is now assistant principal at Homewood High School near Birmingham, coached Glawson for two years. He said members of the DHS team, which went 6-0 in region play and were the Wiregrass Athletic Conference Tournament runners-up during Glawson's senior year, share a bond that still has not been broken.

Players like Derek Davis, Kerry Young, Zach Kelley, Alvin Winters and others have kept in touch with each other and with Sewell.

Sewell said he heard about Glawson's death from his former players, who sent him text messages or made cell phone calls to him last week.

"He was a good kid, unselfish and a hard worker," Sewell said. "He tried his best."

Sewell said Glawson was a great defensive player and assist player. "Defensively, he would shut you down," Sewell remembered. Davis said Glawson was "one of the quickest guards we had."

Davis, who himself suffered tragedy late last year when his mother and niece were killed in a car accident, said he and Sewell and Glawson's family and friends knew him as much more than a good ball player.

"He was a good friend," Davis said. "He was always there when you needed him."

Glawson's friends and family enjoyed his sense of humor.

"He was funny," Davis said, recalling fun times he and other team members and coaches shared with Glawson during high school. "He was a character."

Davis, who is in the Air Force and stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base, said he and Glawson also shared a dedication to the military. "He said he loved it," Davis said, adding that he and Glawson believe their service was making a positive impact and they are aware of the risks they take as members of the military.

"Fighting for your country is one of the most noble things you can do," Sewell agreed, saying he was sure that Glawson, like many Daleville graduates who have chosen the military, was serving well.

"I'm sure he was doing whatever it takes to help the team and get the job done," Sewell said.

Brooks said last week that she is "heartbroken but proud" of her son, who was "a good child" and a good soldier.

Though he had been in the Army for six years and had been deployed to Afghanistan and Korea, Glawson was on his first deployment to Iraq. He had arrived in Iraq Feb. 5.

Brooks had spoken with him by phone on Friday, four days before his death.

"He said, 'Momma, it's just crazy over here,'" she remembered.

Though he spoke of bombings that had shaken the buildings where he had been, Brooks said her son quickly turned the conversation to basketball, as he often did because of his continuing love for the sport. He wanted to know about the NCAA tournament, she said.

“He sounded good; he seemed happy,” she said.

The next Tuesday night, Brooks was watching “American Idol” when a vehicle pulled up in her driveway.

“I opened the door and saw two men in uniform,” she said, remembering how her heart sank. “I thought, ‘you can’t be going to tell me what I think you’re going to tell me.’”

Brooks said she was comforted in knowing that Glawson had talked to her, her sister and his wife, who lives in Korea, on the Friday before his death.

She remembers her son as “laid back” and a person who was true to the saying “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.”

“He just didn’t let stuff get to him,” she said.

Glawson’s body is expected to arrive in Dothan later this week and services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Daleville Christian Fellowship Church in Daleville. Visitation will be Friday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Fierce Fighting For Second Day In Diwaniya: Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded And Two Armored Humvees Destroyed

4.7.07 (Reuters)

U.S. forces launched an air strike in Diwaniya on Saturday as U.S. and Iraqi troops fought for a second day to overcome militias and bring the city back under government control.

Colonel Michael Garrett, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, said three U.S. soldiers had been wounded and two armored Humvees destroyed in the fighting. The Iraqi army said three of its soldiers were wounded.

A local hospital source and a resident said six people, including two children and a woman, were killed in the missile strike on a home in the centre of the city, 110 miles south of Baghdad.

Saturday's fighting was concentrated in five central districts and guerrillas were fighting back with roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades in hit-and-run attacks, an Iraqi military source there said.

A local hospital source and a resident said six people, including two children and a woman, were killed in the missile strike on a home in the centre of the city, 110 miles south of Baghdad.

Two British Soldiers Wounded In Basra Explosion

4/7/2007 (KUNA)

British forces in Iraq asserted Saturday two soldiers were injured and their vehicle damaged in the southern Iraqi City of Basra.

The army's spokesperson stated the British soldiers were injured when an explosive device blew up as a British military vehicle passed in one of the streets of Al-Hussein area in Central Basra.

The damaged vehicle was moved to one of the British military stations in Basra, the spokesperson added.

West York Soldier Injured In Iraq

03/30/2007 CARL LINDQUIST The York Dispatch

A 23-year-old West York Area High School graduate was injured late last week in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated.

Army Spc. Jonathan Harris was riding in a Stryker military transport vehicle when the device went off, said his father, Lloyd Harris.

"He was more or less on a patrol and a roadside bomb hit his vehicle," Lloyd Harris said.

Jonathan Harris, who had recently returned to Iraq after a leave, lost his right foot in the incident, Lloyd Harris said.

Jonathan Harris was flown from Iraq to a hospital in Germany, where an aunt who lives there met up with him, Lloyd Harris said.

His medical training helped him survive the incident.

"They trained him very well. That was the one thing about him going over there I felt good about, that they had trained him so extensively," Lloyd Harris said. "I guess that really paid off when he was hurt. He reacted and knew what to do."

Jonathan Harris, who was into the arts in high school, called his family on Saturday to tell them what happened, Lloyd Harris said.

"There was shock and dismay from it," Lloyd Harris said.

Despite the injuries, Jonathan Harris is in "good spirits," Lloyd Harris said. His right foot was amputated above the ankle and other leg bones were broken in the explosion.

Lloyd Harris said he and other family members are hoping to see Jonathan Harris soon.

But if Jonathan Harris needs to be taken care of in a place where that's not possible, Lloyd Harris said he was OK with waiting.

"Whatever is best for him," Lloyd Harris said

Twinsburg Soldier Injured In Iraq

Mar. 27, 2007 By Jim Carney, Beacon Journal staff writer

A Twinsburg soldier is expected to be back on duty in Iraq in two weeks after he was wounded over the weekend.

Army Sgt. Alex Cook, son of Kelly and Randy Cook of Twinsburg, was hit by shrapnel on Saturday, his mother said.

Sgt. Cook, a 2002 graduate of Twinsburg High School who had been home for two weeks this month, was wounded in the legs, his mother said.

When the phone rang the morning he was wounded, his mother said, she knew something was wrong.

"He said, 'Mom, I'm OK. I'm in the hospital,' " she said.

Another soldier was wounded with Cook, his mother said.

The incident occurred as U.S. troops were seeking insurgents inside a home. During the operation, insurgents blew up a metal door and a firefight began, his mother said.

This is Cook's first tour of duty in Iraq, his mother said. The 22-year-old is a member of the 82nd Airborne.

His three-year-enlistment in the Army was to be up in February but it has been extended until he arrives back from Iraq in August, his mother said.

Cook has already received his Purple Heart in a ceremony in Iraq.

When he was home this month, he went snowboarding, but "mostly chilled with friends and family," his mother said.

Cook plans to go to college when he gets out of the Army, his mother said.

Magic Valley Soldier Injured In Iraq

03/28/07 By Heath Druzin - Idaho Statesman

A Kimberly soldier was seriously injured in fighting in Iraq Monday, his family said through a statement.

Spc. Andrew Ryan Pike, 20, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, was hurt during a patrol while his platoon fought insurgents, his family said. The exact nature of his injuries has not been released but are thought to be "very serious."

Pike was on a yearlong deployment, though location of the battle has not been released. Kimberly is a tiny Magic Valley town outside of Twin Falls.

Pike's father, Brian, is a captain in the Twin Falls Police department and his brother, Daniel, is a petty officer in the Navy, the family said. Pike is in a hospital near Baghdad and is likely to be transported to a facility outside of Iraq. His parents are making arrangements to be with him.

Pike has always been precocious and mature, said Twin Falls Police Chief Jim Munn, a family friend who is acting as a spokesman for the Pike family. "He is one of the most personable kids I have ever met in my life," he said.

It's been a deadly two months for Idaho soldiers. Four have been killed in the past seven weeks, including three who died in a single roadside bomb attack on Feb. 8.

Bedford County Soldier Injured In Iraq

March 30, 2007 WJACTV

A Bedford County soldier was seriously injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

The Bedford Gazette reported on Friday that Army Staff Sgt. Richard Keller was hurt when his unit was hit by a roadside bomb earlier this month.

The paper reported Keller was crawling out of the combat vehicle's hatch to help other soldiers when the mine exploded.

Keller is receiving treatment on the West Coast.

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S., Army Bradley vehicle drives over a makeshift barricade in the road during an operation in eastern Baghdad, Dec. 31, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Spec. Justin A. Rollins at Arlington National Cemetery March 19, 2007. Rollins, of Newport, N.H., was killed with five other soldiers on March 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their unit during combat operations. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

“I’m Speaking Out While On Active Duty And Not Running For Cover Into Retirement”

“I Support The Appeal For Redress, Which Calls On Congress To Bring A Prompt Ending To The War In Iraq”

April 09, 2007 By Jeff Slocum, Army Times

The writer is an Air Force chief master sergeant with 21 years on active duty. He’s served in Texas, Arizona, Montana, Florida, Korea, Europe, Southwest Asia and Honduras, and is stationed in Fayetteville, N.C.

How do I serve the military and my nation with integrity as both an active-duty airman and an American citizen? Are they mutually exclusive endeavors? I don’t think so.

My moral and ethical conscience and obligations are guiding me in speaking out. They are also guiding me in faithfully and proudly serving my country and my Air Force. I’m proud of my service and fully support the Air Force mission.

I’m also a big proponent of “Let’s wrap it up in Iraq — as in, ‘the sooner, the better.’”

That’s why I support the Appeal for Redress, which calls on Congress to bring a prompt ending to the war in Iraq.

Some people surely think I’ve lost my mind.

But here’s where I’m coming from: I’ve never believed that the conventional military admonition to “do as we say or get out of the way” is always the answer. That line of thinking can get us into a big jam and keep us floundering around in a mess, like Iraq.

Appealing to Congress for withdrawal from Iraq doesn't mean I don't believe in our mission as an Air Force to support the war. As a total military team of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, we have a huge responsibility to each other in a variety of missions. I'm deeply committed and dedicated to our Air Force and our people.

That's why I'm speaking out while on active duty and not running for cover into retirement.

I'm also troubled by the generic "support the troops" mantra.

It often seems like a cheerleading campaign that does nothing to actually support them, such as making sure those who get the crap knocked out of them over there are truly well cared for.

And the ultimate support is to get them home and out of harm's way as soon as possible.

For the sake of their families, we should move even more quickly to get out of Iraq.

The human costs of the Iraq conflict continue to mount to a staggering level of tragedy and grief.

I cannot quietly watch as things drag on and deteriorate indefinitely, and more people die or are maimed for life. We need more than car magnets or dutiful silence.

Those service members who have signed the Appeal for Redress (<http://www.appealforredress.org>) have struggled with a serious and troubling patriotic dilemma.

These people have been to Iraq multiple times. They know the real deal.

They are compelled by their moral and ethical convictions to exercise their rights as service members and American citizens.

Yet, ironically, those who are active participants in the defense of our democracy may also find themselves taking friendly fire from those who don't know the truth and have misinterpreted this noble act of patriotism.

**The Mother Of U.S. Army Soldier
Jason Nunez Wears A Button
Reading In Spanish 'Mothers Against
The War,' During Her Son's Funeral**



Marlene Fernandez, the mother of U.S. Army soldier Jason Nunez, holds a ceremonial flag and wears a peace button reading in Spanish 'Mothers Against the War,' during her son's funeral, at the military cemetery in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, April 4, 2007. Of the 82nd Airborne Division, Nunez was killed last week along with three fellow soldiers in a suicidal bomb attack against his convoy near Baqubah, Iraq. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



Marlene Fernandez, the mother of U.S. Army soldier Jason Nunez, wears a peace button reading in Spanish 'Mothers Against the War,' during her son's funeral his widow, and his father watch as the soldier's coffin is lowered into a grave, about a week after he was killed in a bomb attack in Iraq, at the military cemetery in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, April 4, 2007. Their names are, left to right, Marlene Fernandez, Nitzza Damaris Martinez, and Samuel Nunez. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

“Then Maybe You Should Pick Up A Gun And Fly To Iraq”

April 6, 2007
Letters To The Editor
Socialist Worker

RECENTLY, WHILE waiting in line for coffee, a man noticed the Iraq Veterans Against the War button on my bag and asked me, "Are you an Iraq vet against the war?" I told him no, but I support them.

He asked if there are a lot of them around here, and I indicated I knew of several in Seattle, Olympia and around Fort Lewis. He said, “That’s too bad.”

I didn't know how to respond to this. My first thought was that he meant it was too bad there weren't more. But it was my turn to order, so I dropped it for the moment.

After we had both placed our orders, the guy piped up again: “Because I support Iraq vets for the war.”

There are so many different things I could have said. I wish I had pointed out that he supports a dwindling minority--since over 72 percent of vets want to be home. Or how supporting the war means thousands more shattered vets being abused by the reprehensible Veterans Administration system.

However, what I told him was: “Then maybe you should pick up a gun and fly to Iraq.” He didn't have a response to that.

Nicholas Hart, Seattle

“The Services Risk A Backlash From Troops And Families As Yet Another Apparent Promise Is Broken”

“Longer Tours And Reduced ‘Dwell Time’ At Home Become The Norm”

April 09, 2007 Editorial, Army Times

President Bush's Iraq surge plan announced in January called for extending some current deployments and accelerating some others, enabling the military to increase the number of troops in Iraq for a time.

We observed then on this page that the announced moves would support a surge lasting, at most, six months, and that such extensions and early deployments would likely become the norm, rather than an anomaly.

It was just a matter of time before the other shoe dropped and officials admitted as much.

Consider it dropped.

Air Force Gen. Lance Smith, chief of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, which supplies combat forces to Afghanistan and Iraq, admitted March 28 that if the surge is to last past summer, more troops will have to be extended in Iraq and others will have to deploy early.

And since Gen. David Petraeus, senior U.S. commander in Iraq, has already said he expects the surge to "go on for some time well beyond the summer," there is no longer any hiding from this fact.

The trouble is that the troops may not be up for this challenge.

For example, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Conway recently said some of his battalions are already getting as little as five months at home between deployments — and an extended surge will only make things worse.

Now, as longer tours and reduced "dwell time" at home become the norm, the services risk a backlash from troops and families as yet another apparent promise is broken.

Dribbling out this kind of bad news is simply wrong. The long-term damage to the morale of troops and their families could be overwhelming.

Bush and military leaders must level with the troops and let them know what they can expect — and sooner, not later.

That would at least let them plan their personal lives accordingly.

**“No One With A Brain ... Thinks That
The U.S. Army Isn't Now
Progressively Starting To Come
Apart”**

April 09, 2007 By Sean D. Naylor - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Iraq war has left the U.S. military “in a position of strategic peril,” retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey has warned in the wake of a recent trip to Iraq.

The retired four-star had his own criticism for the military’s senior leaders, whom he blames in part for what he views as the calamitous state of the Army.

“I do not believe the most senior military leadership spoke up in an adequate manner ... about the shortfalls in resources,” he said. “No one with a brain ... thinks that the U.S. Army isn’t now progressively starting to come apart.”

Three million Iraqis, including many of the country’s educated elite, have fled the country, McCaffrey noted.

In the land they left behind, the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki “has little credibility among the Shia populations from which it emerged,” wrote McCaffrey.

“It is despised by the Sunni as a Persian surrogate. It is believed untrustworthy and incompetent by the Kurds.

“Stateside U.S. Army and Marine Corps readiness (is) starting to unravel,” he wrote.

“Ground combat equipment is shot in both the active and reserve components. Army active and reserve component recruiting has now encountered serious quality and number problems. Promotion rates for officers and NCOs have skyrocketed to replace departing leaders.”

War Dead Receive ‘Dignified’ Return; “How About Honoring The Still Living Troops By Pulling Them Out Of A Lost War”

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

[He writes: And it only took four years for it to happen? How about honoring the still living troops by pulling them out of a lost war started over lies about nonexistent WMD's?]

April 07, 2007 Associated Press

In an about-face by the U.S. government four years into the war in Iraq, America's fallen troops are being brought back to their families aboard charter jets instead of ordinary

commercial flights, and the caskets are being met by honor guards in white gloves instead of baggage handlers with forklifts.

That change - which took effect quietly in January and applies to members of the U.S. military killed in Afghanistan, too - came after a campaign waged by a father who was aghast to learn that his son's body was going to be unloaded like so much luggage.

John Holley said an airline executive told him that was the "most expeditious" way to get the body home.

"I said, 'That's not going to happen with my son. That's not how my son is coming home,'" said Holley, an Army veteran from San Diego whose son, Spc. Matthew Holley, was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2005. "If it was 'expeditious' to deliver them in garbage trucks, would you do that?"

"What about all these other parents?" Holley said. "This is one of the last memories. I don't want it to be in a warehouse on a forklift."

Some Army Deserters Are No Longer Classified As Such

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

But some soldiers who have run away said the Army does not acknowledge they have deserted even though they have been gone for months and have no intention of returning.

03.28.2007 Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army, which has been stressed by repeated deployments in Iraq, is no longer classifying some soldiers as deserters even though they have run away, according to those who counsel deserters and deserters themselves.

It is unclear how widespread the practice is but counselors say they believe the Army has failed to classify hundreds of soldiers as deserters even though they have been gone for more than six months.

The Army says it routinely lists soldiers as AWOL if they are missing for up to 30 days. After that time, the Army assumes soldiers are not returning and, instead of being AWOL, they are dropped from the rolls and assumed to have deserted.

But some soldiers who have run away said the Army does not acknowledge they have deserted even though they have been gone for months and have no intention of returning.

"When I was AWOL I called this Army deserter's hot line about once every two weeks to see if my name would ever show up on the list," said Mark Wilkerson, an Iraq war veteran.

"I deserted in January 2005 and I started calling this list in February. What I found was that I would call and give them my Social Security number and they would come back and say, 'No you are not on the list yet. You are present for duty.'"

He said that until he stopped calling in June, he continued to be listed as present for duty.

Wilkerson, tired of worrying about being arrested, eventually surrendered and in February was convicted of desertion.

Hilferty said the military no longer tries to hunt down deserters. Instead, it assumes that deserters will eventually run afoul of police who check the NCIC computer.

Soldier Who Deserted Two Armies Captured In Sauna

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

April 4, 2007 By T.D. Flack and Hwang Hae-rym, Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — South Korean officials captured a man Sunday who they say deserted both the U.S. and South Korean militaries.

The 26-year-old, identified as Pvt. Kim, was nabbed in a public sauna in the Hongdae neighborhood of Seoul, a Ministry of National Defense spokesman confirmed Monday. The spokesman said they received a tip about Kim's location.

Kim deserted his post with South Korea's 25th Infantry Division on March 30, according to MND officials. He was working with the unit while awaiting the outcome of an investigation into his admitted desertion of the U.S. Army in 2005. Kim is being held in by the South Korean military, the MND spokesman said.

Officials have said Kim joined the U.S. Army in 2003 in a bid to become an American citizen.

When he learned his unit was to deploy to Iraq, officials say he deserted in 2005, returned to South Korea and joined the South Korean army in November 2006.

He admitted the desertion to the U.S. military in early March, MND officials said, and was told to continue his work with the 25th ID until legal officials could work their way through the complicated case.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

April 07, 2007 Lauren Frayer, Associated Press & (Xinhua) & Reuters

A roadside bomb exploded next to a joint American-Iraqi army patrol early Saturday on a highway leading into Annah, 275 kilometres northwest of Baghdad. Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and two were wounded, the Iraqi military said.

Fierce clashes broke out between Iraqi soldiers and insurgents in the Sunni neighborhood of Fadhel in downtown Baghdad, the source said without providing details about casualties as the troops sealed off the area.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad around midday, damaging a police vehicle, killing a policeman and wounding two others on board.

Insurgents killed an Iraqi soldier and wounded six others when they attacked an Iraqi army base on Friday evening near Suwayra, just south of Baghdad, police said.

A bomber targeting an Iraqi security forces checkpoint killed five near Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“I Had My Own Screening Here In
Ramadi”**

**“This Probably Is One Of The Most
Important Documentaries Made
About War Resistance”**



To Whom it May Concern:

I just wanted to say thank you for this film, for raising my awareness, I never even knew some of these things happened.

I think this probably is one of the most important documentaries made about war resistance.

The movie was such an important driving force for me I had my own screening here in Ramadi Iraq and got at least 10 service members to sign the Appeal for Redress (a petition to congress, signed by over 1,200 soldiers, demanding an end to war-DZ) with me...

My whole work this deployment (my second) has been awareness and I thank you for giving me yet another tool to spread that awareness.

Thank you again,
SGT Spencer Batchelder

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Also available is a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

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

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. 3-2 Stryker Brigade kicks in the front gate of an Iraqi citizen's home in Baghdad's Mansour district April 3, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong

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

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

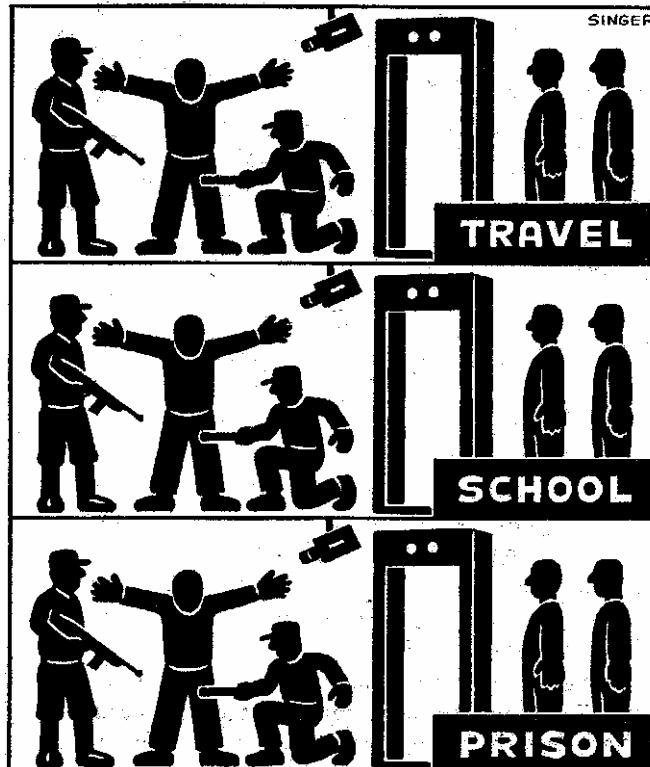
Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our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

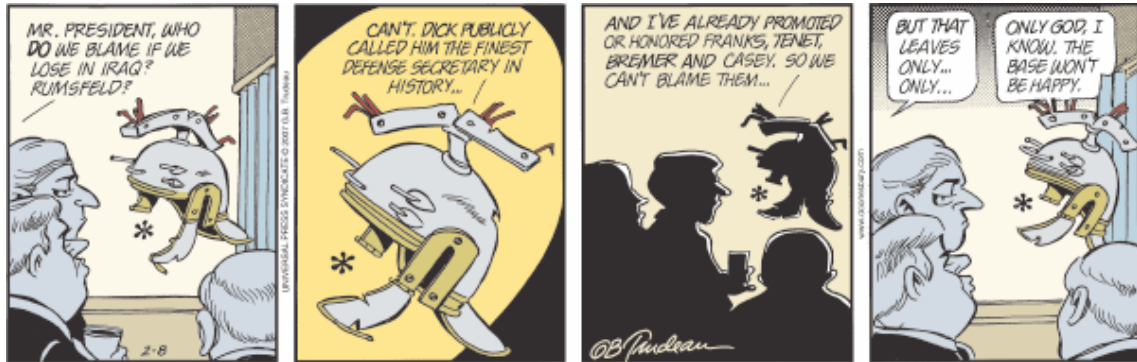
SAME OLD SAME OLD



A U.S. soldier stands guard inside a secondary school in Mahmoudiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, March 26, 2007. REUTERS/Ibrahim Sultan



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

Received:

“Let's Bring 1.5 Million Iraqi Soldiers Over Here”

From: MC
To: GI Special
Sent: April 07, 2007
Subject: Re: GI Special 5D5: On Keeping Men Alive

Good stuff here but the numbers are all wrong. Iraq is about a 10th the size of the U.S., useful for comparison purposes. Try this:

"Fair is fair. Let's bring 1.5 million Iraqi soldiers over here. In the first years of the occupation, according to epidemiologists writing in scientific literature, they are responsible for something like six million U.S. deaths....]"

RE:

On Apr 5, 2007, at 8:45 PM, Thomas F Barton wrote:

“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.]

REPLY: The writer is correct.

The reason 150,000 is used is for simplicity. A direct duplication of the numbers of U.S. troops in Iraq avoids having to digress from the argument to explain the difference in numbers and the function of proportionality, either in the middle of the text, interrupting the flow of the comparison, or as a point at the end, which would leave an explanation about numbers as the last thing in the reader's mind.

Solidarity,
T

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

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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