

## GI SPECIAL 5E21:

# DISSENT WITHIN THE RANKS

How Troops are Organizing Against the War

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**Do you feel betrayed, too?**

**More and more troops are speaking out about how this war has abused their trust.**

**Come learn more about what's happening and how you can be a part of it.**

### WHERE?

The Oasis  
16 Bank Street, New London, CT 06320

### WHEN?

May 20th at 1:00 p.m.

### Speakers:

**Jonathan Hutto**

Co-Founder, Appeal for Redress, USN

**Liam Madden**

Co-Founder, Appeal for Redress, Iraq Veterans  
Against the War (IVAW), USMC veteran

**Damon Murphy**

IVAW, USN veteran

**Fabian Bouthillette**

IVAW, The Military Project, USN veteran

#### About IVAW:

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) was founded by Iraq war veterans in 2004 to give a voice to the large number of active duty service people and veterans who are against this war, but are under various pressures to remain silent. From its inception, IVAW has called for: immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq; reparations for the destruction and corporate pillaging of Iraq so that ordinary Iraqi people can control their own lives and future; and full benefits, adequate healthcare (including mental health), and other supports for returning servicemen and women. For more information: [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

#### About the Appeal for Redress:

Many active duty, reserve, and guard service members are concerned about the war in Iraq and support the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The Appeal for Redress provides a way in which individual service members can appeal to their Congressional Representative and US Senators to urge an end to the U.S. military occupation. The first Appeal signatures were delivered to members of Congress on January 16, to coincide with at the time of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January 2007. Appeal for Redress will continue to collect signatures until all active duty, Guard, and active reserve soldiers are out of Iraq. Nearly 2,000 troops have signed the Appeal for Redress to date. For more information: [www.appealforredress.org](http://www.appealforredress.org)

#### About the Military Project:

The Military Project was formed in 2004 to equip concerned civilians (alongside and including military family members and veterans) to reach out to anti-war troops who seek support. Members of the Military Project engage in outreach to connect with those who can strengthen the anti-war movement based on their experience and first-hand knowledge: troops themselves. The Military Project publishes GI Special, a near-daily bulletin for service members. For more information: [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

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for more information: [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org) or 860-445-5293

## **GI Special Appeal Report:**

The Spring 2007 GI Special Appeal ended 5.10.07, the last day for postmarking contributions to help GI Special keep going.

The drawing for raffle winners will happen 5.20.07. If you won, you will be notified so you can pick your prize. The first name drawn out of the hat will get his or her choice of the five prizes, the second name drawn choice of the remaining four, etc.

**A total of \$2650.26 was sent in.**

**As you were promised in the appeal, every cent of this will go towards expenses of GI Special.**

**Thanks to everybody who helped out.**

**Your help brought down the stack of unfunded bills to about \$700, and that should be easily cleaned up in the September 2007 GI Special Appeal.**

**The Spring 2007 Appeal came after extraordinary equipment expenses, as you read in the Appeal information, plus the costs of travel to Fayetteville NC for the anti-war rally near Ft. Bragg called by veterans. It is not expected these kinds of expenses will happen again before the next appeal, so this means the financial pressure is off. Thanks to you.**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, Two Wounded In Baghdad By IED/Small Arms Fire Combined Attack**

May 19, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070519-02

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Two MND-B Soldiers were killed and two others wounded when their combat security patrol was engaged by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire in a northwestern section of Baghdad May 18.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded By IED South Of Baghdad**

May 19, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070518-06

BAGHDAD — A Soldier was killed and three were wounded when their patrol was struck by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad today.

Two Iraqi soldiers were also wounded in the blast.

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## **Soldier Killed By Small Arms Fire South Of Baghdad**

May 19, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070519-05

BAGHDAD — One Soldier was killed by small arms fire while dismounted in an over watch position during combat operations south of Baghdad Friday.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed In Anbar**

May 19, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070519-04

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to Multi National Force-West was killed May 18 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

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## **Sniper Kills Beach Grad On Duty In Baghdad On Sunday**



Christopher Kiernan

May 8, 2007 By KATE WILTROUT, The Virginian-Pilot

Donna and Christopher Kiernan had plans.

In two years, Staff Sgt. Kiernan would retire from his beloved Army. The couple would move south from Fort Hood, Texas, to San Antonio. Friends and family said the couple wanted to buy some land and - hopefully - adopt a child.

Kiernan, who grew up in Virginia Beach, was killed in action Sunday in Baghdad, according to the Department of Defense. His father-in-law, Leland East, said in a phone interview from Killeen, Texas, that Kiernan was shot by a sniper while on patrol. It was his second tour of duty in Iraq. His unit - 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division - went to Iraq in October.

Christopher Kiernan graduated from First Colonial High School in 1988.

"He was a soldier's soldier," East said. "He looked out for his men."

Warren East, a brother-in-law, said Kiernan, 37, quietly served everyone around him.

"I have Parkinson's disease, and he used to help me out to no end," Warren East said. "He was always there. If something needed to be done, he got the job done."

The couple enjoyed fishing and traveling together, said Zelda East, Donna Kiernan's sister-in-law. They were animal lovers, with two dogs and two cats.

The two met at a concert at Fort Hood, where Donna Kiernan works for a government travel office. Married in 2001, the Kiernans celebrated their first anniversary the following year with a family trip to New Orleans, Zelda East said.

Karen Alesick, a friend of the couple and one of Donna Kiernan's co-workers, described Chris Kiernan as "one of the most incredible people I know. Not only was he a good soldier, he took care of his men."

Alesick said family members were told that after Kiernan was shot, he was worried about his soldiers' safety, and warned them to look out for themselves.

"Even when he was hurt, injured and dying, he wanted to take care of his men," she said.

That didn't surprise her. When Kiernan's unit deployed to Iraq two years ago, he was forced to stay behind while recovering from an illness. He rejoined the unit a few weeks later, Alesick said, but not being with his troops when they deployed "ate him up."

Alesick said Donna Kiernan stayed busy during her husband's absences by helping injured soldiers - visiting them in hospitals, talking to them when they were lonely, even reading them books if they couldn't scan the pages themselves.

Zelda East said Christopher Kiernan was planning a visit home in July so he could be with his wife on her birthday.

"They shared a very unique bond," Alesick said. "That was the love of her life. They married later in life. They found each other, and they were meant to be together."

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## **Gays Soldier Laid To Rest As Friends And Neighbors Mourn His Death In Iraq**

May 8, 2007 By KATE HENDERSON, H&R Staff Writer

GAYS - Pfc. Cole Spencer was recalled as an all-American hero Monday by the lieutenant governor, while friends remembered the soldier as being friendly and nice.

The 21-year-old Gays soldier, son of Mark and Candy Spencer, was buried Monday afternoon in Greenhill Cemetery in Sullivan following services at the Calvary Baptist Church in Gays. Spencer was killed in action April 28 in Salman Pak, Iraq, while serving with the U.S. Army.

Flags lined the streets of Gays and hundreds turned out to say goodbye on a warm, sunny afternoon. Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn offered state condolences at the funeral, and the Rev. Bart Spencer, Cole Spencer's uncle, officiated. Quinn described Spencer as an "all-American hero."

"He lived life to the fullest and volunteered for our military. In the Old Testament, Isaiah, the prophet, refers to Oaks of Righteousness," Quinn said. "Cole was a person of great faith and that came through very clearly at the funeral. He was an Oak of Righteousness for our country and all of us."

Quinn also commented the community "did itself proud" with its display of support through flags and a large crowd.

"We had closed-circuit TV set up in two rooms and we had a full house everywhere," Sonny Ross of Gays said.

Spencer's family also was presented with a Purple Heart, a military honor awarded to those who have been killed or wounded.

Ross said Becky Spencer, Cole's cousin, wrote and sang a special song for the fallen soldier called "Cole's Song."

Friends and community members lined Illinois 32 between Windsor and Sullivan, waving flags and holding signs thanking the soldier for the ultimate sacrifice.

The Patriot Guard Riders, military members, various police and fire department personnel and scores of family and friends were included in the funeral procession.

People in Sullivan also stopped around 3 p.m. to line both sides of Water Street, which leads to the cemetery, where two ladder trucks hoisting an American flag between them waited.

Memories of Spencer echoed throughout the street as friends met and waited for the funeral procession.

Cindy Guin of Sullivan said Spencer and her son attended kindergarten together.

"My son was upset the most," Guin said. "He said Cole was a really nice kid. He should be honored in every sense."

Janie Ross remembered Spencer as a nice person who loved the military and outdoors.

Janie Ross, a secretary at Heritage Baptist Academy in Gays, which Spencer attended, said she had known Spencer since he was 3 or 4 years old.

"He was easy to get along with," Ross said. "He loved the military; it was exactly what he wanted to do."

Ross said she suspects the school will hold some kind of event in memory of Spencer, but no plans have been made yet.

Pvt. Josh Gage, who attended the funeral, said Spencer was the type of person who rarely met a stranger.

"He was friendly, outgoing, not afraid to talk to anyone and not afraid to be their friend," Gage said. "It's a shame we had to lose him."

Memorials can be sent to the Cole Spencer Memorial Gymnasium fund at Heritage Baptist Academy.

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## **Former El Pasoan Killed In Iraq Was 'Outgoing'**

05/08/2007 By Chris Roberts, El Paso Times

Spc. Anthony Bradshaw, an El Paso native killed in Iraq over the weekend, loved martial arts movies and on his online MySpace.com page made numerous references to actor Chuck Norris, who played Texas Ranger Cordell Walker on television.

But close friends in El Paso said it wasn't so much the physical moves as the philosophy behind them.

"He was like my brother because we had a hard life -- we shared clothes," said William Connolly, also an El Paso native. "He was a humble guy, calm and observant and very outspoken."

Connolly said Bradshaw, 21, fought for the things he wanted and, along with others in a small group of longtime friends "joined the Army so we could go to school and make something of our lives."

On his MySpace page, Bradshaw said he looks forward to going to college, getting married and having children.

"He had plans with his brother to go to Austin and go to (the University of Texas)," said Felipe Ochoa, another member of the group. "He was very observant, very smart."

Entries on Bradshaw's MySpace page reflected his sense of humor, Ochoa said.

A series of standard questions, meant to reveal the page owner's personality, asked Bradshaw to identify his fears and weaknesses. "Unlike Chuck Norris, I have none," he answered. And asked how he wanted to die, he responded, "Unlike Chuck Norris, I'll never die."

Bradshaw and two of his brothers -- one in Iraq and the other just returned -- respected the characters Norris and fellow martial-arts master Bruce Lee created, Ochoa said.

"They look up to men of good intentions," he said. "He was a true friend, he never has let me down. All his intentions throughout his life were good."

Bradshaw was with the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which is a Stryker brigade based at Fort Lewis, Wash. Friends said he was killed by a roadside bomb.

Another longtime friend, Mike Angerstein, an Army Reserve soldier, said Bradshaw "was just a real cool guy, a real outgoing guy." Angerstein said he used Bradshaw's MySpace page to stay in contact while his buddy was serving in Iraq.

On his page, Bradshaw, with humor, indicated he was ready to perform his duties as an infantry gunner. Asked about his goal for the year, he wrote that he wanted to "close in with and destroy the enemy." Asked if he played an instrument, he responded, "The 240!," referring to the belt-fed machine gun that was his specialty.

"When it was time for him to go, he'd get pumped up," said Connolly, a National Guard soldier who has trained up and expects to go to Iraq in the near future.

"We're fighting for people like us to live their lives," Connolly said, adding, "you're fighting for the guy next to you, so they can come home."

For most of Bradshaw's life, home was El Paso. He lists three high schools on his MySpace page -- Hanks, Americas and Eastwood. That's because he moved around a lot, Connolly said, adding that Bradshaw earned his GED. Then the family moved to San Antonio, where his mother still lives, Connolly said.

Connolly, who met Bradshaw in the second grade, said the group of friends would play pickup football and basketball games. A common meeting place was Album Park, said Angerstein, who moved to Houston six years ago.

They all came from low-income families, Connolly said.

"There are a lot of people who take friendship for granted," he said. "We don't. We're like brothers. ... If one of us had a problem, we were there for each other."

But no matter how bad things got, Bradshaw never lost his temper, the friends agreed.

"He never really got serious or mad about anything," Angerstein said. Bradshaw's only regret, according to his MySpace page, was "That I have only one life to give for my country."

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## Sand Springs Family Loses Son In Iraq

May 09, 2007 By JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS, TULSA, Okla. (AP)

Army Spc. Joel Lewis, a gung-ho adventurer who put marriage to his sweetheart on hold to serve his country, was among six soldiers killed over the weekend in a roadside bomb blast in Iraq, his family said.

Lewis, 28, had ties to Sand Springs, a suburb of Tulsa, where his mother and stepfather live. He was a member of the Stryker Brigade combat team at Fort Lewis, Washington, and had been in Iraq since February.

A freelance news photographer from Russia also was killed, and two more soldiers were wounded in Sunday's improvised explosive device attack, according to the Department of Defense.

It was the worst hit to date on the Stryker, a faster eight-wheeled armored troop carrier that is the mainstay of the Fort Lewis infantry brigades.

Tuesday, family members remembered Lewis as a competitive "adrenaline junkie" who loved to skydive, tinker with computers and play chess and ice hockey.

Lewis stood tall at 6-foot-5 and weighed 250 pounds, but had a disarming, hearty laugh that seemed to draw people toward him, recalled his mother, Gale Poindexter.

"I don't know what led him (into the Army), the adventure or the travel," Poindexter said. "He was always into that band of brothers type of thing.

"He kind of had no fear."

Chisel away the tough-guy exterior and you'd find the romantic who proposed to his fiancée in Washington only a few months after meeting her, family members said.

"He was like home," said Julie Smith, a bookkeeper who met Joel in September through an online dating service. "We got to know each other so easily."

Their first date was dinner at Olive Garden, then talking on the beach until after sundown. By December, Joel confessed to her on a car trip that he'd been looking at engagement rings. Then, in January, he just blurted out, 'will you marry me?' one day when they were at home, she recalled.

"He couldn't wait a second longer, he just had to know," said Smith, sobbing.



Plans to marry were put on hold until after he was scheduled to return in October.

Justin, Lewis' younger brother, said Joel was always the one trying the new adventures; the free spirit who didn't want to be tied down to a desk job when he got out of the service; the one who taught him to play chess.

"He had so much life ahead of him," Justin Lewis said. "I was operating under 'this is not going to happen to me or my family.'"

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## **Green Zone Attacked As Tony Blair Visits; British Embassy Compound Hit As He Babbles About "Signs Of Progress On Security"**

[Now that is some accurate targeting. T]

May 19, 2007 DAVID STRINGER, Associated Press Writer

Outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose premiership has been dominated by his unpopular decision to join the Iraq war, arrived here on a farewell visit Saturday, and three mortar shells or rockets slammed into the compound where he met with Iraq's leaders.

**The attack on Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone wounded one person, said U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor. One round hit the British Embassy compound, security officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.**

It was not known if Blair was in the embassy at the time, but he appeared to refer to the attack when he held a news conference with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani after meeting with them privately.

Blair appeared irritated at repeated news conference questions about levels of violence, saying Iraqi officials had assured him in talks that there were signs of progress on security.

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## **Fighting In Diwaniya**

19 May 2007 Reuters

DIWANIYA: Clashes between Shi'ite militiamen and U.S., Iraqi and Polish forces on Friday left one Iraqi soldier killed and five civilians wounded.

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier holds a weapon aboard a vehicle while on patrol in Baghdad, January 16, 2007. (Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three German Soldiers Killed Two Wounded In Kunduz Blast**

19/05/2007 MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AFP)

A suicide blast tore through a bazaar in a normally quiet town in northern Afghanistan Saturday, killing three German soldiers, a governor said.

The German soldiers were hit while shopping in a market in the town of Kunduz, the provincial governor told AFP.

"Three of our German friends were killed and two were wounded. One Afghan interpreter was also wounded," Kunduz governor Mohammad Omar said.

The attack was the most deadly against the German troops since 2003, when four were killed in a car bombing in Kabul.

All that was left of the bomber was two legs, Omar said.

The German military based in the main northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif said it could not yet release any information. Germany has around 3,000 troops in Afghanistan, operating largely in the north of the country.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Army Spc. Robert J. Dixon of Minneapolis at his burial service, May 17, 2007 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Dixon, 27, died in Iraq on May 6 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Jim Mone)

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**“Many Of These Soldiers Are Taking  
It But They Just Appear On The Edge  
Of Being Totally Fatigued”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
5.21.07

The so-called volunteer Army is not working as it should.

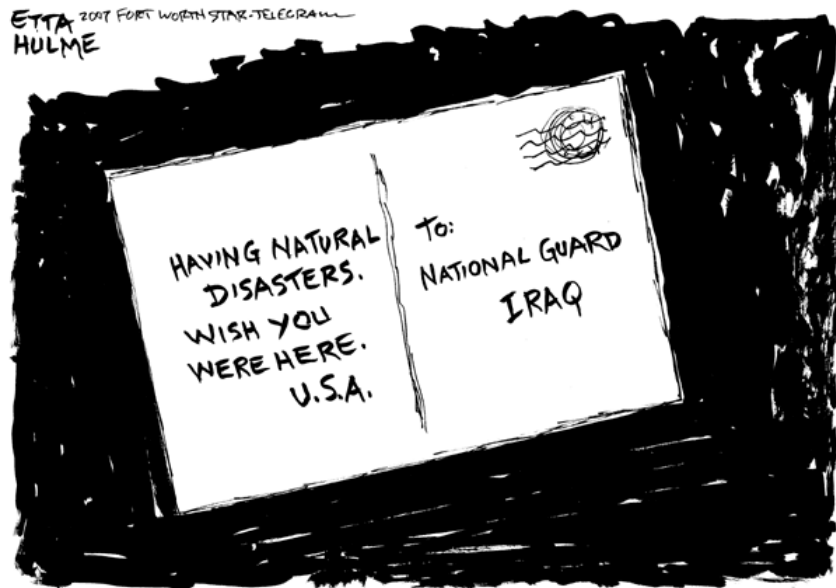
Not enough people are volunteering and people are getting tired.

I see them almost weekly at Killeen and Copperas Cove, Texas.

Many of these soldiers are taking it but they just appear on the edge of being totally fatigued.

Command Sgt. Maj.  
James L. Morrison (ret.)  
Austin, Texas

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

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## Iraq Veterans Write Against The War

*Iraq Veterans Against the War, Warrior Writers: Move, Shoot and Communicate, 2007.*

May 11, 2007, Book Review by Mary Howland, Socialist Worker

SOLDIERS AND veterans have been writing poetry and literature for ages as a means of dealing with horrific situations and haunting memories.

English literature and poetry has seen the likes of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen depict the horrors of trench warfare during the First World War, and more recently has seen the likes of Tim O'Brien, Yusef Komunyakaa and Bruce Weigl illustrate the absurdity and violence of the Vietnam War.

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) members are following suit, and the chapbook *Warrior Writers: Move, Shoot and Communicate* is the first published result of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and soldiers writing to make sense of their experiences fighting in a war they disagree with.

*Warrior Writers* was conceived out of a writers' workshop for IVAW members, led by activist and writer Lovella Calica, editor of the book. The workshop was aimed to provide a space for veterans to reflect and to express themselves and their experiences in a creative outlet and a safe environment.

The results were astonishing, poignant, heartbreaking and brutal. The success of the workshop and of the book has inspired Calica and other IVAW members to host more workshops around the country.

The book is made up of poems, letters and mini-memoirs ranging from remembering the inescapable sand of the desert, to remembering a fallen friend, to dealing with guilt and anger. This book shows the true side of this brutal occupation, it tells us of the anger and weight veterans have to carry for fighting in a war they are opposed to.

As Garrett Reppenhagen writes in "Duffel Bags," "when you see a soldier returning home with a duffel bag at a bus stop, think about what is inside the bag. It might be rolled clothing of browns and tans. Or, it could be dark secrets that he will never reveal to his family."

The overwhelming sense is that this book is not as much for a wider audience as it is for the IVAW itself. It is a tool of healing and support, but in doing this, it opens the door to a wider audience of people who are also opposed to the occupation, to gain a more real sense of what the soldiers' experiences.

Every contribution in the book hits the reader in a different way. Aaron Hughes' poem "Ahmed" tells only one story out of thousands of an innocent little boy made victim of war. Although it is a devastating poem, it has a sense of hope to it, as well as love and forgiveness.

The book is filled with the desire for the occupation to end, for the warfare and barbaric destruction to cease.

Mark Lachance's "War Makes Monsters of Us All" sums it up best, "It is hard to fit into a life where everyone around me has no understanding that I lived my life for a year in a place where every decision I made either killed someone, or saved someone. I hope that in time we as veterans will find a way to bring our experience from war into society so our children will know the truth: war makes monsters of us all."

*Warrior Writers* gives a human face to the harshness of the military and the destruction of the occupation. It is an amazing tool to be used in organizing against the war, and

giving a voice to the soldiers who are now fighting back--fighting for a world free of occupation and violence.

To get a copy of Warrior Writers, contact Drew Cameron at [drew@ivaw.org](mailto:drew@ivaw.org) or Lovella Calica at [lovella@ivaw.org](mailto:lovella@ivaw.org).

**“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**

## ***Read Between The Lines:* Army Rats In Command Lying About Combat Vets’ Problems: Objective: To Deny Them Benefits**

**[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn’t care less. To repeat for the 3,503rd time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn’t tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]**

May 21, 2007 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

Since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of soldiers discharged without benefits for personality disorders grew by about 300 people a year from 2001 to 2006.

But some soldiers say they showed no signs of any mental health condition before deploying to Iraq, and Army officials say many of them had also been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

**The idea that there could be latent personality disorder cases that emerge only with trauma “is just not accurate,” said Tracie Shea, a researcher at Brown University who specializes in PTSD and personality disorders.**

**“People who are performing fine come back from war and suddenly there’s a personality disorder? That’s just not sustainable,” she said.**

People with personality disorders must show signs of it by late adolescence, she said. And such conditions are not easy to hide.

Shea, who is working on research for the Defense Department to come up with anger-management intervention tools for service members, said she was shocked when she saw a story in The Nation magazine showing that 22,500 service members have been discharged in the last six years for personality disorders.

Each of those service members left the military with no medical benefits and an other-than-honorable discharge that they will have to explain to future employers as well as the Department of Veterans of Affairs if they seek help there. Often, they also must pay back re-enlistment bonuses.

In fact, a form that troops must sign as they're being counseled about personality disorders states: "If separated with less than an honorable discharge/characterization, you could encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life."

Some of those troops, including several due to be interviewed by members of Congress on May 14 and May 15 at Fort Carson, Colo., say they were told taking the personality disorder discharge, rather than a discharge for PTSD, would not cause them to lose benefits, and would take much less time than going through the medical evaluation board process.

In reality, the evaluation process would determine if they were eligible for military benefits, and ensure they were properly diagnosed.

Lawmakers asked for a Government Accountability Office investigation into Fort Carson's handling of those cases. The GAO began work May 6.

Under Defense Department regulations, troops with personality disorders are not eligible for a medical board because a personality disorder is by definition a pre-existing condition whose symptoms develop by age 15.

But the research of Shea and others may suggest the Fort Carson cases may be severe PTSD, not personality disorders.

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## **800 From Texas National Guard Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse: Camp Mabry Soldiers Say Final Goodbyes Before Iraq Deployment**

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

May 14, 2007 KXAN

More soldiers from the Texas National Guard are headed to Iraq Monday morning. More than 800 Camp Mabry troops said goodbye to their families on Sunday.

It was an emotional farewell for an all-male battalion.

(The following is a transcript from KXAN's Matt Flener).

"It's hard to see over all these umbrellas," said Mandy Tyler, wife of deployed husband.

Women like Tyler are in the stands to see their soldiers off to war.

"It will be a Mother's Day I won't forget," said Tyler.

It's the same story for many moms in the crowd, including Tyler's own.

Flener said: "As a mother, what is it like to see her going through something like this today?"

Christine Roberts, Tyler's mother, said: "It's been very difficult. Since the time he got his orders, had many changes, went ahead and had them move in with me, since she has the children. We're able to help her out like that."

**"We're celebrating for my dad, hoping that he doesn't die," said Amethyst Roberts, Tyler's daughter.**

That is the wish of many a child, many a mom of the 144th Infantry: wishing good thoughts on each Lone Star soldier as they leave the United States for one year. More than 800 of these soldiers will move toward Camp Shelby Mississippi. It is from there they will move on, after some training, to Iraq.

"He's supposed to celebrate Mother's Day, and he's, and he's not, but it's a celebration where he goes to Iraq," said Amethyst.

Celebration is one word after the ceremony ends; lamentation is another. It's the stamina of the soldier and the mother that strengthens the time apart.

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## 2 Of 3 Army Recruiting Goals Missed

May 21, 2007 Army Times

The active Army was the only component to meet or exceed its recruiting goals in April, according to information released May 10 by the Defense Department.

April was the 23rd straight successful recruiting month for the Army, with 5,804 recruits, or 107 percent, of its goal of 5,400.

The Army National Guard reported 5,746 accessions, 89 percent of its goal of 6,483.



The Army Reserve recruited 1,888 people, 81 percent of its goal of 2,336.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Mortars Greet Key Iraqi Traitor On Visit To Area Northeast Of Baghdad**

May 19, 2007 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD: Senior Iraqi [pro-Bush] politician Ahmad Chalabi escaped unharmed Saturday when insurgents shelled a village he was visiting northeast of Baghdad and later exchanged gunfire with his personal security detail, an aide said.

The aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of his own safety, said the gunfight lasted 15 minutes and that army soldiers joined Chalabi's security team to drive the assailants back.

Iraq's state television aired footage showing soldiers and Chalabi's security guards firing automatic weapons from behind a sand berm. The insurgents could not be seen, but Chalabi was shown earlier speaking to reporters as gunfire suddenly rang out in the background.

Chalabi, once a Pentagon favorite to lead Iraq after Saddam Hussein, appeared calm, finishing his answer to a reporter's question before being hustled away by a burly bodyguard.

He was visiting Diyala province to rally local clans against insurgents who have been active in the area in recent weeks.

**After spending most of his life abroad, Chalabi returned to Iraq in 2003 and served in the 25-member Governing Council appointed by the American occupation authorities to run the country's day-to-day affairs.**

He was a member of the next two Cabinets, serving as finance minister and then as deputy prime minister but failed to win a seat in parliament in the 2005 election.

**He now heads a committee to build public support for the ongoing U.S.-Iraqi security operation, reporting directly to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.**

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

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



**BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY  
SOLDIERS NOW**

# **HELP GET SIR! NO SIR! INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT MOST**

Dear Sir! No Sir! supporters,

**As George Bush escalates the war on Iraq and resistance in the military grows, I am writing to ask you to help us continue getting Sir! No Sir! into the hands of active duty soldiers.**

**For one year now, Displaced Films, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and a growing number of organizations have been working to distribute free DVDs to soldiers.**

**Hundreds have been distributed and we want to see that number grow into the thousands.**

**The response has been tremendous.**

**Here are just two examples:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**During the two years that I was exile in Canada, I thought about the war crimes I had seen in Baghdad in 2004. I came to believe that speaking out about what I witnessed would help open the door to other resisters.**

After seeing Sir! No Sir!, I realized that I had to do more than voice my truth. I had to stand in ranks and face the beast.

Sir! No Sir! gave me the courage to do that and in turn, my courage empowered other resisters, such as Ivan Brobeck, Kyle Snyder, and Christen Kajare, to do the same.

Peace and much love,  
Darrell Anderson  
[www.couragetoresist.com](http://www.couragetoresist.com)

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## **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

**THE FACT IS, WE ARE CURRENTLY FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO  
CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM.**

**KEEPING IT GOING LIES IN YOUR HANDS!**

**Yes...we are asking for contributions.**

<p><b>Your funding will go towards the continued delivery of this film to soldiers by simply clicking on the "BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR GIs NOW" button on the HOMEPAGE at <a href="http://www.sirnosir.com">www.sirnosir.com</a>.</b></p>
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**+Please forward this EMAIL on to your contacts+**

Since Sir! No Sir! opened in theaters last April, many activists and friends of the film have argued that it should be made available to everyone for free. I couldn't agree more. In the world I want to live in, films like Sir! No Sir! and, in fact, all art would be free to everyone.

But in that world, films would not cost hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to make. In that world, artists could survive and continue making the films people need.

That's not the world we live in. In this world, we need your direct support.

The best way to both support and spread Sir! No Sir! is to buy and help distribute the DVD, especially the new "Director's Edition" that includes 1 1/2 hours of incredible new stories from the GI Movement both then and now.

This DVD is available at [www.sirnosir.com](http://www.sirnosir.com) and in stores and websites everywhere.

If you've already bought one, buy another for a friend. Or buy several to hand out--and play an important role in getting this long-suppressed story into everyone's hands.

To purchase 10 or more DVDs, contact us directly at [jadefox@sirnosir.com](mailto:jadefox@sirnosir.com) to arrange for a discount.

David Zeiger and Jade Fox  
Displaced Films  
[jadefox@sirnosir.com](mailto:jadefox@sirnosir.com)

**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**



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

## **THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S Chaney At Walter Reed Episode**

From: Dennis Serdel

To: GI Special  
Sent: May 17, 2007  
Subject: 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

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## **Chaney At Walter Reed Episode**

- Georgie W:** Chaney, how ya doin', brought ya some steaks from the ranch.
- Cheney:** These friggin' Arabs, dey goona cause me to blow a gasket. Doc says I ain't supposed to eat red meat.
- Georgie W:** Yeah, well, sometimes I think de's Doc's at Walter Reed are tryin' to kill ya after your Halliburton guys took over cleaning the place.
- Rummy:** Hey Dickhead, heard ya were at Walter Reed again, brought ya some porkchops, how's da ticker ?
- Cheney :** I thought we wacked you? If dose friggin' Arabs don't give me da big one, youse dumb friggin' idiots will.
- Georgie W:** He-e-ey, it's a pizza with extra grease from dat guy who you shot in the head with your shotgun.
- Cheney :** Dat dumb fucker caused me to miss dat bird.
- Doctor :** Mr. Vice President, we have a young heart for you from a soldier we are about to kill.
- Cheney :** Is he a minority ?
- Doctor :** No.
- Georgie W:** Hey, I knew ya could do it Doc, you'se need a new set of gulf clubs, new car, anything Doc, ya let me know ?
- Doctor :** Mr. President, could we have our old outfit clean Walter Reed ?
- Cheney :** Don't go there Sawbones, I mean it. By the way, who'se doin' my operation ?
- Doctor :** I am.

**Join Us Next Week For Another All New Episode Of  
The Georgie W. Saprano's**

# ***Double Standards About Violence: “You Cannot Equate The Violence Of The Oppressor (Violence Designed To Maintain Oppression) And The Violence Of The Oppressed (Designed To Free Themselves From Oppression)”***

April 20, 2007 PAUL D'AMATO, Socialist Worker

**AN ADVOCATE of Black freedom “by any means necessary,” Malcolm X once said, “We are nonviolent with people who are nonviolent with us.”**

**Furthermore, he considered it “criminal to teach a man not to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks.”**

**“Nonviolence is fine as long as it works,” he argued, but he insisted that, “Power never takes a step back except in the face of more power.”**

**Coming from a leader of an oppressed people, these words were vilified as extremist, militant—even fanatical.**

**Yet when the same words issue from the mouths of representatives of powerful, heavily armed states, they are quoted routinely as if they are reasonable and just.**

Every time a U.S. administration wants to go to war, it goes through a carefully calibrated dance of negotiation, sanctions and—finally—force to achieve its ends. The message is: “We tried to be reasonable, but these people only listen to force.”

**The difference between, say, the Bush administration’s use of force and the Iraqis who are resisting it lies “only” in the scale of the violence (no national or revolutionary struggle from below comes close to using the kind of concentrated violence used by imperialist states) and in the aims for which force is employed.**

In the case of the struggle for Black liberation in the U.S.—and in particular the fight against Jim Crow segregation in the South and police brutality in the North—Malcolm X was advocating simply that when someone tries to keep you down with their boot in your chest, you have a right to grab the boot and twist.

Only one side in this struggle was just, however, and not simply because the Klan and cops were more violent.

**To put it simply, you cannot equate the violence of the oppressor (violence designed to maintain oppression) and the violence of the oppressed (designed to free themselves from oppression).**

**To be sure, politicians and cops never equate the two.**

**On the contrary, they clearly differentiate, condemning only the violence of the oppressed, while allowing themselves carte blanche when it comes to wielding the armed forces of the state.**

**Indeed, the whole charade by which police maintain the political and economic power of the wealthiest class is characterized as “keeping the peace” and “maintaining order” (they never manage to explain what kind of “order” it is that they are preserving).**

**Hence, beating up strikers or arresting antiwar activists who march on an “unauthorized route” is “keeping the peace”—while invading Iraq, devastating the country and stirring up a hornet’s nest of sectarian violence is called “establishing the conditions for a democratic Iraq,” and so on.**

The rhetoric of the U.S. and Israel around the Palestinian fight for justice is the most egregious example of this double standard.

**Israel—with the world’s fourth-largest army, along with a “quartet” of the most heavily armed states in the world, including the United States and Russia—is demanding that the Palestinian national movement “renounce violence.”**

**To this demand, what can Palestinian answer, except to echo Malcolm X: “We will renounce violence when Israel and its imperial backers renounces violence”?**

**OF COURSE, every robber would prefer to get away with the loot by peaceable means.**

**Systematic armed force is merely the expression of the fact that society is divided between exploiting and exploited classes, and that the world is carved up between competing states.**

Every exploiting class would prefer to rule peacefully—it’s much cheaper and more convenient to keep slaves in bondage if they don’t resist, and far easier to press down wages if workers do not organize fight back.

**The irony is that while the ruling class claims to want to impose its will peaceably, it is always keeping force in the wings, because it is prepared to impose its interests “by any means necessary.”**

**This calculation is based purely on expedience.**

**And that force, moreover, is a specially trained force—that is, specially trained to kill on command.**



Mass movements for social change, on the other hand, do not begin this way at all. On the contrary, when masses of ordinary people begin to take action, they begin with the sincere hope that their demands can be achieved peacefully, because they really do abhor violence.

They do this because they believe in the reasonableness of their demands. All Blacks have asked for is full equality. All immigrants have asked is that they be allowed to work unmolested, with the same rights as native-born workers. Indeed, all workers' struggles demand only what should, by rights, belong to the working class—a greater share of the wealth they themselves produce.

**It is only when mass movements come up against the viciousness of state violence that they realize they must defend themselves.**

**Even the nonviolent civil rights protests in the South often had protection from the Deacons of Defense, an armed force created mostly by ex-soldiers, set up to defend Blacks against racist violence.**

**The 200,000 Russian workers who peacefully marched on the Winter Palace in January 1905 carried pictures of the Tsar and humbly petitioned him for redress.**

**They faced a hail of bullets that struck down more than 1,000 people.**

**Their illusions were broken in an instant, ushering in the beginning of the 1905 revolution.**

**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.**

## **FEMA Follies**

From: David Honish [Veteran]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 19, 2007  
Subject: FEMA Follies

The government encouraged the use of "Victory Gardens" during WWII. This was nothing more than city folks being told to do what rural residents had done for generations by growing their own vegetables.

I had planned a sort of 21st century victory garden. I had planted a front yard flower bed with canna lilly seeds to spell out F U G W.

Recent heavy rains washed the seeds away so that they are sprouting in places that they were not planted.

The rains were so heavy that my county experienced unprecedented flooding, and has been declared a federal disaster area.

Other than my washed away flower seeds, my only personal consequence of the flooding was ankle deep water in the back yard for a day and more than the average number of mosquitoes now.

I found a FEMA flyer left on my front door with contact info for me to file a flood damage claim.

**I wonder what FEMA would say if I submitted a claim for my flower bed no longer spelling out an acronym for an anatomically impossible suggestion to the president?**

## **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/))

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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

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



REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

**Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. publicly humiliate Iraqi citizens taken prisoner at gunpoint and treated like common criminals after interrogating them inside a provisional military base in the town of Tarmiyah May 10, 2007.**

**The suspects were released after the interrogation.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**[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?]**

**MORE:**

# **An Honorable U.S. Officer Punished By A Foul Traitor U.S. General For Refusing Complicity In What “Some” U.S. Officers “Termed A War Crime”**

May 21, 2007 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times [Excerpts]

**BAGHDAD — U.S. officers here are increasingly troubled by the high number of innocent Iraqis being detained and held — in some cases for many months — by the Iraqi army.**

**Several officers who serve as advisers to the Iraqis said at least half the people detained by the Iraqi army in Baghdad are innocent.**

**And the advisers say their close association with the units doing the detaining is placing the Americans on the horns of an ethical dilemma:**

**On one hand, they are forbidden from taking unilateral action in order to free the prisoners; on the other hand, by not freeing innocent detainees being held by their close allies, they feel complicit in what some termed “a war crime.”**

***In at least one case, a U.S. officer received a letter of admonishment from a general officer after taking it upon himself to free 35 prisoners he knew had been wrongly detained.***

All U.S. officers interviewed for this story also said that the practice of locking up people who have done nothing wrong is counterproductive and directly contrary to the Army's new counterinsurgency field manual.

“In COIN (counterinsurgency) environments, distinguishing an insurgent from a civilian is difficult and often impossible,” the manual states.

“Treating a civilian like an insurgent, however, is a sure recipe for failure.”

U.S. and Iraqi army officers said the problems worsened March 1, when, as part of the new Baghdad security plan, the U.S. military transferred authority for running operations in Baghdad to the Iraqi military and the Iraqis assumed responsibility for detainees. Prior to March 1, U.S. officers down to the battalion level had the authority to order the release of detainees, according to the senior U.S. Army official in Baghdad.

[Lt. Col. Steve Duke, leader of the U.S. military transition team of advisers for the 5th Brigade of the Iraqi army's 6th Division] told the story of an Iraqi civilian who was kidnapped by insurgents while driving.

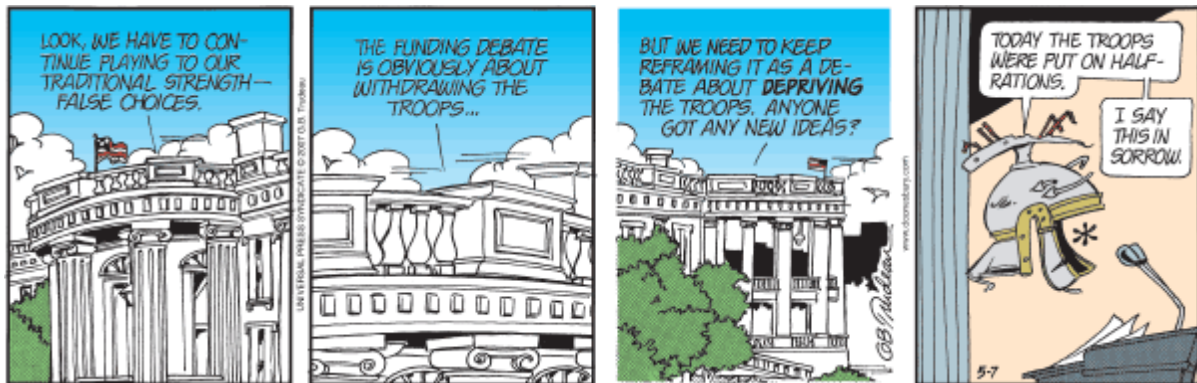
He was released with his car, but quickly realized his vehicle had been wired to explode. He parked near an Iraqi army checkpoint and told the troops that his car had been turned into a bomb, or vehicle-borne IED (VBIED, pronounced V-bid), in U.S. military parlance.

The Iraqi soldiers promptly arrested him.

“He was in our jail for more than two months, waiting to be seen, for basically giving us a tip about a VBIED,” Duke said.

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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

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