

## **GI SPECIAL 5E25:**

### **HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WARS? BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Pfc. Thomas Ponce, 19, from Maui, Hawaii is fed by his buddy, Spc. Benjamin West, 21, from Tempe, Ariz., at the Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad after they were injured in a rocket attack on their base in Sadr City, May 6, 2007. Since the U.S. security crackdown in Baghdad, medics are seeing an increase in the number and severity of wounded American soldiers. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

# **Dishonorable Scum In Command: Marine Corps Trying To Punish Iraq Veterans For Opposing War**

**“With the help of IVAW, I intend to fight this to the end and stand up for the rights of all members of our armed forces.”**

From: Kelly Dougherty, Iraq Veterans Against The War  
To: GI Special

Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2007 3:23 PM  
Subject: Marine Corps Attempts to Stifle IVAW Free Speech

Dear IVAW Supporter,

**I am writing to let you know about an urgent issue that is affecting several of our IVAW members.**

**Adam Kokesh and Liam Madden are both very active members and former Marines.**

**Because of their outspoken opposition to the war, the Marine Corps is threatening to revoke their honorable discharges and change them to other than honorable.**

We cannot allow this suppression of free speech to occur!

**Adam and Liam need our help to pay for legal defense and travel to their hearings.**

**Adam just found out his hearing is in Kansas City on June 4th, less than two weeks away!**

**Attached below is a letter from Adam, describing his situation and asking for your help.**

**Besides financial contributions, we also need people who are in the Kansas City area to gather support for Adam before his June 4th hearing.**

**Please contact me at [Kelly@ivaw.org](mailto:Kelly@ivaw.org) if you are in the area and would like to find out how you can help.**

**I will keep you updated on both Adam and Liam's cases as they unfold.**

**Thank you so much for your time and support, it really means everything to our veterans who dare to speak the truth.**

**In Peace,  
Kelly Dougherty  
Former Sergeant Army National Guard  
Executive Director  
Iraq Veterans Against the War**

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**[Letter from Adam Kokesh]**

May 22, 2007

Dear Friend of Iraq Veterans Against the War,

My name is Adam Kokesh and I need your help.

**Because of my involvement in IVAW, I have been singled out and called for a military hearing to be made an example of for those of us who have spoken out against the war.**

**I have been an active member of IVAW for a mere four months, but have already garnered enough attention to be perceived as a threat by those using our military to maintain political support for the occupation of Iraq.**

**I was honorably discharged after serving over six years, and two tours in Iraq, last November.**

I am part of the Inactive Ready Reserve until June 18, 2007, less than a month away.

After my discharge, I moved to Washington, DC to get a Masters in Political Management at GWU, and joined IVAW. I have since appeared on behalf of IVAW speaking at concerts, universities, and high schools. I have written about my views on the occupation and my military experience for the IVAW website and on my blog.

Most notably, I participated in Operation First Casualty on March 19th.

This was a mock combat patrol through Washington, DC in order to bring home the truth of the occupation of Iraq, because the first casualty of war is the truth.

**I appeared in my uniform, without my name, without rank, and without the patch that says US MARINES.**

**I received an email of warning about possible violations of the UCMJ for appearing in uniform at a political event.**

**Instead of ignoring it like everyone I know who has received similar emails, I wrote a strongly worded reply admonishing the Major who was “investigating” me for wasting time on such trivial matters.**

**I soon received a package from the Marine Corps informing me of a separation hearing to re-separate me with an Other Than Honorable Discharge.**

I have sought private counsel for this hearing, as is my right.

I intend to bring as many witnesses as possible to testify to both the character of my service and the nature of my involvement with IVAW.

**The Marine Corps only made it known to us today that the hearing will be held on June 4, in a mere 13 days.**

**They have also decided to activate me for the hearing and hold it in Kansas City, home of the Marine Corps Mobilization Command.**

**This case is important because the intimidation of servicemen and women who speak out will suppress the truth about the Iraq occupation.**

With the help of IVAW, I intend to fight this to the end and stand up for the rights of all members of our armed forces.

Please support this effort by mailing a check made out to IVAW with “Adam Kokesh Legal Defense Fund” in the memo to PO Box 8296, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or by going here [[www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/)], clicking on “Donate Now” and including “Adam Kokesh Legal Defense Fund” in the Special Project Support window.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Adam Kokesh  
adam@ivaw.org  
kokesh.blogspot.com

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### Texas Sgt. Killed In Tahrir



U.S. Army Sgt. Anselmo Martinez III, 26, of Robstown, Texas, died May 18, 2007, in Tahrir, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with enemy forces. (AP Photo/Martinez family)

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### Three U.S. Soldiers Killed,

# Two Wounded By IED

May 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070523-12

BAGHDAD — Three Multinational Division Center Soldiers were killed and two were wounded in action when their patrol was struck by multiple improvised explosive devices May 22.

An interpreter was also wounded in the attack.

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## Colorado Sgt. Killed In Iraq



U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan J. Baum, 27, of Aurora, Colo. Died May 18, 2007, in Iraq from wounds suffered from small arms fire. Baum was a paratrooper assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. He was assigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in June of 2005. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, Three Wounded In Baghdad Province

May 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070523-11

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Task Force Lightning Soldiers were killed in Baghdad Province, Tuesday when an explosion occurred near their vehicle.

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

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## **Alaska Soldier Killed In Hamiyah**



U.S. Army Cpl. Ryan D. Collins, an Alaska-based soldier from Texas, died May 19, 2007, in Hamiyah, Iraq, after being wounded the day before when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## **Two Marines Killed In Anbar**

May 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070523-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Multi National Force-West were killed May 22 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

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

May 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070523-10

BAGHDAD – An MND-B Soldier was killed when his patrol was attacked with small arms fire in a western section of the Iraqi capital May 22.

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## **Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier, Another Wounded**

May 23, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070523-08

A Task Force Marne Soldier was killed and another wounded when their dismounted patrol was struck by an IED southwest of Baghdad Tuesday.

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# Local Couple's Son Dies In Iraq

May 11, 2007 By LYNN BERK, Staff writer; The Coeur d'Alene Press

COEUR d'ALENE -- The press release from the U.S. Department of Defense gives the facts:

"Sgt. Maj. Bradley D. Conner, 41, a Special Forces company sergeant major assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Lewis, Wash., was fatally wounded when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) struck the troop carrier in which he was riding.

**"He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2007. This was his fourth deployment to Iraq since 2003."**

But he was more than just a few lines of type to Kay and William Conner. He was their son, the youngest of three boys, brother to one sister, the father of three, husband to Cynthia.

"He was a wonderful man," Kay said Friday, four days after a military chaplain and his assistant arrived at their door and told her the news she felt in her heart the moment she saw them approach.

"He was outgoing, friendly, with no biases at all. He was helpful, an encourager -- and when he set his heart on something, he gave it his all."

Bradly was born in Tacoma, Wash., and went to junior high and high school in Kellogg. He attended the University of Idaho and North Idaho College before going into the military in 1987 where he took advantage, his mom says, of every class, of every opportunity for training the military had to offer.

"He was a typical kid," Kay said. "He wanted to be everything. He was a very good athlete, and had he survived, he would have gone into teaching.

"He loved teaching.

"He loved students."

A memorial service is scheduled for May 16 at Ft. Lewis, and he will be interred on a future date at Arlington National Cemetery.

His awards and medals include three Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service medals, three Joint Service Commendation Medals, six Army Commendation medals, seven Army Achievement medals, the Joint Meritorious Unit award, five Good Conduct Medals, and two National Defense Medals.

He also earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on

Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

In his letters and e-mails home, Kay said, he never complained or expressed any apprehension. Instead, she said, "He was always encouraging somebody else."

Her son spent five tours in Iraq as well as time in Bosnia and Kosovo. The "quiet man" who wore the elite Green Beret first served in the Gulf War and that was when, Kay said, his family learned not to watch the news.

She said their entire family will get through Bradley's death the way they got through his life and his repeated tours in the military -- with faith.

"The same faith that kept us going when he was serving in other tours will keep us going now," she said. "He was a strong believer, and so are we. We trust in God."

Conner is survived by his wife, Cynthia; son Aaron, 14; daughter Katie, who will turn 13 in September; and daughter Rachel, 6, all of Fort Lewis; parents William and Kay Conner of Coeur d'Alene; brothers Brian and Bruce Conner, and sister Brenda Day.

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## Memorial Honors Two Soldiers Killed In Iraq

May 15, 2007 By Mark St.Clair, Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Two Task Force Vanguard mechanics were honored at a memorial service at Ledward Barracks chapel Monday.

Staff Sgt. Felix Giovanni Gonzalez-Iraheta, 25, and Spc. John Derek Flores, 21, were killed May 3 during a mortar attack on their forward operating base in Baghdad.

Both were "Highlanders" from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Members of the unit rear detachment in Schweinfurt read words by Gonzalez-Iraheta and Flores' leaders and friends during the service downrange.

Born in El Salvador, and from Sun Valley, Calif., Gonzalez-Iraheta — "Gonzo" to his buddies — had been with 1-18 since February 2003, having also previously served in Vilseck, Germany, during his nine-plus years as a soldier.

Remembered by his boss downrange as "the best (NCO) I've ever met," Gonzalez-Iraheta was an expert on Humvees and Bradley vehicles, having memorized schematic details. He and Flores were members of the 91-soldier maintenance section in 1-18 in



charge of keeping the unit's 200 vehicles running and the infantrymen who ride in them safe.

On his second Iraq deployment with 1-18, Gonzalez-Iraheta had acquired U.S. citizenship while with the unit, becoming naturalized in April 2006. He is survived by his wife, Janet, daughters Celina and Annabel, mother Christine Wertz and mother-in-law Cindy Kazuo.

Gonzalez-Iraheta's sister-in-law told Lt. Col. Robert Whittle, rear detachment commander in Schweinfurt, that his family knew he was a hero long before he entered the Army, having saved his younger brother from drowning while on a childhood camping trip.

Joining the Army through the Delayed Enlistment Program from his native Guam, Flores had served in 1-18 since June 2005 after training to become a Bradley system maintainer. He served with distinction as tool custodian, a position of great responsibility in the maintenance section where he and Gonzalez-Iraheta worked.

"If you were stuck on a job and needed a hand, he was there to help you even if it meant he had to stay later," said Staff Sgt. Matthew W. Colleary, reading the words of one of Flores' friends still in Iraq. "He was happy and wanted everyone around him to be happy, too."

Flores worked for Gonzalez-Iraheta and they had a great relationship, friends say, with Flores — a confessed Spam addict — stealing his noncommissioned officer's meat product.

"He loved Spam and rice," Colleary read of Flores. "When everyone else was in the mess hall, he'd be in the motor pool cooking Spam and rice. For him there was no better meal."

Also remembered as a fine guitar player, Flores is survived by his wife, Charlene, and daughter Chloe.

Gonzalez-Iraheta and Flores are the 10th and 11th members of 1-18 killed during the present deployment.

**Overall, the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, of which the battalion is a part, has lost 34 soldiers since leaving for Iraq in August and September of last year.**

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## Riverside Soldier Killed In Explosion In Iraq

May 15, 2007 By DAN LEE, The Press-Enterprise

A California National Guardsman from Riverside died Sunday in Iraq from injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, officials said.

Spc. Rhys W. Klasno, 20, was in Haditha when the attack occurred, National Guard spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Theresa Chrystal said by phone. Klasno was serving as a heavy-vehicle driver with the California National Guard's 1114th Transportation Company in Iraq, she said.

**He is the 24th California National Guardsman to be killed in action since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Chrystal said.**

He was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant, she said.

Klasno was a 2004 graduate of Woodcrest Christian High School in Riverside. He had also attended Woodcrest Christian Middle School since the 7th grade, middle school Principal John Smith said by phone.

"Rhys was a good student, not only academically, but also in terms of his social contribution," Smith said. "He was a people person."

Becky Cramer taught Klasno in a freshman English class in 2000. She said she could always count on him for a cheerful greeting and some news about what he was doing; then he would ask her how she was doing.

"It wasn't simply a polite thing," she wrote in an e-mail message from Indiana University, where she is pursuing a doctorate in education. "He really wanted to know."

The middle and high schools have a combined enrollment of about 700 students, and the students, teachers and staff are very close knit, he said. Klasno frequently returned to visit the middle and high schools whenever he was in Riverside, he said.

"He was always friendly, always smiling," Smith recalled. "He would come by because he wanted to see us."

"Rhys liked everyone and was liked by everyone," Cramer said.

"He was a young man with character and integrity -- two characteristics in far too short supply these days."

Klasno enlisted in the National Guard in 2004, serving at the Joint Forces Training Base at Los Alamitos and receiving training as an ammunition specialist, Chrystal said.

He was reassigned to the 1114th Transportation Company based in Bakersfield in April 2006, Chrystal said. His unit was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, before being deployed to Iraq that July, she said.

Klasno stayed in touch even after he was deployed to Iraq, sending at least one personal letter to the school, Smith said.

"We were praying for him," the principal said.

News of his death has hit the schools' staff members hard, Smith said. The schools will honor Klasno but have not decided in what manner, he said.

Klasno married Stephanie Ann Griffith, a high school classmate, on Oct. 15, 2005, in a ceremony at Thatcher Manor in Gavilan Hills.

She is expecting their first child, Cramer said.

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## Mitchell Soldier Shot In Iraq



Jeremy Brooking

05/22/07 Times-Mail

Although no official word has come through, initial reports are that a Mitchell High School graduate and U.S. Marine, Jeremy Brooking, was shot in the chest while serving in Iraq Friday, according to family members.

Brooking, a 2006 graduate of MHS, is recovering from his wounds in a hospital in Iraq, according to reports today.

"I guess he was in Fallujah and came across some small arms fire," said Josh Brooking, the soldier's brother. "He was shot in the chest right above his heart."

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## Convoy Attack Wounds Three Wisconsin Soldiers

May 22, 2007 Northwestern

OSHKOSH — Three soldiers from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1157th Transportation Company were injured while conducting convoy operations over the weekend in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Tim Donovan, director of public affairs for the Wisconsin National Guard, said the soldiers from the Oshkosh-based unit are being treated for their injuries, and the families of the soldiers have been notified.

Donovan would not say whether the injured soldiers are from Oshkosh. The unit is based in Oshkosh, but is made up of troops from throughout the region.

Jeanne Fay, lead coordinator of the 1157th family support group, said the group would meet today to discuss what it can do to support the families of the injured soldiers. Fay said she has not heard which of the unit's soldiers were injured.

"We are shocked and we have a little bit of anxiety since each of the members of the family support group has a soldier there," she said.

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



An Iraqi citizen listens to an interpreter (2ndL) for foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. after the soldiers forced entry into their home during an early morning raid in Mosul. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Finnish Soldier Killed In Maymana, Four Norwegian Soldiers Wounded**

May 23 AFP & Virtual Finland

A bomb exploded just outside a military base in the town of Maymana in northwestern Afghanistan on Wednesday and killed a Finnish soldier and wounded four Norwegians, the Norwegian army said.

Sergeant Petri Tapio Immonen, 29, of the Finnish Border Guard, was part of an infantry patrol that also included two Norwegian peacekeepers. The bomb exploded at about 9am Finnish time (GMT+2).

Sgt Immonen died about an hour after the explosion.

Sangarmal said the bomb may have been remotely detonated as it exploded as the soldiers were just about 50 metres (yards) outside their base.

They were returning from a foot patrol of the remote and normally quiet town.

The Finn is believed to be the first soldier from his country to be killed in Afghanistan since foreign armies deployed here after the extremist Taliban government was toppled in 2001.

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## **Blast Injures Five U.S. Soldiers In Gardez**

May. 22, 2007 By CHUCK CRUMBO, McClatchy Company

KABUL, Afghanistan — Seconds after the last truck cleared a checkpoint, 2nd Lt. William Hillis heard a blast from behind his Humvee.

The S.C. National Guard soldier looked in his rearview mirror and saw only dust and smoke. Then, his radio crackled with reports of injuries. A bomber had attacked Hillis' convoy.

Five soldiers, all members of the Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team, were injured in the blast Sunday.

None of the S.C. soldiers' injuries was serious. However, two were evacuated to a military hospital at Kabul's Bagram Air Base for treatment. Three others returned to duty after they were treated for injuries. None of the injured was identified.

The bombing was the first serious incident involving the 218th since it arrived in Afghanistan earlier this month to take over Task Force Phoenix.

The blast happened on a crowded street in Gardez, Afghanistan, a city of about 10,000 about 60 miles south of here.

"There were a lot of people out. Nobody was really paying attention to us," Hillis said Monday. "We were talking in the truck that this is good."

Hillis, of Charlotte, said the narrow, two-lane street lined with shops was crowded.

"There were donkey carts. Women and children. It was the normal hustle and bustle of Afghanistan."

The convoy was taking soldiers to a base at Gardez, capital of the Paktia province, Hillis said.

Some reports said the bomber jumped onto the hood of one of the Humvees and then detonated his bomb. Hillis, who was not injured in the attack, said that did not happen.

“My guys did not even see the guy at all,” Hillis said. “I think he casually walked out and detonated himself.”

Spc. Lamont Jordan, the driver of one of the Humvees in the convoy, said the blast lifted his vehicle’s rear end off the ground.

“My truck shook,” said Jordan of Beaufort, who was uninjured. “I looked out to my right. You could see the blast, the orange color associated with fire, and then the smoke.”

Jordan said he instinctively floored the gas pedal while his vehicle’s rear end still was up in the air. “I had to push forward to get out of the danger zone as we were taught.”

The attack damaged about 30 shops, shattering windows. The stores closest to the explosion were destroyed, The Associated Press reported.

Witnesses said the S.C. convoy appeared to be the target of the attack, but it already had passed when the bomber struck.

Nasar Ahmad, a 30-year-old shopkeeper whose three cousins were seriously hurt, said he saw a U.S. convoy driving through the city just before the explosion.

Six people died at the scene, police said. Another eight later died in the hospital, said the doctor in charge of the Gardez hospital. He said two of the 31 wounded were in critical condition.

At Camp Phoenix, where the S.C. troops are headquartered, news of the convoy attack swirled through the post like wildfire. Most of the troops have been at the base only a couple of weeks.

Sgt. Michael Chesney of Greenville heard about the attack while out on patrol. “It kind of made me feel nervous at first,” he said. “It was a reality check.”

Spc. Rocky Smith of Greenville first wondered if anyone was hurt and whether he knew them. Then, he turned his thoughts to the bomber.

“I hope they find the person who strapped the bomb to that guy’s chest so we can send him a message,” Smith said.

Hillis said the armored Humvees, the protective gear soldiers wear, and their training prevented serious injuries.

“We did exactly what we rehearsed,” Hillis said. “In that situation, you’re going to react. You really don’t have time to think about it.”

Jordan said he was doing fine after the blast.

"I'm as good as can be expected for almost having your vehicle blown out from under you."

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## State Dept. Convoy Attacked In Rusafa

5.23.07 Reuters

Guerrillas attacked a convoy carrying U.S. State Department officials in Rusafa in Baghdad's east, the U.S. military said. Security forces backed by Apache helicopters returned fire and there were no reported casualties in the convoy, the military said.

Local police said four civilians were killed and 11 wounded in the Sinak area of Baghdad.

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## Assorted Resistance Action

19/05/2007 MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AFP) & May 20 (Xinhua) & May 23 AFP & Reuters

On Saturday, a district police chief and one of his bodyguards were killed in a remote controlled bomb explosion in the eastern province of Nangarhar, a district chief said.

Four Afghan soldiers were injured by a mine explosion in Karangal district of the eastern Kunar province, he said. Their vehicle was totally damaged.

In Kabul, Wednesday, a bomber on a motorbike blew himself up on a busy road in the Afghan capital near a vehicle of foreign nationals, killing a policeman and wounding six Afghans and a foreigner, officials and a witness said.

The latest attack was on a major road leading out of the city that has seen most of the suicide blasts in the capital. The road is regularly used by foreign troops who are the main target of the attacks.

The policeman who was killed had been guarding a Chinese construction team rebuilding the road, which runs past a UN compound, city criminal department chief Alishah Paktiwal said.

A witness told AFP that the attacker on the motorbike was seen chasing a car of Afghan civilians for about 100 metres (yards).

One of the occupants of the car pulled out a gun and the motorcyclist blew himself up, said the witness, who did not give his name.

An SUV carrying foreigners that had its window shattered in the attack may have been the intended target, said Gen Ali Shah Paktiawal, the Kabul police director of criminal investigations.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Walter O'Haire after his funeral in Rockland, Massachusetts May 15, 2007. O'Haire was killed May 9 while on duty in Iraq. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

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## **MAJOR RALLY SET TO PROTEST CHENEY SPEECH TO WEST POINT GRADUATION, MAY 26, 2007**

May 16, 2007, By Steve Greenfield, THE WEST POINT MAY 26th ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Hudson Valley, NY



Elected officials, veterans, military families, and grassroots citizen activists for peace, freedom, and justice will hold a march and rally at Veterans Park, Highland Falls, New York commencing at 8:30 am on May 26, 2007 as Vice President Dick Cheney delivers the commencement address to the graduating class of 2007 at the United States Military Academy.

"We feel morally obligated to continue to protest the war in Iraq and to show this administration that people around the country will not accept the perpetuation of this war. Allowing Vice President Cheney to appear in our region without protest is tantamount to supporting this war and condoning current American foreign policy," said Michael Sussman, the civil rights attorney currently defending the West Point 8, and the chairperson of the Democratic Alliance.

Organizations including Veterans for Peace, social justice groups, women's groups, media watchdogs, impeachment advocates, party activists ranging the full spectrum from Democrat to Republican, Green to Libertarian, and over a thousand citizens are set to take part.

With the endorsement of several national peace coalitions, this year's peace event stands to be the largest in West Point history.

At press time, an injunction was being sought in federal court to permit the parade to enter the grounds of the campus itself, which, if approved, would be the first access of this type in the movement's history.

"Dick Cheney announced at the onset of the war that it will not end in our lifetime. We are assembling before the future leaders of the American military to say that in their best interests, and ours as a nation, we as a people will not allow Cheney's dire prophecy to be fulfilled," said Steve Greenfield, founder of the National Council of American Eagles, a group of adult Eagle Scouts who have renewed their Eagle Oaths to lead the United States back to its essential national character and constitutional foundations.

**Most of those planning to attend expressed particular dismay over Cheney's selection for this year's commencement address.**

**"This is a first where someone who has never served in the military and has no position in their chain of command has been selected to usher West Point graduates into a war," said Rebecca Rotzler, Deputy Mayor of New Paltz and co-chair of the Green Party of the United States.**

"The fact that Dick Cheney used deferments to avoid service during wartime only adds to the insult to this nation and the graduates.

**"Given his lack of credentials, it appears that Cheney was chosen for his leading role in maintaining and expanding the pattern of lies that have kept our men and women killing and dying in Iraq.**

"We will gather on May 26th to protest against Dick Cheney and his criminal, impeachable conduct."

People will start gathering in Veteran's Park, Highland Falls, NY at 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 26th. After assembling, attendees will conduct a march to the Thayer Gate of the Academy, followed by a rally to include short speeches and entertainment.

Further information, including an updated list of sponsors, is available at [www.westpointrally.org](http://www.westpointrally.org).

Ride shares may be arranged at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WestPointRideShare>

Contacts: Michael Sussman, [sussman1 @ frontiernet.net](mailto:sussman1@frontiernet.net) 845-469-3581, phone/fax 845-294-3991 and 845-294-1623

Bennett Weiss, [BenWeiss @ aol.com](mailto:BenWeiss@aol.com) 845-569-8662

Steve Greenfield, [bicyclesax @ earthlink.net](mailto:bicyclesax@earthlink.net) 845-255-2516, 845-532-0280

Iraq Veterans Against the War, Gold Star Families for Peace/ Military Families Speak Out, Veterans for Peace and many other organizations including Democratic Alliance of Orange County, Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice and No War Westchester are joining the protest.

**TRAITOR  
CRIMINAL  
DOMESTIC ENEMY:  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND;  
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



May 10, 2007 (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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# Iraq Veterans Against The War Bringing The War Home To New York City May 27: Operation First Casualty “To Show The American Public The Truth Of The U.S. Occupation In Iraq”



## IRAQ VETS LEADING MARCH ON PENTAGON 3.17.07

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

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

21 May 2007 From Jennifer Roesch

New York, NY - In an effort to illuminate the true reality of the conflict in Iraq, members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) will engage in a series of street theater actions around the New York City area on Sunday, May 27.

This day coincides with our national remembrance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, which bears particular significance this year as we are in the midst of the fifth year of a

war that has claimed the lives of over 3,300 American service members and over 655,000 Iraqis.

Actual veterans of the conflict in Iraq will play the part of American service members with reenactments that will highlight various aspects of life in combat in Iraq.

The event will be treated like a military operation with participants in full military uniform, however, there will be no weapons used at any time.

**“We are calling Sunday’s action Operation First Casualty because we believe that truth was the first casualty of this war. Our aim is to show the American public the truth of the US occupation in Iraq,”** said Garrett Reppenhagen, IVAW board chair and one of the organizers of a previous March 19th OFC event in Washington, DC.

**“It is time for the American people to know the truth so they will act to bring the troops home now.”**

**In actions staged around the city, local activist volunteers will act as civilians in realistic portrayals of actual interactions between U.S. troops and Iraqi civilians. The result will be a lot of shouting, commotion and tension on the busy streets of NYC, giving the American public a taste of what Iraqis and U.S. troops deal with day in and day out.**

Participants hope that by giving the American public a sense of the ugly reality of the war they will then be inspired to act to end the war now.

Iraq Veterans Against the War was founded in 2004 to give those who have served in the military since September 11, 2001 a way to come together and speak out against an unjust, illegal and unwinnable war. Today, IVAW is made up of over 400 members in 42 states, Washington, D.C., Canada and serving in bases overseas.

IVAW gives its members the opportunity not only to connect with other veterans and active duty soldiers but also to speak with one voice. As members of IVAW, they go to colleges, middle schools, high schools, churches, libraries, and to the media and give first-hand accounts of what is really happening in Iraq. As eyewitnesses and participants in the war on terror, they are viewed as credible sources that are able to explain why the war must end now.

**CONTACT:**

Jose Vasquez 917-587-3334

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IVAW, VISIT [IVAW.ORG](http://IVAW.ORG)**

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# **Iraq Veterans Against The War In Germany Plan Protest At The U.S. Army Base In Ansbach: They Demand Withdrawal From Iraq: “And When We Say Now, We Don’t Mean Six Months From Now, Or 18 Months From Now, Or 50 Years From Now,” The Group Said In Its Statement. “Now Means Now”**

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, and David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

May 23, 2007 Associated Press

BERLIN - Former U.S. Army Spc. Chris Capp spent a year in Iraq, and decided to take an “other than honorable” discharge rather than be redeployed to Afghanistan for another combat tour.

But instead of quietly going home, Capp joined a group of other disillusioned Iraq veterans to speak out against the war - even though it has ostracized him from his family and friends.

“I have gotten a lot of criticism for this,” the Hackettstown, New Jersey native said in Berlin Tuesday as part of the Iraq Veterans Against the War tour around Germany.

“But I’d rather be looked at that than to be redeployed to a war I feel is wrong.”

**Capp was joined by two other Soldiers and a Marine sergeant at a news conference starting a three-day protest in Germany - supported by the American Voices Abroad peace group.**

**On Wednesday and Thursday, they plan to protest at the U.S. Army base in Ansbach, which is getting set to deploy more troops to Iraq as part of the current buildup of American forces.**

Their main objective is to urge U.S. President George W. Bush to pull out all troops immediately.

**“And when we say now, we don’t mean six months from now, or 18 months from now, or 50 years from now,” the group said in its statement. “Now means now.”**

Bush has warned civil war would ensue if the United States “cuts and runs.”

But the IVAW argues that the U.S. presence itself is Iraq’s biggest problem.

**“Immediate withdrawal of troops in Iraq is the only way to end the occupation,” said former Army Spc. Jeff Englehart, of Durango, Colorado. “It’s that simple.”**

The group is also lobbying for troops to receive better physical and mental health care when they get home, and for the U.S. to pay reparations to the Iraqi people.

“Soldiers need to know that when they decide to resist, they will have the support and thanks of the global moral majority,” said Marine Sgt. Adam Kokesh, of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**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 RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

5.22. By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & 23 May 2007 Reuters & By Mohammed Al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers

In Amil, guerrillas in two cars drove through the nearby Khadra neighborhood and ambushed a civilian car carrying three plainclothes police officers from the major crimes unit, killing two and wounding the third, police said.

Police and other Iraqi security officers have been heavily targeted by insurgents, who accuse them of collaborating with U.S.-led forces in the country.

Another police officer was killed when a roadside bomb exploded next to a police patrol driving through an eastern Baghdad neighborhood about 9 a.m., police said. Three other officers were wounded in the attack.

Two soldiers were wounded in midday clashes between the Iraqi military and guerrillas in Doura district in southern Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed Colonel Talal Kareem near his home in Mansour district in central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded four policemen on Tuesday in the town of Riyadh, 60 km (37 miles) southwest of Baghdad, police said.

Militants killed a policeman and seriously wounded his wife in the city of Mosul, police said.

An Iraqi officer was killed and three soldiers wounded in clashes with guerrillas in the town of Khan Bani Saad on Tuesday, police said.

A roadside bomb killed five policemen on patrol in central Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol killed one soldier and wounded three in the al-Shurta district of southwestern Baghdad, police said.

Around 3 p.m. guerrillas attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint near the ministry of the Labor and Social Affairs. A general manager of the ministry, Salim Hassan Abbas, was killed as he was leaving the ministry at the time and near the attack place in Mansour neighborhood.

Around 6 p.m. an IED explosion targeted Iraqi army convoy in Shurta tunnel area. One soldier was killed and 3 were injured.

Around 9 p.m. yesterday night guerrillas killed 6 young men were gathering in front of a neighbor house in Jalawla city north east of Baqouba city. 2 of the men were soldiers in the Iraqi army.

Guerrillas killed a policeman in Balour area northern Al Muqdadiyah city today afternoon.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **The Greatest Truth In The World**

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 21, 2007  
Subject: The Greatest Truth In The World

**The number one terrorist country in**

**the world is the United States of America.**

**When I first came back from Vietnam, I did not know that truth.**

**Alcoholism  
Lost Marriages  
Lost children  
Depression  
Rage  
Panic disorder  
Betrayal  
Suicidal  
A padded cell**

**Vietnam buddies who killed themselves when they came home.**

**Hatred toward America that consumed me for 25 years.**

**Everytime an American soldier gets killed or wounded in Iraq, a piece of me dies inside.**

**Everytime another Iraqi citizen is killed or wounded by American tax dollars, I want to get out of the hell that has become America.**

**The only thing that keeps me from leaving, is my obsession to bear witness about the gas chamber madness of the U.S. Government.**

**The number one terrorist country in the world is the United States of America.**

**When I first came back from Vietnam, I did not know that truth.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
May 21, 2007**

**From the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)**

**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 to  
[contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request.  
Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

# THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S

## The Pat Robberson Episode

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 21, 2007  
Subject: (3rd Episode) THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S by Dennis

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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### THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S

#### The Pat Robberson Episode

Georgie W: Yeah Pat, tought I'd give you a call 'bout dat Jimmy Fawhell dat just dropped dead at his desk.

Pat Robber: That's Jerry Fawhell Mr. President, not Jimmy.

Georgie W: So he's not dat TV preacher who got caught with da whore? Da one at da No-tell Motel jerkin' off in his handkerchief while da whore took off her clothes and the TV News caught him? I'll tell ya right now, if one of our wise guys was a pervert and disrespectful, we would wack him.

Pat Robber : No Mr. President, that was Jimmy Swagfart. He cried and said he had sinned on TV, asked for forgiveness and now he's raking in millions again, and remember, you are getting your 25% and the votes.

Georgie W: Yeah, well, sometimes I get all youse Scam guys mixed up. Was He dat one with dat wife Tammy, who looked like a whore? Didn't he do some time in da big house?

Pat Robber: No Mr. President, you're thinking of Jim and Tammy Banker. They didn't cover their ass spending the TV Scam money and Jim had to go to prison where he was sexually abused by the other men.

Georgie W: OK, whatever, I'm gonna replace that Jimmy or Jerry, da one who looked like a fat pig with hanging jowls. I need someone who can keep track of dat Religious Racket youse all got going. I'm puttin' in Condi Rice, she

couldn't sell beer to an alcoholic, but she can count da money and da votes.

Pat Robber: Mr. President, I don't think that's such a good idea. You see, Jerry Fawhell started the Christian White and the Christian So-lution and black people are supposed to be sent back to Africa.

Georgie W: Yeah, well, cut the crap, or I'll send you to Venezuela. Got it!!

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

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## May 23, 1838: Infamous Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History May 21-27

U.S. General Winfield Scott ordered the forced removal of the Cherokee Indians from the east to the "Indian Nation" (what is now Oklahoma).

Approximately one quarter of the 10,000 died on this march called "The Trail of Tears."

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



U.S. soldier, Sergeant Brian Montgomery, 28, of Texas, of the 2/8 Cavalry breaks a lock during a search in the town of Tarmiyah May 9, 2007. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz (IRAQ)



U.S. soldiers search for weapons and explosives in a mechanical store in the town of Tarmiyah May 9, 2007. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

[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 and businesses 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?]

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

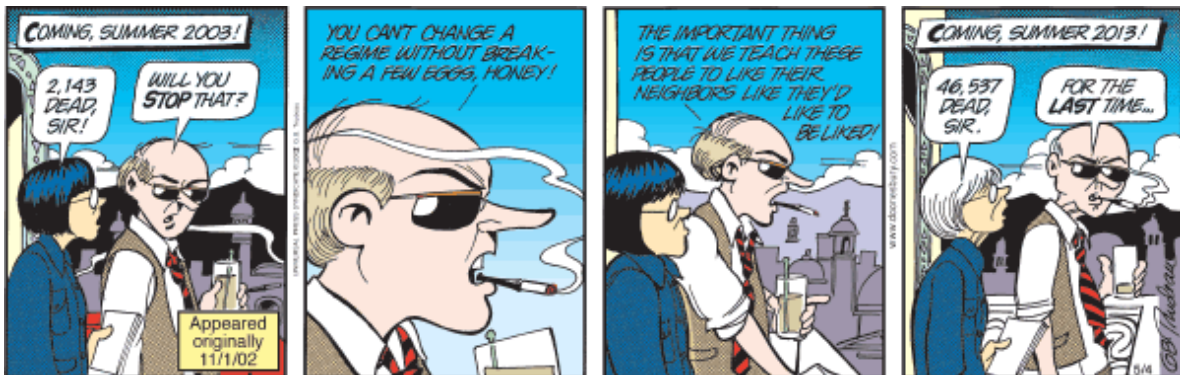
[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"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."

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### WORDS OF PROPHECY



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

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**Received:**

**“Anything I Can Do To Help....”**

From: Patricia  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 21, 2007 11:00 PM  
Subject: Your Very Something...

I was past Commander of Civil Air Patrol NY 406 Fort Drum Squad....at Fort Drum....my best help was from soldiers in 2-10 Aviation group..helo pilots..and Lt. Col Frank Grand..Field Artillery Unit...

You guys are GREAT...

Anything I can do to help....

My Highest Regards..

Patricia MacDonell  
20315 Cherry Orchard Lane  
Katy, Texas 77449

formerly  
PillarPoint-Dexter, NY.

**REPLY: The front page article in this issue describes some Marines that need help now. Please check it out. T**

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