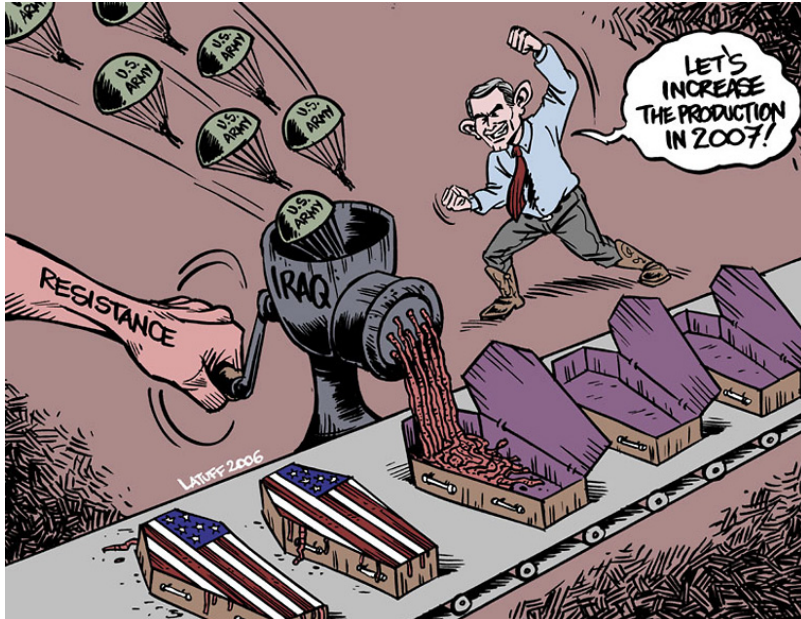


## GI SPECIAL 5E15:



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

# Let Bush's Veto Stand "Why Did The Peace Movement Get In The Streets And Protest What We Should Have Been Celebrating?"

[They are right. Organizations and individuals opposed to letting the veto stand are for killing more U.S. troops and Iraqis. Nothing less. Despicable. T.]

I do not understand why UFPJ and other peace coalitions/groups are asking Congress "to respond to President Bush's veto of the supplemental appropriations bill with a stronger bill."

May 8, 2007 By Robert Randall, GlynnPeace Citizens to End the War in Iraq, Brunswick, Georgia

**I do not understand why UFPJ and other peace coalitions/groups are asking Congress "to respond to President Bush's veto of the supplemental appropriations bill with a stronger bill."**

**The only appropriate response to Bush's veto of the supplemental Iraq War spending bill, it seems to me, is to ask him how he intends to implement it!**

**No, better ... we should be building pressure to hold Bush accountable for the safe and orderly implementation of his veto.**

**Do we not understand what has happened?**

**Although for the wrong reasons, George Bush did what the Democratic-controlled Congress was unwilling to do.**

**He voted against continuing funding for the Iraq War.**

**He fulfilled our goal of stopping the supplemental.**

**So why did the peace movement get in the streets and protest what we should have been celebrating?**

**Why didn't we declare victory?**

**Don't we understand political jiu jitsu at all? No wonder Karl Rove keeps "whupping" us.**

**Talk about wresting defeat from the jaws of victory!**

**Instead of begging Congress to try yet again to get Bush to agree to winding down the war (or worse, finding out what Bush is "willing" to sign!), we should be telling them to move on (can't help but note that this would be right in line with the name of a certain sympathetic organization) to addressing other pressing issues and let the veto stand.**

**Don't we understand that if Congress just does nothing on Iraq from this point forward, the war has to grind down for lack of funds and it is, if we frame the debate correctly, George Bush who gets the credit (or blame, if that is what Democrats are erroneously concerned about) for that lack of funds?**

**And for those who hate Bush so much that they'd rather see the Democrats win on this one rather than see the war actually end sooner, consider this: nothing would back Bush into a corner more than would accepting his veto and then emphasizing his responsibility to implement it.**

**The argument in a nutshell is something like this: "For at least once in his life, Mr. Bush needs to take responsibility for his actions. George Bush as President vetoed an Iraq War spending bill which provided more money for the troops than even he had requested.**

That done, it is now up to George Bush as Commander-in-Chief to see to it that that veto is implemented in the field in a way which brings those troops home safely before the money runs out."

Put the onus on Bush, where it belongs.

Congress has no responsibility whatsoever to bail the guy out!

And if Bush fails to remove the troops before the money runs out, then there will be no better reason ever, in the minds of the American public, for his removal from office -- for then he would have clearly failed the soldiers by cutting off their funds and leaving them in jeopardy and would no longer be fit (as if he ever was) to be Commander-in-Chief.

People would be hopping up and down for his impeachment and conviction then.

**Below is the position paper on the Bush veto which our local group in Glynn County, GA, adopted last Wednesday, the day after Bush's veto.**

**We commend it to you all as a better way of positioning ourselves in the current debate over Iraq War funding, which, had we been taking this approach all along, wouldn't even be a debate right now -- the debate should have already shifted to how to best implement the veto.**

Robert Randall

\*\*\*\*\*

## **LET THE VETO STAND!**

### **Open Letter to Pelosi and Reid**

May 8, 2007

A year ago, on May 4, 2006, GlynnPeace: Citizens To End The War In Iraq adopted a resolution which concluded "the time has come to end the United States' occupation of Iraq and bring our troops home."

Since then, another 948 U.S. soldiers have died and approximately 6,900 have been wounded. More than 22,000 additional Iraqis have died in this same one-year period.

All of this has been for worse than naught. The situation only grows worse every day and will continue to do so long as U.S. military forces occupy Iraq.

With renewed urgency we reiterate our position of a year ago: the U.S. occupation of Iraq must end now.

**On May 1, 2007, George Bush vetoed a bill which would have continued spending for the Iraq War for yet another year.**

**We say, Let the Veto Stand!**

**George Bush says about the Iraq War, "My way or no way." We believe that "no way" is clearly the better choice.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**Although he vetoed the war spending for all the wrong reasons, the result is the right one. Without money to continue the slaughter, the U.S. role in this war must end and U.S. troops will have to come home.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**Congress has no obligation to negotiate or compromise with the Bush administration about this. Allowing the war to continue well into 2008 was already a compromise which would have cost, conservatively, another 1,000 U.S. military lives at current fatality rates -- and probably more because of the increased number of U.S. targets provided by the so-called "surge".**

**We need no more dead and wounded.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**There is enough money already to do what needs to be done: bring U.S. troops home. The false claim that we must provide funding for the troops is their death sentence.**

**To truly support the troops, we must bring them home.**

**You do not support a person in a burning building by giving them more matches and gasoline; you support them by getting them out of the flames!**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**The reputation and leadership of the United States in the world community cannot be restored so long as we continue to occupy Iraq.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**The "war" against extremism and terrorism cannot be won so long as we provide, through our military occupation of Iraq, the best recruiting and training tools for al Qaeda.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**Iraqis will not be able to achieve any resolution to their own problems until the U.S. occupation is ended.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**The United States Congress needs to move on to fund our real needs, such as health care, education, infrastructural decay, and our growing debt. We cannot do that while wasting more billions on a counterproductive war in Iraq.**

**Let the Veto Stand!**

**--Adopted by GlynnPeace on May 2, 2007.**

---

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din, Another Wounded**

05/13/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

One Task Force Lightning Soldier died of wounds sustained in an explosion near the unit's patrol in Salah Ad Din Province May 13. One other Soldier was also wounded and was taken to a Coalition medical treatment facility for further care...

---

### **U.S. Soldier Killed By IED Near Haditha, Another Wounded**

05/13/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

One Multi-National Coalition-Iraq Soldier was killed and one was wounded in an improvised explosive device attack against their Heavy Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck near Haditha at 12:30 p.m. May 13.

---

### **Lafayette Marine, 21, Dies Serving In Iraq**

Apr 28, 2007 By PATRICK COURREGES, Advocate Acadiana bureau

LAFAYETTE — The mother of a Marine Will Celestine said Friday that he died doing what he always said he would do — taking care of his wife and child.

Trudy Celestine said the Marine Corps informed her Thursday that her 21-year-old son had died earlier this week while riding on patrol near Fallujah, Iraq.

Cpl. Celestine leaves behind a wife, April, and 2-year-old daughter, Nevaeh, which Trudy Celestine noted is "heaven" spelled backward.

She said the Marine representatives told her that her son's vehicle was hit by a missile or roadside bomb, and that he died at the site of the attack from a head wound, possibly when the vehicle flipped from the force of the explosion.

Celestine was assigned to the Camp Lejeune-based Co. A, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, 2nd Marine Division, the Marine Corps said in a statement. He was a radio operator and had joined the Marines on Jan. 26, 2005.

"He did say he wanted to take care of his wife," Trudy Celestine said of her son's reasons for volunteering. "He died doing the very thing he said he was going to do. He will take care of them now. He is doing what he's supposed to do."

Trudy Celestine said she has also picked up some details from Marines serving in Iraq who have contacted her.

"One of the members of his platoon managed to grab his body and run with it so they (enemy) wouldn't shoot it up," she said.

Trudy Celestine said the Marines did not know at the time that her son was already dead from his wounds.

Trudy Celestine said the Marine Corps has told her that the Marines who served with Will Celestine will be able to travel to Lafayette for funeral services with his body when it arrives in about a week.

"I wanted to meet the man who tried to save my son's life," she said.

Trudy Celestine said that her son was serving his second tour in Iraq, and had only been there about two weeks.

He had served an eight-month hitch in Iraq in late 2005 and early 2006, and was stationed in North Carolina between the two tours, she said.

Will Celestine left on the first tour just as Hurricane Katrina was making landfall.

Trudy Celestine said she was supposed to drive him to New Orleans, but had to change plans to bring him to Houston to make a connecting flight to start his trip to Iraq.

Lafayette Parish School Board member Rickey Hardy was Will Celestine's uncle by marriage, and said Friday he remembered watching "T-Will" grow up and was at the Celestine home Thursday when the Marine Corps delivered the news.

"I knew T-Will well, a courageous young man," Hardy said. "He was a little man with a big heart."

---

## **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME**



5.11.07: American soldiers from the mortar team of 2nd Brigade combat team, 10th Mountain Division, return fire near Yusifiyah in the 'triangle of death', Iraq. Photograph: Sean Smith. [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Two U.S. Troops Wounded In Urgan**

May 11, 2007 KHOST, Afghanistan (Reuters)

A bomber rammed his car into a convoy of U.S.-led coalition troops in Afghanistan near the border with Pakistan on Friday, wounding at least two U.S. soldiers, government and coalition officials said.

The troops cordoned off the site of the attack which took place on a road in Urgan district of southeastern Paktika province, provincial officials said.

---

### **“The Upper House Of Parliament Calls For A Date To Be Set For The Withdrawal Of Foreign Troops”**

May 10, 2007 By Jason Straziuso, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Lawmakers angered by mounting civilian deaths have sent a sharp warning to US and NATO commanders, passing a motion for a military cease-fire and negotiations with the Taliban.

The resolution, which NATO labeled "a warning shot" across its own bow, came as reports emerged yesterday of 21 villagers killed in airstrikes -- a toll that a Taliban spokesman said the militia would avenge.

The proposal from the upper house of parliament, which also calls for a date to be set for the withdrawal of foreign troops, suggests that Afghan support for the 5 1/2-year international military mission is crumbling amid a series of civilian deaths.

The motion reflects lawmakers' belief that negotiations with militants would be more effective than fighting, said Aminuddin Muzafari, the secretary of the upper house.

Parliament's lower house and President Hamid Karzai must endorse the proposal for it to become law. Presidential officials were not available for comment yesterday. However, Karzai has repeatedly said he is open to talks with Taliban.

---

## TROOP NEWS



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

---

## Update From Ansbach:



# Did Command Piss Their Pants Over Three Anti-War Iraq Vets?

[The amazing coincidence reported below comes hard on the heels of another amazing coincidence: a sudden flurry of media reports about how “terrorists” plan to disrupt U.S. army activities in Germany.

[Shit, if some German citizens, the Stop The War Brigade, and some Iraq Veterans Against The War can cause this much panic, you know what Command is really afraid of: their own troops, and whether they’re “reliable” and eager to go to Iraq, or just about ready to snap. T]

From: Stop The War Brigade  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 13, 2007  
Subject: "Vets Touch Down In Germany"

**Shortly before Iraq Veterans Against The War members, Thomas Cassidy, Jeff Englehart & Adam Kokesh arrived in Germany, the date for the Deployment Ceremony of the 12 Combat Aviation Brigade was moved from May 16th to May 24th.**

**May 24th is, coincidentally, the date that the Iraq War Vets are to return to the US.**

We have now also changed our date, May 16th, of the planned Demonstration at the front gate of the Army installation in Ansbach/Katterbach.

This Demonstration is one of the focal points of the Tour.

**We now will hold that Demonstration on the Eve of the US Army’s “Going-Away party”, May 23rd, at which time the Vets will have the opportunity to directly address the soldiers who will be deploying to a hopeless and lost cause.**

An additional Demonstration will take place on the morning of May 24th which also has been organized by the Ansbach Peace Coalition.

Barring any more unforeseen “changes” in the US Army’s schedule of festivities we don’t anticipate any more adjustments in our scheduled events.

**A report will follow shortly detailing IVAW member’s activities since their arrival.**

In Solidarity,

Darnell Stephen Summers  
"Stop The WAR Brigade"  
stopthewarbgde@hotmail.com

---

**“Of Those Officers I Sat With In  
The Mess Four Years Ago, Many,  
Like Me, Have Left The Army”  
“Those Who Remain Have No Trust  
In The Government”  
“One Told Me: ‘We Won’t Be Fooled  
Again’”**

**“Today, our troops are risking their lives in a pointless conflict, a nightmare scenario of counter-insurgency gone wrong” “Every Afghan civilian killed by the British artillery round or helicopter gunship has a dozen brothers, cousins, and friends seeking British blood”**

06 May 2007 By Leo Docherty, The Independent [UK]

Leo Docherty is author of ‘Desert of Death: A Soldier’s Journey from Iraq to Afghanistan’, published by Faber and Faber

\*\*\*\*\*

Four years ago, I watched, with other young officers, the invasion of Iraq on TV in the mess. We were sick with envy. Our brother officers were having the most exciting time of their lives, at the centre of history, while we, on ceremonial duties in London, marched about in red tunics and bearskin hats.

The invasion, it seemed, was a necessary evil to be redeemed by the creation of a free, democratic Iraq. The WMD issue was a pretext, we all concurred, an honourable white lie to knock an evil dictator off his perch and breathe new hope into the lives of a brutally repressed people.

Our turn soon came, and the ground truth in Basra and Maysan provinces was a shock.

The statue-toppling euphoria had been replaced by the horrific chaos of a state in collapse, exacerbated by a rising insurgency and sectarian bloodshed.

The truth gradually emerged. The police and army we were training were corrupt and probably loyal to the insurgency.

**The first supposedly democratic elections for half a century were a façade, dependent on the presence of our Warrior fighting vehicles at polling stations.**

**Then we realised the issue was not replacing tyranny with democracy, but gaining long-term access to oil.**

Blair, in bowing to American oil-mad energy hunger, had deployed the British Army on a lie, a much bigger lie than the one about WMDs.

Today, the appalling sectarian violence killing hundreds of Iraqi civilians every week is the direct result of our invasion and botched occupation.

As Blair prepares to leave office, Iraq is descending into deeper human tragedy, and British troops are still dying.

**Those in the forces who, like me, were frustrated and disillusioned after Iraq, took new optimism from British intervention in Afghanistan.**

It looked like being everything Iraq should have been: reconstructive nation-building to improve the lives of poverty-stricken Afghans.

**Sadly, political ill-preparation and haste dropped the military, again, into lethally hot water.**

Last year, British forces were sent into volatile Helmand, ill-equipped and inadequately supported. Scattered across the north of the province (the size of Wales), small teams occupied "platoon houses" in remote towns.

I was in Sangin where, as in everywhere else, we had no means of starting developmental reconstruction and stood no chance of winning Afghan hearts and minds.

To the locals, the presence of British soldiers seemed to presage destruction of their poppy crop and their livelihoods.

Helmand produces 40 per cent of Afghanistan's opium crop, the source of 90 per cent of global heroin.

And the people there are tribesmen, infamous for their ferocious hostility to foreign interference.

The savage backlash rages still; more than 50 British servicemen are dead in this sub-campaign, countless Afghan civilians have been killed, and opium production is at an all-time high.

**The Taliban are thriving on this: every Afghan civilian killed by the British artillery round or helicopter gunship has a dozen brothers, cousins, and friends seeking British blood for vengeance.**

**Today, our troops are risking their lives in a pointless conflict, a nightmare scenario of counter-insurgency gone wrong.**

There is the mismatch between Blair's huge military ambition overseas and the scarce resources the forces get to fulfil it.

The Army has lost four infantry battalions.

Soldiers serving a fourth tour struggle to maintain relationships at home. Half the Navy's fleet is threatened with mothballing.

When you join the Army, you swear allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and, by extension, the Prime Minister. We commit ourselves, with unquestioning loyalty, to the State.

This is founded on trust in our political masters, and the belief that they are honourable people who will not lie to us, will resource us correctly and deploy us with sound judgement, after thorough strategic planning.

This bond is unique, set in stone regardless of party politics.

Today, this bond is broken. Catastrophes in Iraq and Afghanistan and years of resource-starvation have taken their toll; this is Blair's legacy.

**Late last year, the head of the Army, General Sir Richard Dannat, publicly called for our withdrawal from Iraq. Other senior officers voiced concern.**

**Such public statements, unthinkable before Blair, are a glimpse of the military's anger and frustration.**

**Of those officers I sat with in the mess four years ago, many, like me, have left the Army.**

**Those who remain have no trust in the Government.**

**One told me: "We won't be fooled again."**

**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 Vet Suffering PTSD  
Faces Court Martial Because He Went  
AWOL To Get Mental Health Care:  
Show Your Support For Sp/4 Eugene Cherry:  
Open Meeting:**

**Monday, May 14, 2007, 10:00 Am  
Different Drummer Internet Cafe,  
12 Paddock Arcade (Adjacent To Ft Drum)  
Watertown NY**

From: CitizenSoldier1@aol.com  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 10, 2007  
Subject: Disabled Iraq Vet Faces Ft Drum Court Martial

(More info: Tod Ensign, (212) 679-2250 or (917) 647-5676 (cell))

Sp/4 Eugene Cherry, 24, of Chicago, IL., served as a combat medic in Iraq from June 2004-June 2005 with the 10th Mountain Division from Ft Drum.

**Returning to the base, Cherry suffered from severe mental symptoms associated with PTSD. Unable to obtain treatment for his mental health condition, Cherry returned home to Chicago where he entered treatment with a clinical psychologist.**

**Since Cherry returned to Ft Drum, he's been given powerful drugs such as Zoloft & Ambien but only one therapy session.**

**Last week, the command charged him with being AWOL and will try him at a BCD Special Court Martial, which could impose a one year prison term and a Bad Conduct Discharge. (Cherry must be interviewed by telephone, since he's been restricted to Ft Drum)**

Dr. Hannah Frisch, PhD, is the Chicago clinical psychologist who treated Specialist Cherry and prepared a six page medical evaluation diagnosing him with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Sec.309.81 of the APA's Diagnostic Manual, 4th ED)

**Dr. Frisch will be present to discuss Eugene's case and will visit Ft Drum to discuss his treatment with Army mental health professionals.**

**Tod Ensign, Esq., Legal Director of Citizen Soldier, the GI rights group which sponsors the "Different Drummer" cafe, will discuss the project's plans to support Specialist Cherry and the efforts of other Ft Drum veterans to obtain mental health treatment, in lieu of prosecution, for behavior linked to their PTSD.**

**Cindi Mercante, Army vet and Project Director, "Different Drummer" will describe contacts the project has had with soldiers and their family members who are seeking mental health care for Iraq or Afghan war related injuries.**

---

# **Canada Will Deport U.S. Soldiers Who Deserted; They Face Lengthy Prison Terms In U.S.**

May 06, 2007 Jack Lakey, Staff Reporter, Toronto Star

Two U.S. Army deserters have exhausted their appeals for Canadian refugee status and now face deportation.

In a ruling released yesterday, a three-judge panel of the Federal Court of Appeal upheld decisions by the Federal Court and the Immigration and Refugee Board that Jeremy Hinzman and Brandon Hughey are not entitled to refugee status.

The ruling is a blow to at least 17 other war resisters in the Greater Toronto Area, as well as many others across the country, who insist the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq violates international law, and that those who refuse to participate should not be punished.

Hinzman and Hughey could face lengthy prison terms if convicted of desertion upon their return to the United States.

---

## ***Pentagon Clowns Achieve A New Level Of Tactical Stupidity: Bush Regime's Attempt To Defy Congress And Stop Active Duty Testimony Only Infuriates Lawmakers; "The Guidelines Would Not Affect Congressional Subpoenas, Which Can Compel Anyone To Appear Before Lawmakers"***

May 10, 2007 By Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- The Pentagon has placed unprecedented restrictions on who can testify before Congress, reserving the right to bar lower-ranking officers, enlisted soldiers, and career bureaucrats from appearing before oversight committees or having their remarks transcribed, according to Defense Department documents.

Robert L. Wilkie, a former Bush administration national security official who left the White House to become assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs last year, has outlined a half-dozen guidelines that prohibit most officers below the rank of colonel from appearing in hearings, restricting testimony to high-ranking officers and civilians appointed by President Bush.

The guidelines, described in an April 19 memo to the staff director of the House Armed Services Committee, adds that all field-level officers and enlisted personnel must be "deemed appropriate" by the Department of Defense before they can participate in personal briefings for members of Congress or their staffs; in addition, according to the memo, the proceedings must not be recorded.

Wilkie's memo also stipulated that any officers who are allowed to testify must be accompanied by an official from the administration, such as Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and his top-level aides.

**Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress see the move as a blatant attempt to bog down investigations of the war.**

**But veterans of the legislative process -- who say they have never heard of such guidelines before -- maintain that the Pentagon has no authority to set such ground rules.**

**The guidelines would not affect congressional subpoenas, which can compel anyone to appear before lawmakers.**

As a result, several lawmakers have pledged privately to use that power if the Pentagon's guidelines stymie their efforts to get information from specific sectors of the military.

"The memo was a way to establish guidelines on how junior officers and the enlisted be contacted on their participation in the aforementioned briefings," Army Lieutenant Colonel Brian Maka said in a statement yesterday.

**Even so, the guidelines, a copy of which was provided to the Globe by a Democratic aide, have already set off one highly unusual confrontation between Pentagon lawyers and the newly created House oversight and investigations subcommittee, according to several congressional officials who witnessed the exchange.**

**At a closed-door hearing a few days after Wilkie's memo was distributed, Defense Department lawyers sought to apply the guidelines to the testimony of three Army officers -- a captain, a major, and a lieutenant colonel -- set to testify about their first-hand experience training Iraqi security forces.**

**A few minutes into the proceedings, a representative from the Pentagon's Office of General Counsel tried to apply the new provisions. Speaking from the audience, he declared that the officers could not participate if the meeting was being recorded for a transcript -- a regular practice in congressional hearings.**

**The panel's Democratic chairman, Representative Martin Meehan of Lowell, and ranking Republican W. Todd Aken of Missouri both insisted a transcript would be kept and the Pentagon entourage, including the officers, "theatrically stormed out of the room," said one attendant.**

**Veterans of Capitol Hill scoffed at the Pentagon's restrictions on who can talk to lawmakers.**

"If I was the staff director I would say why the hell should I care who you want to appear before my committee," said Winslow Wheeler, who worked for three Republican senators and one Democrat in a 30-year career as a top congressional aide. He called Wilkie's memo "embarrassing."

Several congressional officials accused him of attempting to muzzle the military's lower ranks, which are more likely to give Congress an unvarnished opinion compared with the top-level Pentagon brass, who typically seek to further the Bush administration's policies.

The memo has fueled complaints that the Bush administration is trying to restrict access to information about the war in Iraq.

The special House oversight panel, according to aides, has written at least 10 letters to the Pentagon since February seeking information and has received only one official reply.

Nor has the Pentagon fully complied with repeated requests for all the monthly assessments of Iraqi security forces, reports compiled by US military advisers embedded with Iraqi units.

---

## ***A World Champion Of Incoherent Bullshit At Work:***

### **1. General Says No Guard Troops Will Be Deployed Without "Proper Training"**



## 2. General Says “Aged And Outdated” National Guard Equipment Not Good Enough To Train With

April 23, 2007 By William H. McMichael, Army Times [Excerpts]

**No National Guard troops will deploy without the proper training and equipment, the Guard’s top officer vowed.**

“No soldier, no unit will go to the war not ready, [Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau], told the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee April 11. “It won’t happen. We take the time to do what we have to, to make them ready.”

**What’s often left in units back home, he said, is aged and outdated equipment considered too substandard for use in the war theater.**

“If it’s not good enough for war,” said, “why is it good enough to train with?”

**The upshot, he said, is that the Guard gets “further in the hole” and “more incapable over time.”**

**He called it a “death spiral of capability.”**

Readiness for war was also on the mind of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat who fired a broadside at the White House on April 10 over its plan to send members of his 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq as part of that four-brigade call up.

**Strickland expressed concern that the unit could be entering a war zone without proper equipment.**

**But he seemed even more upset about how quickly the unit was being redeployed.**

The 37th was on duty in Kosovo from August 2004 to February 2005. Strickland said the unit, with members from Ohio and Michigan, and its families “had a right to expect that there would not be a deployment until 2009.”

Under the Pentagon’s “planning objective,” reinforced April 11 by Defense Secretary Robert Gates as a “goal,” reserve-component units mobilized for one year should not be mobilized for deployment again for at least five years.

---

## \$20K To Gamble Your Life?

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: \$20K to gamble your life? Where is the retention office, Las Vegas? Not very good odds.]

May 11 By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - The Army will offer incentives to keep midlevel officers as it faces another decade or so in combat around the world, its chief of staff said Friday.

To stem a growing trend of critical future leaders leaving the service, Casey said the Army will unveil a plan next week to give some captains \$20,000 to stay on. He said the Army also will increase opportunities for officers to go to various graduate schools as another incentive to stay in the military. The captains also would get a choice in duty assignments.

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **GET THE MESSAGE?**



Protesters burn the U.S. flag as they rally against the Occupation in Najaf, southern Iraq, May 9, 2007. Shi'ite demonstrators denounced Cheney's visit to Iraq. (AP Photo/Alaa al-Marjani)

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

**Assorted Resistance Action**



A damaged police vehicle after a bomb attack in Baghdad May 13, 2007. REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud (IRAQ)

13 May 2007 Reuters & Echo Publications & AFP & Sapa-AP & (CBS/AP)

**Armed militants drove into a crowded market in Baqouba, north of the capital, pulled two handcuffed men out of the boot and shot and killed them in a display meant to send a message to residents not to co-operate with US-led forces, police and witnesses said.**

Many Iraqis who work as policemen or soldiers, or as translators for American forces, keep their jobs secret and wear face masks to avoid being recognized and later killed by Sunni insurgent groups or Shiite militias that oppose the U.S. coalition as occupiers of Iraq.

The eight insurgents in two cars drove into the bustling market in central Baqouba about 8:30 a.m., opened a trunk, pulled out one handcuffed man and repeatedly shot him in the head, the police and witnesses said on condition of anonymity out of concern for their own security.

They then drove to a nearby cinema, pulled the other man out of the trunk and publicly killed him, police said.

"This is the destiny of traitors," they called out as they shot their prisoners.

The shootings occurred during morning rush hour in Baqouba. In mostly Iraq, the work week for many people is Sunday through Thursday.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded four policemen at midnight in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A truck bomber crashed into the offices of a Kurdish political party in Makhmur, northern Iraq, and detonated his explosives amid a meeting of local security commanders, killing at least 10 people and injuring 60, including the mayor who was in his nearby office, Iraqi officials said.

Among those killed was a local police chief, police said.

"A man in an army officer's uniform driving a Chevrolet four-by-four pulled up and said he was expected at a meeting," said wounded policeman Ziad Ibrahim.

"We let him in and he drove to straight to the party offices and the car exploded," he explained, also speaking from his hospital bed.

Guerrillas attacked a police station south of Baqouba, killing one officer.

---

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“Get the hell out before any  
more of my Vet Brothers die”  
“Bush is A liar and don’t care how  
many vets Die as long as he gets  
his way and his money”**

[These are two emails written by a Vietnam veteran to a Vietnamese-American who argued that U.S. troops should stay in Iraq and win the war, and also argued that U.S. troops should have stayed in Vietnam and won that war too.

[Her letters are the usual stale arguments, not worth the space.

[His answers are not only from the heart, but give the lie to the long-winded blathering from the usual elitist snobs today who write condescending bullshit about how our troops are crude, cruel uneducated working-class people who can't understand this or that or whatever about Bush's wars.

[Our troops understand far more and far better than the moralizing, self-important, inflated, useless babblers who plague the movement against the war, with their idiotic appeals to politicians and their timetables and all the rest of their excuses to oppose getting out now. The Vietnam vet has it right: “Get the hell out before any more of my Vet Brothers die.” T]

May 07, 2007 By Spud, Vietnam veterans on the net

**So you think this is A good thing, and you are Pro War, and you don't think we should have pulled out of Viet Nam because of all the Viet People that died after we pulled out,**

**How many more names would you like to have seen on the wall before we pulled out,**

**Just how many do you want to die before we pull out of this War,**

Yes I no many Viet People died after we pulled out, and the same thing may happen again,

**When I was in the grunts A1\5, I was ready to kill any thing that did not have round eyes, but after spending 10 Mo. in Cap, I learn that these people are just like us,**

**They laugh and play, and take care of the older ones and the young,**

**I learn to love these people.**

I put A few Viet Kids through school, I tried to bring one home with me but the sys said his Mom and Dad were VC, so I could not,

But some times you have to face the facts,

**We were not going to win in Nam and we are not going to win this one, so I ask you, How many vets do you want to see die before we pull out,**

**I am sorry but I don't think we should give up any more Vet lives for this war,**

If they want to kill each other after we leave, that is up to them,

I loved your people but I love mine more, I don't want mine or your kids dieing for nothing,

The sys does lie to us, just like the Recruiters do,

I give 13 Mo. to help your people out and have been messed up ever since, PTSD, My wife and Daughter have suffered because of my helping out your people,

Now this next generation, it starts all over again,

I help many Vets, I work with the Vet Center and I am A owner of A Yahoo PTSD support group, about 105 members, Some are here in this cap group,

**I do every thing I can to help are vets, but I don't trust Bush and his buddies,**

**There into MONEY, I am into peace for all,**

Now that you are here and doing well from what I read, What are you doing to help your people,

see how you are helping us, Trying to tell us what we should do and who we should trust,

I will never bail out on my people,

SPUD (SF)

\*\*\*\*\*

May 08, 2007 By Spud, Vietnam veterans on the net

**Well I see part of the problem, You trust Bush,**

**You think things will be different this time, I don't,**

**You say we were winning after TET, that was in 68,**

**Tell that to the Vets that were still fighting for the next 5 years,**

Yes I no, Kerry and Fonda were no help to us Vets, But do you really think the sys would care what these num nuts were saying,

We need good Leaders to make the rite calls, and we don't have that,

What is it now, about 25% of the people support Bush,

The Vets did not lose the Nam War, The sys lost the War, and the same thing is going to happen again,

**So lets be smarter than we were before,**

**Get the hell out before any more of my Vet Brothers die.**

**75% of the people no that Bush is A liar and don't care how many vets Die as long as he gets his way and his money,**

SPUD (SF)

---

## The Georgie W Saprano's

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Daughter: "Dad, they say you are in the WAR CRIMINALS, is that how you make your money ?"**

**Georgie W: "I don't know nothin about dat, you know how I make money, I'm da President, I talk garrbage."**

Wife Laura: "Georgie, ya know your Modder's birthday is coming up. Ya know we have to have a pardy for her."

Georgie W: "A pardy ? I'd like to give the Bitch a bullet right between the eyes."

Wife Laura: "Now Georgie, I've called the Caterer and I'm having Invitations printed up."

Georgie W: "Yeah, well, make sure the government pays for all dat."

Daughter: "Dad, why do the American people hate you ?"

Georgie W: "Yeah, well, don't believe everythin dey say. If they would just believe my garbage, everything would be all right.  
Now, why don't yu go back to college and stay drunk like I did and forget all about dis ?"

Daughter: "Dad, they say you are a Soldier in the WAR CRIMINALS."

Georgie W: "Look, the only time I was a Soldier was in the National Guard, so I didn't have to go to Vietnam.  
Der all mad at me now because I press ganged the National Guard now to go to Iraq and Afghanistan."

Join Us Next Week For Another All New Episode of

The Georgie W Saprano's

It's the Writing, That's What Makes It So Good

---

## OCCUPATION REPORT

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

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



An Iraqi citizen and her relatives huddle together in silence as foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division search their home in Mosul, May 5, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

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

**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**

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



# **Iraqis Resist U.S. Pressure To Enact Oil Law: “Some Of The Fiercest Opposition Has Come From Oil Workers, Who Threatened To Go On Strike”**

**Imad Abdul Hussain, a leader of the Federation of Oil Unions, said workers want oil production to remain in government hands. "Oil is Iraq's sovereignty. It is the only wealth in Iraq. It unifies Iraqis. When we give it to a foreign investor, this means the sovereignty is taken away," he said.**

May 13, 2007 By Tina Susman, L.A. Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — It has not even reached parliament, but the oil law that U.S. officials call vital to ending Iraq's civil war is in serious trouble among Iraqi lawmakers, many of whom see it as a sloppy document rushed forward to satisfy Washington's clock.

Opposition ranges from vehement to measured, but two things are clear: The May deadline that the White House had been banking on is in doubt. And even if the law is passed, it fails to resolve key issues, including how to divide Iraq's oil revenue among its Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni regions, and how much foreign investment to allow. Those questions would be put off for future debates.

Some of the fiercest opposition has come from oil workers, who threatened to go on strike this week to protest the legislation.

Imad Abdul Hussain, a leader of the Federation of Oil Unions, said workers want oil production to remain in government hands.

"Oil is Iraq's sovereignty. It is the only wealth in Iraq. It unifies Iraqis. When we give it to a foreign investor, this means the sovereignty is taken away," he said.

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**Iraq:**

# “The Areas In Which The Democrats And Republicans Are In Agreement Are More Significant Than The Ones In Which They Differ”



4-29-07 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE.

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

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

May 10, 2007 Matt Taibbi, RollingStone [Excerpts]

**Anyone who wants an example of why the areas in which the Democrats and Republicans are in agreement are more significant than the ones in which they differ need only look at the two parties nearly unanimous endorsement of the "Benchmarks" the Iraqi government must meet, according to the supplemental. The key passage reads as follows:**

**(2) whether the Government of Iraq is making substantial progress in meeting its commitment to pursue reconciliation initiatives, including a hydro-carbon law...**

The proposed Hydrocarbon Law is a result of pressure from the American government on the Iraqis to draft an oil policy that would adhere to the IMF guidelines.

It allows foreign companies to take advantage of Iraqi oil fields by allowing regions to pair up with foreigners using what are known as "production-sharing agreements" or PSAs, which guarantee investing companies large shares of the profits for decades into the future.

The law also makes it impossible for the Iraqi state to regulate levels of oil production (seriously undermining OPEC), allows oil companies to repatriate profits, and would also allow companies to hire foreign workers to man facilities.

**Add all the measures up and the Hydrocarbon law not only takes control of the oil industry away from the Iraqi state, but virtually guarantees that the state will profit very little from future oil exploitation.**

To recap: Saddam Hussein rips off Iraqi people, America "liberates" said people from Saddam, then bludgeons them with Saddam's debts until they hand over the keys to the oil industry. Nice deal, yes?

It is hard to argue with the logic of armed resistance to U.S. forces in Iraq when both American parties, representing the vast majority of the American voting public, endorse the same draconian plan to rob the country's riches.

Moreover, this endorsement of these neoliberal "benchmarks" by the Democrats makes me believe a lot less in their "gradualist" approach to ending the war.

If they viewed the war as much of the world did, as a murderous and profoundly immoral criminal enterprise, they would understand that morally, they really have no choice now but to refuse to send Bush even a dime more for this war.

After all, it's impossible to justify on any level voting to give George Bush more money for more troops "in the short run" if you believe that the occupation is fundamentally evil and exploitative.

But the Democrats clearly do not believe it is wrong. They don't even mind having a big hand in it.

They just don't think it's going very well, and understand that in the long run, it's a non-starter politically.

#### **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.**

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**



"YOU SEE, SON, THERE ARE TWO AMERICAS..."

© Detroit News. Dist. by UFS Inc.

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

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

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-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.**