

**GI SPECIAL 5E30:**

**Sgt. First Class David  
Moore “Strongly  
Advocates An American  
Withdrawal”**

**“Now, 95% Of My Platoon  
Agrees With Me”**

**“What Are We Doing Here? Why  
Are We Still Here?”**



**“I thought: ‘What are we doing here? Why are we still here?’ said Sergeant Safstrom.”** Staff Sgt. David Safstrom leading a patrol. Michael Kamber for The New York Times

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project; Phil G. & Max Watts, who sent this in.]

May 28, 2007 By MICHAEL KAMBER, The New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Staff Sgt. David Safstrom does not regret his previous tours in Iraq, not even a difficult second stint when two comrades were killed while trying to capture insurgents.

“In Mosul, in 2003, it felt like we were making the city a better place,” he said. “There was no sectarian violence, Saddam was gone, we were tracking down the bad guys. It felt awesome.”

**But now on his third deployment in Iraq, he is no longer a believer in the mission.**

**The pivotal moment came, he says, this February when soldiers killed a man setting a roadside bomb. When they searched the bomber’s body, they found identification showing him to be a sergeant in the Iraqi Army.**

**“I thought: ‘What are we doing here? Why are we still here?’ “ said Sergeant Safstrom, a member of Delta Company of the First Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division.**

**“We’re helping guys that are trying to kill us. We help them in the day. They turn around at night and try to kill us.”**

**His views are echoed by most of his fellow soldiers in Delta Company, renowned for its aggressiveness.**

**A small minority of Delta Company soldiers — the younger, more recent enlistees in particular — seem to still wholeheartedly support the war.**

Others are ambivalent, torn between fear of losing more friends in battle, longing for their families and a desire to complete their mission.

**With few reliable surveys of soldiers’ attitudes, it is impossible to simply extrapolate from the small number of soldiers in the company.**

**But in interviews with more than a dozen soldiers in this 83-man unit over a one-week period, most said they were disillusioned by repeated deployments, by what they saw as the abysmal performance of Iraqi security forces and by a conflict that they considered a civil war, one they had no ability to stop.**

They had seen shadowy militia commanders installed as Iraqi Army officers, they said, had come under increasing attack from roadside bombs — planted within sight of Iraqi Army checkpoints — and had fought against Iraqi soldiers whom they thought were their allies.

**“In 2003, 2004, 100 percent of the soldiers wanted to be here, to fight this war,” said Sgt. First Class David Moore, a self-described “conservative Texas Republican” and platoon sergeant who strongly advocates an American withdrawal.**

**“Now, 95 percent of my platoon agrees with me.”**

It is not a question of loyalty, the soldiers insist. Sergeant Safstrom, for example, comes from a thoroughly military family. His mother and father have served in the armed forces, as have his three sisters, one brother and several uncles. One week after the Sept. 11 attacks, he walked into a recruiter's office and joined the Army.

“You guys want to start a fight in my backyard, I got something for you,” he recalls thinking at the time.

But in Sergeant Safstrom's view, the American presence is futile.

“If we stayed here for 5, even 10 more years, the day we leave here these guys will go crazy,” he said. “It would go straight into a civil war. That's how it feels, like we're putting a Band-Aid on this country until we leave here.”

Their many deployments have added to the strain.

After spending six months in Iraq, the soldiers of Delta Company had been home for only 24 hours last December when the news came. “Change your plans,” they recall being told. “We're going back to Iraq.”

Nineteen days later, just after Christmas, Capt. Douglas Rogers and the men of Delta Company were on their way to Kadhimiya, a Shiite enclave of about 300,000 people. As part of the so-called surge of American troops, their primary mission was to maintain stability in the area and prepare the Iraqi Army and the police to take control of the neighborhood.

“I thought it would not be long before we could just stay on our base and act as a quick-reaction force,” said the barrel-chested Captain Rogers of San Antonio. “The Iraqi security forces would step up.”

It has not worked out that way.

Captain Rogers acknowledges the skepticism of many of his soldiers. “Our unit has already sent two soldiers home in a box,” he said. “My soldiers don't see the same level of commitment from the Iraqi Army units they're partnered with.”

Yet there is, he insists, no crisis of morale: “My guys are all professionals. I tell them to do something, they do it.” His dictum is proved on patrol, where his soldiers walk the streets for hours in the stifling heat, providing cover for one another with crisp efficiency.

**[Gee, as you read above, 95% of his soldiers see no reason to be in this war, and are for getting the fuck out now, and he sees “no crisis of morale.” He wins the blind stupidity award for 2007 hands down. As for “I tell them to do something, they do it,” that's engraved on the headstones of hundreds of officers killed in Vietnam by friendly fire, accidentally of course. The reporter is too dim-witted to get it. They “provide cover for one another with crisp efficiency” in order to avoid being dead. Neither the brass-kissing Captain's orders nor morale have anything whatever to do with it. Duh. T]**



On the streets of Khadamiya, Delta Company soldiers were on a night patrol. They have come under increasing attack by roadside bombs placed near Iraqi army and police checkpoints. Michael Kamber for The New York Times

On April 29, a Delta Company patrol was responding to a tip at Al Sadr mosque, a short distance from its base.

The soldiers saw men in the distance erecting barricades that they set ablaze, and the streets emptied out quickly. Then a militia, believed to be the Mahdi Army, began firing at them from rooftops and windows.

Sgt. Kevin O'Flarity, a squad leader, jumped into his Humvee to join his fellow soldiers, racing through abandoned Iraqi Army and police checkpoints to the battle site.

He and his squad maneuvered their Humvees through alleyways and side streets, firing back at an estimated 60 insurgents during a gun battle that raged for two and a half hours. A rocket-propelled grenade glanced off Sergeant O'Flarity's Humvee, failing to penetrate.

**When the battle was over, Delta Company learned that among the enemy dead were at least two Iraqi Army soldiers that American forces had helped train and arm.**

Captain Rogers admits, "The 29th was a watershed moment in a negative sense, because the Iraqi Army would not fight with us," adding, "Some actually picked up weapons and fought against us."

The battle changed the attitude among his soldiers toward the war, he said.

**“Before that fight, there were a few true believers.” Captain Rogers said. “After the 29th, I don’t think you’ll find a true believer in this unit. They’re paratroopers. There’s no question they’ll fulfill their mission. But they’re fighting now for pride in their unit, professionalism, loyalty to their fellow soldier and chain of command.”**

**[Their mission now is to follow the example of the Vietnam soldiers who stopped that war by rebelling wholesale against it, refusing to die in vain for empty, meaningless political bullshit. And that day will come. And the Captain, oh so loyal to the politicians who have betrayed these soldiers, will find the chain of command firmly wrapped around his neck. Let him enjoy his silly dreams while he may. The clock is running, Zulu Time.]**

To Sergeant O’Flarity, the Iraqi security forces are militias beholden to local leaders, not the Iraqi government. “Half of the Iraqi security forces are insurgents,” he said.

As for his views on the war, Sergeant O’Flarity said, “I don’t believe we should be here in the middle of a civil war.”

“We’ve all lost friends over here,” he said.

**“Most of us don’t know what we’re fighting for anymore.**

“We’re serving our country and friends, but the only reason we go out every day is for each other.”

**“I don’t want any more of my guys to get hurt or die,” he continued. “If it was something I felt righteous about, maybe.**

**“But for this country and this conflict, no, it’s not worth it.”**

Staff Sgt. James Griffin grew up in Troy, N.C., near the Special Operations base at Fort Bragg.

His dream was to be a soldier, and growing up, he would skip school and volunteer to play the role of the enemy during Special Operations training exercises. When he was 17, he joined the Army.

Now 22, Sergeant Griffin is a Delta Company section leader.

On the night of May 5, as he neared an Iraqi police checkpoint with a convoy of Humvees, Sergeant Griffin spotted what looked like a camouflaged cinderblock and immediately halted the convoy. His vigilance may have saved the lives of several soldiers.

Under the camouflage was a massive, six-array, explosively formed penetrator — a deadly roadside bomb that cuts through the Humvees’ armor with ease.

The insurgents quickly set off the device, but the Americans were at a safe distance. An explosive ordnance disposal team arrived to check the area.

As the ordnance team rolled back to base, they were attacked with a second roadside bomb near another Iraqi checkpoint. One soldier was killed and two were wounded.

**No one has been able to explain why two bombs were found near Iraqi checkpoints, bombs that Iraqi soldiers and the police had either failed to notice or helped to plant.**



To Sergeant Kevin O'Flarity, left, a watershed moment was when he learned that in a fight between his unit and insurgents, among the dead were at least two Iraqi Army soldiers that American forces had helped train and arm. Michael Kamber for The New York Times

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**“This Country Poses No Threat  
To Our Own”**

**“What Is The True Reason We  
Are Here?”**

**“Why Are We Here When This  
Country Still To Date Does Not  
Want Us Here?”**



Donald Hudson Jr.

[Thanks to Chris Lombardi, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

May 28, 2007 By Donald Hudson Jr., Niemanwatchdog.org

**Donald C. Hudson Jr. is a private assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.**

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BAGHDAD, May 12 -- My name is Donald Hudson Jr. I have been serving our country's military actively for the last three years.

I am currently deployed to Baghdad on Forward Operating Base Loyalty, where I have been for the last four and a half months.

I came here as part of the first wave of this so called "troop surge", but so far it has effectively done nothing to quell insurgent violence. I have seen the rise in violence between the Sunni and Shiite. This country is in the middle of a civil war that has been on going since the seventh century.

**Why are we here when this country still to date does not want us here?**

**Why does our president's personal agenda consume him so much, that he can not pay attention to what is really going on here?**

Let me tell you a story.

On May 10, I was out on a convoy mission to move barriers from a market to a joint security station. It was no different from any other night, except the improvised explosive device that hit our convoy this time, actually pierced through the armor of one of our trucks.

The truck was immediately engulfed in flames, the driver lost control and wrecked the truck into one of the buildings lining the street.

I was the driver of the lead truck in our convoy; the fifth out of six was the one that got hit. All I could hear over the radio was a friend from the sixth truck screaming that the fifth truck was burning up real bad, and that they needed fire extinguishers real bad.

So I turned my truck around and drove through concrete barriers to get to the burning truck as quickly as I could.

I stopped 30 meters short of the burning truck, got out and ripped my fire extinguisher out of its holder, and ran to the truck. I ran past another friend of mine on the way to the burning truck, he was screaming something but I could not make it out.

I opened the driver's door to the truck and was immediately overcome by the flames. I sprayed the extinguisher into the door, and then I saw my roommate's leg. He was the gunner of that truck. His leg was across the driver's seat that was on fire and the rest of his body was further in the truck.

My fire extinguisher died and I climbed into the truck to attempt to save him. I got to where his head was, in the back passenger-side seat. I grabbed his shoulders and attempted to pull him from the truck out the driver's door. I finally got him out of the truck head first. His face had been badly burned. His leg was horribly wounded. We placed him on a spine board and did our best to attempt "Buddy Aid".

We heard him trying to gasp for air. He had a pulse and was breathing, but was not responsive. He was placed into a truck and rushed to the "Green Zone", where he died within the hour.

His name was Michael K. Frank.

He was 36 years old.

He was a great friend of mine and a mentor to most of us younger soldiers here.

Now I am still here in this country wondering why, and having to pick up the pieces of what is left of my friend in our room.

**I would just like to know what is the true reason we are here?**

**This country poses no threat to our own.**

So why must we waste the lives of good men on a country that does not give a damn about itself?

Most of my friends here share my views, but do not have the courage to say anything.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **Marine Killed In Iraq Had Ties To Fort Collins**



May 28, 2007 (AP)

FORT COLLINS, Colo. A Marine killed Saturday in Iraq was a father of two young sons, his family said.

Sgt. Nicholas Walsh, 26, was killed in enemy fire in Fallujah, his family said. Anbar province has been the site of some of the fiercest fighting in Iraq.

Walsh's survivors include his wife, Julie; 4-year-old son, Triston; and 7-month-old son Tanner of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

His parents, two brothers and sister live in Fort Collins, along with his grandparents Taylor and Rosanne Hall.

"He was dedicated to what he was doing and believed he was fighting for the safety of the people of the United States," his father, Jerry Walsh, said in a written statement. "He was a gentleman, a gentle man."

"Our hearts are broken," said his mother, Maggie Walsh. "He was a wonderful son and grandson, a loving husband and the best daddy to his little boys."

Funeral arrangements were pending.

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## Nevada Soldier Killed In Iraq

May. 22, 2007 By KEITH ROGERS, REVIEW-JOURNAL

Nineteen-year-old Pfc. Alejandro Varela of Fernley was searching for three missing comrades when his Bradley fighting vehicle ran over a roadside bomb, killing him and five others Saturday in Iraq, according to Varela's father.

"Their mission was to try to find the three missing American soldiers," Roger Varela said in a telephone interview late Monday.

He said two military officers came to his home at 7 p.m. Saturday to tell him that his son had been killed in action in western Baghdad.

A soldier who was in a vehicle behind Varela's had described the incident.

"The next thing he saw that Bradley go up 50 feet in the air. ... All six of them perished," Roger Varela said.

Alexandria Avant, the younger Varela's girlfriend, said she had last heard from him in an e-mail on May 12, the same day that the three U.S. soldiers went missing in an attack south of Baghdad that killed an Iraqi soldier and four U.S. soldiers, including 23-year-old Sgt. Anthony J. Schober of Reno.

Avant said Varela had written, "Hi. How are you. I'm doing pretty good. I'll see you soon. I love you."

The two met while they were students at Fernley High School, she said. Varela later received his general equivalency diploma, friends said. He had joined the Army with a friend.

"He wanted to do something different and new. It was an adventure," Avant said.

She said Varela was on his first tour in Iraq and was an infantryman in a cavalry company out of Fort Hood, Texas.

A news release Sunday out of Camp Victory in Iraq said six U.S. soldiers and one interpreter "were killed when an improvised explosive device detonated in the western section of the Iraqi capital" on Saturday.

Varela's father said his son had lived with him in Fernley for the past seven years and before that had lived with his mother in California.

Kathleen Jameson, program coordinator of the Fernley Adult Education Center, said she learned of Varela's death Sunday morning from a family friend.

"He was very focused on getting his GED so that he could join the military, and he was very proud to join the military," Jameson recalled.

**Varela was the 51st member of the U.S. military with ties to Nevada to die overseas in the nation's wars on terrorism.**

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## **Soldier 'Would Have Been Best Father' Medic Dies In Iraq, Was Set To Fly Home For Birth Of 1st Child**

May 23, 2007 By Hector Gutierrez, Rocky Mountain News

When Amber Baum gives birth to her daughter, she'll also be delivering the dream her husband didn't see come true. Sgt. Ryan J. Baum, 27, was scheduled to fly home from Iraq on Saturday to be with his wife for the birth of their first child, whom they decided to name Leia.

"He just flipped when he found out he was going to be a father," Amber said Tuesday. "From day one this man wanted me to have his baby."

The paratrooper who was raised in Aurora never made it home. He was killed Friday, one day before his scheduled return. He died from wounds he suffered during a battle near Kalsu, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

"He would have been the best father that God could have placed on this earth," said his wife, who is staying with her parents in Gettysburg, Pa. "His spirit is going to live through his daughter."

Amber also finds comfort in knowing her husband saved lives as an emergency care sergeant, or medic.

“You need to save a life in less than a second, and he loved the challenge. In combat medicine you had to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out,” said Amber, who also was trained as an Army medic.

Baum grew up in Aurora and attended Smoky Hill High School, where he played on the lacrosse team. His wife described her husband as the typical “Colorado man.”

“I’d never met anybody from Colorado, and he was the definition of a Colorado man,” she said. “He loved camping, he loved climbing, he loved kayaking, boating and fishing.”

Baum also had loved the military since he was a child.

He was attending college when he was informed in 2003 that he had been accepted into the Army.

“He thought it was the great thing to do, he just thought it was the right thing to do to serve his country,” Amber, 21, said.

Baum went to basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, Texas, where he met Amber. The couple carried on a long- distance relationship when Baum went to Fort Benning, Ga., where he graduated from Ranger school with high marks.

“He was always an honor graduate, which was someone who exceeds above everybody else,” Amber said. “He was extremely strong, very physically fit.”

After graduating from Ranger school, Baum was accepted into the Special Operations Combat Medic School at Fort Bragg, N.C., considered the Army’s elite medical training facility. “You could compare it to Top Gun in flight school,” his wife said.

He graduated from Special Operations Combat Medic School in 2005, the year he and Amber got married. The two were then reassigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in June 2005.

Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

In 2006 he underwent extensive medical training and preparation for his deployment to Iraq. Baum was selected to be senior instructor of the Alaska branch of pre- Ranger school.

On Oct. 7, 2006, he left for Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Baum is survived by his parents, Richard and Dana; brother, Jason; and sister, Mande.

The family has established the “SGT Ryan John Baum Memorial Fund” through US Bank. All proceeds will go to help Baum’s wife and their daughter’s college education.

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



A US marine at a military camp in Fallujah. (AFP/Roslan Rahman)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **British Soldier Killed In Helmand**

5.28.07 Reuters

A British soldier was killed in Afghanistan on Monday, the Ministry of Defence said. The soldier, who was serving in Helmand province in the south of the country, died “as a result of enemy action,” the ministry said in a statement.

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### **Resistance Ambush Of Resupply Convoy Wounds 3 Foreign Soldiers;**

# **Retaliatory Occupation Air Strike Slaughters Civilians 10 Miles Away**

May 28, 2007 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press Writer

Taliban militants ambushed U.S.-led coalition and Afghan forces escorting supply trucks in southern Afghanistan, sparking a 10-hour battle.

Afghan police and coalition convoy hit two roadside bombs and was ambushed by Taliban fighters while escorting 24 supply trucks in Helmand province, a coalition statement said Monday.

The blast killed one Afghan truck driver and wounded three coalition soldiers, it said.

Militants then launched rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire.

**A villager from Helmand's Gereshk district, told The Associated Press by phone that airstrikes hit a civilian area.**

**"They came and bombarded the houses of innocent people. Three houses were destroyed. Seven people - including women and children - were killed, and between 10 and 15 were wounded," Qudus said." Villagers are still searching for five missing people."**

**Another villager, Abdul Wahid, said the airstrikes struck 10 miles away from the convoy ambush site on the main highway.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Poll Finds Sudden, Major Gain In Public Opposition To Iraq War**

**Moreover, 72 percent of respondents said they believe that the country is "seriously off on the wrong track", the highest percentage ever recorded for that question since it was first posed by a Times/CBS News poll in nearly 25 years ago.**

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, Joel Geier and Phil G, who sent this in.]

May 24 By Jim Lobe (IPS) & By DALIA SUSSMAN, NY Times. [Excerpts]

A major new poll released Thursday found that public disillusionment with the war has reached record highs.

**The New York Times/CBS News poll, the latest in a series of recent surveys that have shown an unexpectedly sharp drop in support both for Bush and the war.**

**According to the survey, which was conducted May 18-23, more than three out of four citizens (76 percent) now believe the Iraq war is going badly -- up from 66 percent just a month ago.**

A record 47 percent of respondents said the war was going "very badly".

**As for Mr. Bush, 23 percent approve of his handling of the situation in Iraq, while 72 percent disapprove**

**Perhaps even more important, a majority of 52 percent of self-described Republicans say the war is going at least "somewhat" badly -- a whopping 16 percent increase from mid-April and a strong indication that pressure on Republican lawmakers, who have remained remarkably loyal to the White House in a series of Iraq-related votes this spring, to abandon the president is increasing.**

Particularly alarming to the White House in the latest poll, as in several others conducted over the past several weeks, is the apparent lack of confidence that Bush's vaunted "Surge" strategy -- the addition this spring of some 30,000 troops to the 135,000 already deployed to Iraq -- is working.

**Only 20 percent of respondents said the surge -- which is designed mainly to tamp down sectarian violence in Baghdad -- was improving the situation in Iraq.**

**Three in four respondents, including a majority of Republicans, said the additional deployments, which are expected to be completed by mid-June, was either having no impact or was making things worse there.**

**The new survey also found that 61 percent of Americans now believe that invading Iraq was a mistake, as opposed to only 35 percent who believe that it was the right thing to do.**

**The 26-percent spread was the widest found in any major national polling on that question.**

**Less than five weeks ago, respondents were much more evenly split on whether or not the invasion was a mistake.**

At that time, 51 percent of respondents in a CBS poll said the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq -- a significant decline from 58 percent in January, when the surge was first announced -- while 44 percent said it had done the right thing.

Last month's tighter margin may have reflected hope that the surge, which began in February, might be successful. Indeed, the mainstream media at the time focused much of its coverage on the apparent reduction in sectarian violence in the Iraqi capital which it credited to the administration's new counter-insurgency strategy.

Since then, however, media attention has focused more on the rising death toll among U.S. soldiers in Iraq, particularly the May 12 attack on a military patrol near Mahmoudiya, in which five soldiers were killed and the subsequent search for three others who were apparently captured by insurgents. In addition, reports that sectarian violence was once again on the rise, including in Baghdad, appears to have dampened the initial optimism.

**Only 30 percent of respondents in the latest poll said they approved of Bush's performance as president -- near his record low of 28 percent in a Newsweek poll released earlier this month and markedly lower than the roughly 35 percent average of all major national polling this year.**

**Moreover, 72 percent of respondents said they believe that the country is "seriously off on the wrong track", the highest percentage ever recorded for that question since it was first posed by a Times/CBS News poll in nearly 25 years ago.**

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



The casket of Army Cpl. Matthew Alexander is carried into Gretna High School for his funeral service, in Gretna, Neb., May 18, 2007. Alexander was killed on May 6 in Iraq. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

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**“Every Day There Are More And More  
Veterans And Service Members  
Opposing This War And Stepping Up**

# **And Taking Action Against This War!”**

## **“The Point Is This: It Is A National Movement Of Veterans And Service Members”**



ivaw.org

**“By Bush logic to support the troops means to fund the mission,” said Adam Kokesh, 25, of Washington, D.C., who served in Iraq with the Marine Corps in 2004.**

**“But the more the troops are funded, the more of them are going to die.”**

May 27, 2007 The Associated Press & ny1.com

NEW YORK: Iraq war veterans who oppose the war went on mock patrols and staged mock arrests Sunday in a roving guerrilla theater piece in New York City.

The protest, organized by Iraq Veterans Against the War, was repeated at busy locations around Manhattan including Times Square, Union Square and the World Trade Center site.

Wearing camouflage fatigues and pointing imaginary guns, a half-dozen veterans subdued a crowd of anti-war protesters playing Iraqi civilians, throwing some of them roughly to the ground and handcuffing them.

**“We believe that this is bringing the truth of the war here, the reality of the war here,” said Demond Mullins, 25, of Brooklyn, New York, who served in Iraq as an infantryman with the Army National Guard in 2004 and 2005.**

**“We should be ever mindful of the troops who are giving their lives, and we should be ever mindful of the dishonesty, the absence of truth that has caused us to engage in this war.”**



**“The point is this: it is a national movement of veterans and service members,” said another member of the group, Paul Abernathy.**

**“Every day there are more and more veterans and service members opposing this war and stepping up and taking action against this war!”**

The protest was dubbed Operation First Casualty, recalling the adage that truth is the first casualty in war.

As of Saturday, at least 3,450 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. President George W. Bush signed a war spending bill Friday that does not set a date for U.S. troop withdrawals.

**“By Bush logic to support the troops means to fund the mission,” said Adam Kokesh, 25, of Washington, D.C., who served in Iraq with the Marine Corps in 2004.**

**“But the more the troops are funded, the more of them are going to die.”**

Thomas Brinson, 64, of Long Beach, New York, dusted himself off in Union Square after playing the role of Iraqi civilian, face down on the pavement with a bag over his head.

“I’m a Vietnam veteran, and what’s happening today in Iraq is exactly what happened 40 years ago when I was in Vietnam,” he said.

The group hopes to inspire the public to get behind an effort to end the war in Iraq immediately.

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## **“Former Soldiers, National Guardsmen And Marines Who Served In Baghdad And Kabul Joined Their Military Brothers From The Vietnam Era In Opposition To The Current War”**

5.28.07 Nancy Harty Reporting, CHICAGO (STNG)

There were protest songs, poetry and speeches criticizing the government for the war in Iraq.

But, as WBBM's Nancy Harty reports, the people gathered at the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial downtown along the Chicago River were not hippies or religious objectors to the war, they were veterans.

Former soldiers, National Guardsmen and Marines who served in Baghdad and Kabul joined their military brothers from the Vietnam era in opposition to the current war.

After the speeches, participants lined up to drop red carnations in the river. The flowers symbolize the civilian and military casualties of the Iraq war.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War National Coordinator Barry Romo credited his younger anti-war activists for having the courage to criticize the war while it's still going on.

**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**

## **Gathering Of Weasels Plagues New London [And West Point]**

[The impulse the writer describes below was identical in every way to that experienced by some observing these cowardly filth from the Gathering Of Weasels at West Point 5.26. When a man and a woman spoke about the pain of their Marine son's death in Iraq, the weasels used their PA system to hurl insults at them. That crossed the line, and merited a firm response. My own wish was for a RPG launcher. T]

**From: Ben Chitty**  
**To: Veterans For Peace; Vetpax**  
**Sent: May 24, 2007**  
**Subject: Report from New London**

*Tom Brinson passed this along this report...*

Dear Veterans For Peace and Supporters,

Yesterday, I was up in New London Connecticut to take part in the protest against Bushwhack's appearance at the US Coast Guard graduation.

**There was a sizeable counter-protest of Gathering of Eagles and Rolling Thunder, Pro-War veterans, mostly from Vietnam, and family members opposed to us. They were obscenely ugly.**

**Even this old greybeard was shocked, shamed and disgusted.**

**For the first time in many a year I had a flash of rage and, thank the gods & goddesses, a quickly passing urge to hold again a weapon to take some of the more obnoxious and truly evil -- insert your favorite explicative here -- out with extreme prejudice.**

**I also heard descriptions of some of the more outrageous behavior the GOE and Rolling Thunder types performed in DC on March 17th at the Pentagon march.**

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## **Female Airman Punished For Threesome; “Does She Really Have To Go To Jail For This?’ He Asked”**

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, and Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. David Honish writes: An even more entertaining way that getting a tattoo to avoid duty in Iraq.]

May 24, 2007 By Scott Schonauer, Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — A Spangdahlem-based airman was sentenced Monday to four months confinement for her part in a sexual act with two other airmen.

Airman 1st Class Ashley N. Rains pleaded guilty at a court-martial to two indecent acts charges. She had faced rape and sodomy charges but admitted to the lesser charges as part of a plea deal.

Judge (Col.) Gordon Hammock also sentenced Rains, 22, an aircrew life support specialist with the 22nd Fighter Squadron, to reduction to the lowest pay grade.

She faced a maximum sentence that included as many as 10 years in a military prison, but Air Force prosecutors argued for a lighter sentence of two years.

The alcohol-induced menage a trois on Sept. 24 in Bitburg included a male airman and a female staff sergeant. But both prosecution and defense lawyers debated whether it was consensual among the three.

Rains and Airman Christopher D. Hicks are the only airmen charged in the incident because the Air Force lawyers said the staff sergeant was too drunk to give consent.

Air Force prosecutor Capt. Mike Felsen said the staff sergeant “appeared drunk” and slipped “in and out of consciousness” while Rains and Hicks performed sexual acts with her. Felsen argued the staff sergeant, who did not testify during the trial, was vulnerable and Rains and Hicks took advantage of her.

**But Rains’ defense attorney, Capt. Matthew King, called the incident a situation involving three consenting adults with “various degrees of intoxication.”**

**King argued that Rains shouldn’t go to jail for what amounts to a drunken threesome.**

**“Does she really have to go to jail for this?” he asked.**

The Air Force had charged Rains with rape and sodomy, but prosecutors could not prove the more serious charges, King added, therefore, the question of consent isn’t relevant in Rains’ case.

Rains said she was embarrassed by the episode.

“I’ve learned from this mistake,” she said during a statement she read at the trial.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **GET THE MESSAGE?**



**An Iraqi boy throws a stone at a burning SUV after a roadside bomb exploded in central Basra, May 25, 2007. The roadside bomb targeted a SUV belong to a foreign security company, injuring 3 mercenaries. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)**

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# ***Oops, He's Not In Iran:*** **“No, No To Satan! No, No To America! No, No To The Occupation! No, No To Israel!”**

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

May 26 / 27, 2007 By PATRICK COCKBURN, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

The nationalist Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has reappeared before thousands of supporters for the first time in months to call for American troops to end the occupation of Iraq.

In an impassioned sermon to 6,000 worshippers in a mosque in the holy city of Kufa al-Sadr, wearing a white martyr's cloak thrown over his dark robes, he cried: “No, no to Satan! No, no to America! No, no to the occupation! No, no to Israel!”

He had appeared earlier in the morning in the nearby shrine city of Najaf to travel in a long motorcade to Kufa to deliver the Friday sermon.

Mr Sadr, leader of a powerful Shia political movement and the much-feared Mehdi Army militia, disappeared some four months ago, evidently fearing that he would be targeted by the US.

In his sermon yesterday he forcefully demanded an end to the US-led occupation and offered reconciliation to Sunni Arabs.

Surrounded by guards and aides in Kufa al-Sadr, Mr Sadr declared: “I renew my demand for the occupiers to leave or draw up a timetable for withdrawal, and I ask the government not to let the occupiers extend the occupation even for one day.” He has removed six Sadrist ministers from the government, citing its failure to set a timetable for American departure.

Mr Sadr said he was ready to co-operate with Sunnis “on all issues”. He added: “I am completely ready to defend them (Sunnis and Christians) and be their armour against their enemies.”

The Sadrist movement's blend of Islam, Iraqi nationalism and populism has proved highly attractive to Shia, particularly those who are very poor [translation: the urban working class].

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

May 28, 2007 (Reuters) & VOI

Hamad al-Jouburi, the head of a regional “salvation council” set up to fight for the U.S.-backed government, said insurgents attacked his brother’s two houses and abducted four of his sons and set the houses on fire in a village near Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad. Earlier, local officials said militants killed the four sons of Jouburi’s sister.

RAMADI: Police said a car bomber rammed his car into their checkpoint, wounding three policemen and a child.

Guerrillas ambushed a police patrol and killed three policemen and wounded seven in the Fadhil district of central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded four soldiers near the town of Hawija, 70 km (40 miles) southwest of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded five policemen in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

## **HOW SOON THEY FORGET:**



Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, May 27, 2007. This year is the 25th anniversary of the memorial, which has etched into it the names of the 58,249 American servicemen and women who died or were lost during the Vietnam Conflict from 1959-1975. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

**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**

**Declared Bill Ehrhart, a Marine in Vietnam:  
In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom.... Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.**

**"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**

## **THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S: The Female Psychologist**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 27, 2007  
Subject: (Episode 4) 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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### **Episode 4**

Female Psychologist: How has it been going since we last met Georgie?

Georgie W : Ahh, it's dat Cheney again, he's acting like he's da one dats the President.

Female Psychologist: Does he make you feel like a jackass, a brainless twit, a worthless piece of human shit ?

Georgie W: Yeah, well, he makes me handle all da garbage, like I have to say that we have to fight them over in Iraq and Afghanistan or they will be over here pumping oil into our lilly white daughters.

Female Psychologist: So does that make you feel like a clown, a buffoon, a complete Idiot who doesn't know his ass from a hole in the ground?

Georgie W: Yeah, it bothers me, otherwise I wouldn't be here talking to youse about it all.

Female Psychologist: Georgie, what do you think you could do to raise your numbers in the polls ?

Georgie W: Look, I'm also getting pressure from the Godfather, whos says I'm ruining his name.

Female Psychologist: I can help you with the pressure Georgie, I'm prescribing for you medical marijuana, qualudes and a big tank of nitrious oxide for your panic attacks and depression.

Georgie W: Dat won't make me crazy, will it?

Female Psychologist: You're already crazy Georgie, otherwise you wouldn't be here.

**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**

**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/))

**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.**



# May 29, 1932: Betrayed Veterans March On Washington DC



The St. Louis contingent of the Bonus Expeditionary Force is pictured here as it starts for Washington, D.C., in May 1932.

Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

**In the depths of the Great Depression, the “Bonus Expeditionary Force,” a group of 1,000 World War I veterans seeking cash payments for their veterans’ bonus certificates, arrived in Washington, D.C.**

By mid-June, they had set up a massive “Hooverville,” a contemporary term for an encampment of the homeless.

One month later, other veteran groups made their way to the nation’s capital, swelling the Bonus Marchers to nearly 20,000 strong, most of them unemployed veterans in difficult financial straits.

**In direct violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, they were violently disbanded by the Army in July.**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



5.11.07: An Iraqi citizen is interrogated by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA after they invaded his home during a early morning raid in Mosul. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**[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?]**

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

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

## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

**Is·ra·el** - *Noun*: Rogue state created by **ethnic cleansing**; specializes in **state-terrorism** and **humanitarian crimes**; sponsored by the **United States**.

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

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### **Bird Attacks Bush At Press Conference**

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

May 24, 2007 ABC News

ABC's Ann Compton reports: An outdoor news conference in perfect spring weather, with birds chirping loudly in the magnolia trees, is not without its hazards.

As President Bush took a question Thursday in the White House Rose Garden about scandals involving his Attorney General, he remarked, "I've got confidence in Al Gonzales doin' the job."

Simultaneously, a sparrow flew overhead and left a splash on the President's sleeve, which Bush tried several times to wipe off.

**MORE:**

# **Bird That Attacked Bush Had Al-Qaeda Link: The President Says Attack Proves Need To Keep Fighting In Iraq: “It Followed Me Home”**

May 28, FTA News

The White House today announced that an investigation by the Dept. of Homeland Security has uncovered links between the bird that defecated on President Bush at a White House press conference May 24 and the Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

The bird has been identified by government investigators as belonging to the “Jihad” species of sparrows, native to Iraq. Investigators say that the bird infiltrated the Air Force One during his last visit to Iraq some months ago, and has been preparing the attack since reaching the Washington DC area. “It followed me home,” President Bush said.

“The President has been telling the American people that if we don’t fight them there, they will follow us home,” said White House Press Spokesman Jack Hoff. “Well, there it is, all the proof the nay-sayers need.”

The White House called on all patriotic, freedom loving American sparrows to join the hunt for terrorist birds. “If you see something, say something.” “We are investigating whether there are nests of Al-Qaeda sparrows that helped organize the attack.”

Although testing is not complete, Vice-President Cheney said that there is a “high order of probability” that the Iraqi bird carried weaponized psittacosis, or possibly West Nile fever, “and this proves that there were and still are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.”

“There are a mass of Iraqi sparrows, and every infected bird could bring destruction to Americans. That’s a weapon of mass destruction,” he said.

The Department of Defense announced today that \$7 billion contract has been awarded to an undisclosed defense contractor to develop a defense system against Al-Qaeda sparrow attacks.

“The deployment of this fiendish new terrorist weapon, and the risk of future attacks by terrorist birds, makes the immediate development of a defense system the highest of national priorities. As it is, we are defenseless.”

Asked whether American troops would be called home from Iraq to help fight the invasion by Jihad sparrows, Bush replied “In your fucking dreams, GI.”

**Al-Qaeda Jihad Sparrow  
[AKA African Sparrow]  
[Note Face Mask & Suicide Vest For Carrying Bioweapons]**



thumb15.webshots

**Loyal American Sparrow**



nvabc.org

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