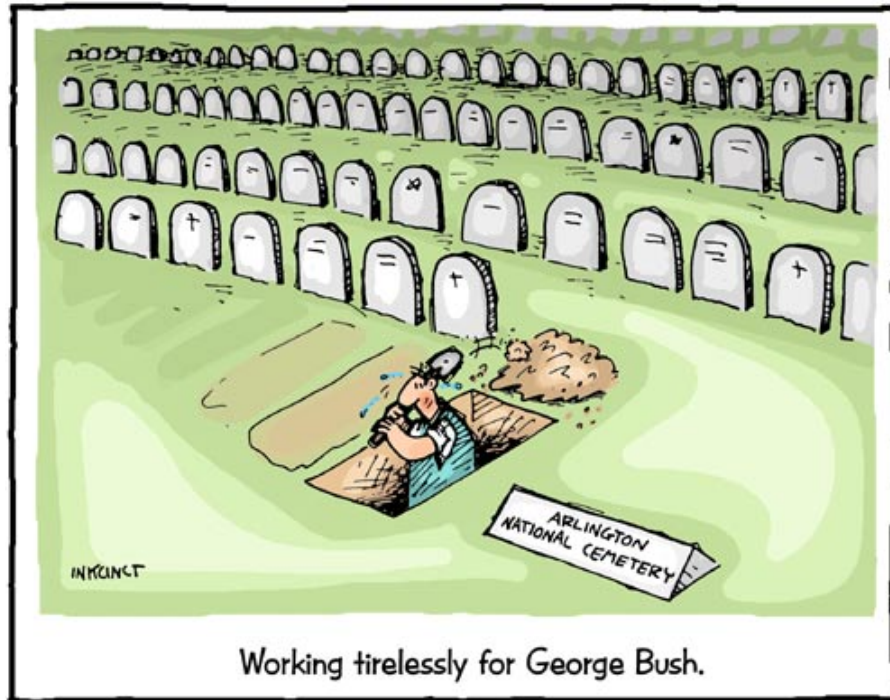


## GI SPECIAL 5E8:



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

# “I’m Currently Serving In The Army And In Iraq”

From: [xxxxx]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 04, 2007  
Subject: Information...

Hi, I’m currently serving in the army and in Iraq, I came across this newspaper through another soldier who is here.

I’m interested in getting it emailed to me?

I couldn’t find a subscribe link or anything of the sort to get onto a mailing list.

**REPLY:**

GI Special exists to be of service to members of the armed forces. No charge for subscription. Each issue has a couple boxes with information on how to contact GI Special by email, as well as a mail box where you can send written letters or comments. Most of all, your opinions are invited and welcome.

No identifying information is ever published when you write in a letter to GI Special. That's why [xxxx] appears in your letter. This is to avoid unwelcome attention from any Bush Buddies in the neighborhood.

Come home safe.

Respect for your service,

T

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

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

5/7/2007 Centcom Release 07-01-03C

BAGHDAD - While conducting security operations, an MND-B patrol was attacked with small arms fire in the western section of the Iraqi capital, killing one Soldier, May 6.

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### **Six Fort Lewis Strykers Soldiers Killed In Iraq**

05/07/07 king5

Six U.S. soldiers killed by a roadside bomb Sunday in Iraq's Diyala Province were Stryker Brigade members from Fort Lewis, Wash., a post spokesman says.

The soldiers were assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

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# Former El Pasoan Killed In Iraq

May 7, 2007 Pappas Telecasting

A soldier from El Paso has been killed in Iraq after a roadside bomb explodes, taking his life as well as the lives of five other soldiers and a journalist.

21 year old Specialist Anthony Bradshaw was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, near Seattle. He was part of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. He was a gunner in that unit.

According to Bradshaw's 'MySpace' page, while living in El Paso, he attended Hanks, America's and Eastwood high schools.

Bradshaw was killed in the Diyala province northwest of Baghdad. On Bradshaw's 'MySpace' page website, many friends left messages saying that he was loved and will be missed.

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## Family Begged Soldier To Stay



May 6, 2007 By HARVEY RICE, Houston Chronicle

GALVESTON — Army Spc. Eddie Daniel Tamez's family pleaded with him not to go to Iraq. They finally relented after he explained that he felt an obligation to serve his country.

"We were trying to protect him, but he said it was what he wanted to do," recalled his brother, Francisco Dunn, 31, of Houston.

Tamez died April 27, the victim of an improvised explosive device, after three months in Iraq. The family said the soldier, who had recently served a two-year tour of duty in Germany, had just re-enlisted for three more years with the Army.

The Department of Defense said the IED exploded near his vehicle "during combat operations" in Fallujah with the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, but provided no other details.

Tamez, 21, of Galveston, is survived by his wife, Keyris Sanchez Tamez, 20.

Pfc. David A. Kirkpatrick, 20, of Upland, Ind., died in the same attack.

Tamez's mother, Magdalena Tamez Dunn, 53, of Galveston, said she spoke with her son two days before his death. He reassured her he was well and told her not to worry. She told him that she loved him, and his last words to her were, "Yes mom, I love you more."

While a student at Ball High School, Tamez set his sights on a career in the military and spent four years in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. He enlisted in the U.S. Army a month after graduating from high school.

"When I signed the papers for them to take my son, I was crying," Tamez Dunn said. "I told him not to go."

But just as he persuaded his family that he had to go to Iraq, he persuaded his mother to allow him to enlist.

Tamez was an amateur magician who dazzled family and friends with private magic shows. He was especially adroit with cards, Dunn recalled, handling them with blinding speed.

He excelled at pool, impressing onlookers with trick shots, Dunn said. His knack for dancing led him to join a group that performed Hispanic folk dances in high school.

In his memory, the family has established the Eddie Tamez Scholarship Fund for Ball High School students in the Junior ROTC program.

Contributions should be sent C/O Hometown Bank of Galveston, 1801 45th St., Galveston, 77551.

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## Gwinnett Soldier Dies Before Wedding



Sgt. Michael Hullender [U.S. Army]

05/03/07 By D. AILEEN DODD, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The bride-to-be flew in from Alaska to help plan the service. But instead of floating down the aisle in white, Kyle Harper will be cloaked in black. A widow before she wed.

Sgt. Michael Hullender, her beloved, was dead at 29.

On Wednesday she huddled together with Michael's father, stepmother and sister as they made plans to welcome him home for the last time.

"They were a perfect match for each other," Ren Hullender said. "This week was supposed to be their wedding announcement in the paper. Instead it is the obituary. It is very tragic."

Hullender was killed when he stepped on a bomb in Iraq. The medic was helping fallen soldiers when he died. The U.S. Army will honor him with two posthumous medals at his service Sunday at 2 p.m.

"He is receiving a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart," said Maj. Dennis Hilpiper, a mortuary case manager with the U.S. Army based in Alexandria, Va.

A career educator, Ren Hullender didn't want his son to join the military until he had a degree to fall back on. "I wanted him to finish his college, but I supported his enlistment once I understood what he wanted to do," he said.

Michael had spent much of his childhood as the family peacemaker and protector. He wanted to do the same for his country. He joined the U.S. Army in 1998 to become a ranger at Fort Benning and a medic. He won several medals for his bravery and service.

"I am proud of what he did," Hullender said.

Hullender grew up in the shadow of his father in Gwinnett County Public Schools. Ren, the retired fine arts department chair of North Gwinnett High School, was a single parent with three kids — Michael and two older sisters. Michael went to school wherever his dad worked. Once, Ren Hullender even had him as a student.

"He didn't have the highest grade in the class, but he was a great kid," Ren Hullender said "He was very respectful. At school, we were always able to say I love you to each other. We had that kind of bond."

Ren and his son flew hot air balloons together. They hunted together. And whenever he came home, they always had a date at Longhorn Steakhouse, just the two of them.

Michael attended West Georgia College for two years after he graduated from Norcross High School in 1996. He heeded his father's advice and still worked on his degree online while he was in the Army. He was a few credits shy of his degree when he was killed.

Michael Hullender will receive a military burial with full honors.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Flanigan Funeral Home in Buford. The service will be Sunday at Sugar Hill United Methodist Church.

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## Friends Remember Fallen AZ Soldier

April 27, 2007 By Rebecca Taylor, 3TV

A Valley soldier was among nine U.S. troops killed by a suicide bomber.

Sgt. Brice Pearson from Phoenix died Monday.

Longtime friends can't believe he's gone. Friends say Sgt. Pearson was home on leave just three weeks ago.

At the time, they had no idea their quick goodbyes meant forever.

"Definitely a good guy to have on your side," Mark Eshelman said.

Eshelman is talking about his longtime friend Brice Pearson, a guy who at the age of 30 decided to join the army.

"I don't want to say he wasn't military material before he went in, but once the war went on he knew he wanted to go," he said

Sgt. Pearson, nicknamed "Old Man" by his army buddies was a confident leader who moved up in the ranks quickly.

His first tour of duty took him to Afganistan. "He said you know as much as it sucks over there, we're doing the right thing," Eshelman said.

Sadly, just three weeks after returning home for a brief visit Sgt. Pearson was killed.

"Hopefully he didn't see it coming and it just happened," he said. He was one of nine paratroopers killed by a suicide bomber Monday in a town north of Baghdad. "That is such a bad way to go, that's the brutality of these enemies, they don't have any shame," he said.

Grieving friends and loved ones are now leaving heartfelt message on Brice's MySpace page.

They read, "you will always be in our thoughts! I love you. I will never forget you."

Sgt. Pearson and his nine comrades who died were awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

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## Fighting In Haditha

May 6 (VOI)

Clashes broke out on Sunday afternoon between guerrillas and U.S. troops in the western Anbar city of Haditha.

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# “A ‘Thinking Enemy’ On The Ground Far Longer Than Most U.S. Soldiers”

May 7, 2007 By Tina Susman, L.A. Times [Excerpts]

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, said casualties would climb as American troops went deeper into enemy territory as part of a stepped-up military operation ordered by President Bush in January.

**He said troops in his area of operation were facing a “thinking enemy” that had been on the ground far longer than most U.S. soldiers and had adapted techniques such as planting roadside explosives deeper to thwart high-tech equipment.**

“He dominates that terrain,” Lynch said, adding that 13 of his troops had been killed since coming to Iraq in March.

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**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR  
HEALTH;  
COME HOME, NOW**



To see the most popular pictures on the Internet: <http://www.Popular-Pics.com>

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

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# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## **Canadian Patrol Attacked In Panjwaii**

May 7, 2007 (CP)

HOWZ E MADAD, Afghanistan: A Canadian patrol has come under attack in the Panjwaii district of Afghanistan.

Over the course of six hours, insurgents using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades engaged the Canadians near the village of Howz e Madad, west of Kandahar City. Major Dale MacEachern says there were no Canadian casualties.

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## **“Rebels Stepping Up Attacks Across The Country”**

May 7 Iran Daily Newspaper

More than 100 policemen have been killed in Taliban-related unrest in Afghanistan in the past two months, with the rebels stepping up attacks across the country, the interior ministry said Monday.

Most of the killings were in southern and eastern Afghanistan where Taliban rebels are most active despite internationally aided efforts to hunt them down, AFP quoted ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary as saying.

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## ***The Great Afghan Collaborator Troops Training Fiasco Rolls On:*** **“Desertions And Absenteeism Mean That Fewer Than Half Of The 46,000 Soldiers Are Available For Active Duty At Any One Time”**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes: One punishment imposed by Afghan officers is quoted below. No wonder desertion is high. “One Afghan soldier caught making an inappropriate gesture to a British servicewoman was stripped, chained to a sink and beaten by his fellow officers for two days. Then he was dumped at the front gate.”]



May 4, 2007 Declan Walsh in Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Sitting cross legged on the floor of his air-conditioned quarters Major Ataullah, a burly Afghan army commander, listed the many influences of his peripatetic military career.

"I've worked with Soviets, French, Canadians and, for the past year, the British," said Maj Ataullah, who uses only one name. He gestured at Major Martin David, a neatly pressed British officer sipping tea. "My third mentor," he said with a toothy smile.

On paper 46,000 recruits have joined the Afghan national army (ANA); President Hamid Karzai's government hopes to hit 70,000 by the end of 2008. America, anxious to ensure an exit strategy for its own troops, is footing the bill - \$2bn so far with another \$2bn promised for new M-16 guns, Ford trucks and bulletproof jackets.

But five years after it was founded, the ANA is far from being a standalone army.

One recent Sunday morning, Lieutenant Colonel Carew Hatherley, commander of the Grenadier Guards, idled beside his vehicle at Camp Shorabak, the joint British-ANA camp in western Helmand. His men were loading their vehicles for a dangerous mission taking supplies to ANA troops in the Taliban-infested Sangin valley.

But something was missing - the ANA.

"We've gone to their rooms to wake them up," he said with a half-exasperated smile.

"But it's not a problem, we have to go with it. We're working on Afghan time today."

Adjusting to the "Afghan way" can be a challenge to the Grenadier Guards, a 351-year-old regiment officially commanded by the Queen. Some frustrations are trivial: Afghans refuse western military rations in favour of fresh lamb and rice. Others are more serious, such as a refusal to clean weapons or stores. ANA officers employ some harsh disciplinary tactics.

**One Afghan soldier caught making an inappropriate gesture to a British servicewoman was stripped, chained to a sink and beaten by his fellow officers for two days. Then he was dumped at the front gate.**

The British say their most pressing problem is absenteeism. Afghan men value family life and find barracks life strange. Many overstay their leave by weeks, facing no punishment on their return, or never come back.

**The Helmand battalion is 30% under strength as a result. "We end up sitting here with bated breath hoping they will turn up," said Capt Noel Claydon-Swales.**

**Desertions and absenteeism mean that fewer than half of the 46,000 soldiers are available for active duty at any one time, said Antonio Giustozzi of the London School of Economics, author of a new study on the ANA.**

Many who do join are from poor backgrounds and their motivations vary. Private Ahmed Jawad, a 25-year-old tailor from Kabul, said he tried to escape basic training (an

experience he likened to Guantánamo Bay) by leaping into an icy river. His flight was halted by guards who opened fire, then flung him into jail for 10 days.

**A day after arriving at Camp Shorabak, Pte Jawad said he liked the wage and would give Helmand his best.**

**But if it didn't work out, he cheerfully admitted, "I will try to escape again."**

America has also donated thousands of Ford jeeps with air conditioning and stereo systems but no armour plating.

**More controversially the US plans to replace the ANA's Soviet design AK-47 rifles with the American M-16, a weapon that is prone to dust, requires greater maintenance and uses smaller bullets.**

**Comment: T**

**[Have you noticed with all this pissing and moaning, nobody, one time, brings up the most important, and for the occupation, embarrassing question of all: how can it be that the resistance movement fighting the occupation has no trouble whatever motivating it's soldiers?**

**[No billions, no tons of U.S. equipment, no foreign troops trainers, etc. etc. etc. Gee, could it be the resistance soldiers fight to get the foreign occupiers out of their country? Like they fought the Russian occupiers? And that traitors never fight as well as patriots? You think? Remember the well-trained, well-equipped, well-fed, well-clothed British soldiers who just couldn't figure out how a bunch of Americans in bloody foot-rags at Valley Forge kept going? You think?]**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

***Iraq Veterans Against The War:*  
"Washington Is Playing This Game  
Of Passing The Blame, While  
People On The Ground Are Dying"  
"Put Yourself In Iraqi Shoes," Said  
Mortillo, Who Served In Samarra:**

# “A Foreign Invader Comes And Kills Your Brother. Are You Just Going To Forget That?”



Kelly Dougherty of Iraq Veterans Against the War. Her group also wants the United States to pay reparations to Iraq. MICHAEL S. WIRTZ / Inquirer Staff Photographer

May. 03, 2007 By Jeff Gammage, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer [Excerpts]

President Bush's veto of the military funding bill that would have brought troops home from Iraq provoked frustration among the members of a small-but-growing organization who possess uncommon expertise on the subject: Iraq Veterans Against the War, with headquarters in Center City.

**“Washington is playing this game of passing the blame, while people on the ground are dying,” said Kelly Dougherty, a former National Guard MP and the group's executive director.**

Dougherty, 28, is devoted to stopping the conflict in which she served - to putting herself and her group out of work. In addition to the immediate return of U.S. troops, the IVAW seeks expanded health benefits for veterans and - a goal that sets it apart from some antiwar groups - reparations to Iraq.

**“I can't just come back to America and pretend like everything is OK. I feel obligated to speak out,” said IVAW board member Steve Mortillo, 24, who fought with the Army First Infantry Division. “If we just sit around and watch, thousands of troops are going to die.”**

The IVAW, founded in 2004 by eight veterans who attended a Boston peace conference, started with no space and little money. The national office is based here because its most active member happened to live nearby. Today, staffers work out of a borrowed basement room at the American Friends Service Committee while awaiting a move to permanent quarters.

Membership in the IVAW numbers more than 400, a tiny fraction of the 630,000 soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. But more join its 16 chapters everyday, organizers say. Anyone on active duty, in the Reserves or in the National Guard since the attacks of Sept. 11 is eligible. Others note that the Vietnam Veterans started with six members in 1967 and grew to 30,000.

Once limited to providing speakers for other peace groups, the IVAW now sponsors its own rallies and events.

On May 27, members plan to storm the sidewalks of New York to stage a piece of street theater titled Operation First Casualty. Uniformed veterans will play the roles of soldiers while others portray Iraqi civilians. The shouting and commotion, says the IVAW, upsets the work-a-day routine - and forces Americans to confront the turmoil in Iraq.

Not everyone looks on in support. The group occasionally gets hate mail, and at rallies the activists have been accosted by families who have loved ones in uniform. Last week somebody left two long, nasty messages on the office voicemail. When board chair Garrett Reppenhagen, a former Army sniper in Iraq, appeared on C-Span's Washington Journal, a caller told him it was traitorous for a soldier to oppose the war.

"These folks were over in Iraq. They have the right to say what they feel," said Thomas Minchin, 59, a Vietnam-era Marine and executive director of the Pennsylvania chapter of AMVETS, a veterans advocacy group that takes no official stand on the war.

"I don't know if (their opposition) is the right choice," Minchin said. "For them, it's probably right. For me, it's probably not."

From the start, Dougherty questioned the rationale for war - the claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, the use of Sept. 11 imagery.

The Colorado native joined the National Guard in 1996 to get money for college, and deployed to Kuwait in February 2003 with the 220th Military Police Company. By late March she was in Iraq.

"I opposed the war before it happened," she said.

Her unit was responsible for patrolling highways, escorting convoys, and protecting supply trucks that broke down on the road. She vividly recalls the day a vehicle overturned near Nasiriyah. As usual, MPs surrounded the truck, watching a growing number of Iraqis who, as usual, were waiting to scavenge gas, tires or metal.

It was getting dark; the troops were spread thin. Dougherty lost sight of her comrades. Rocks came sailing out of the crowd. An Iraqi man moved toward her. She shoved him back. Another came at her - she lashed out with her nightstick.

Dougherty struck him so hard it felt like hitting a table. She still recalls his cry.

The next day, she noticed, some fellow soldiers seemed to treat her with new respect.

"Sgt. Dougherty," one called, "I heard you were haji-beating last night."

She didn't feel proud. In a situation like that, all that matters is self-preservation. It's later, she said, that the guilt sets in.

"I wanted to do something to help the Iraqi people, and people in my unit did too," she said. "But to go out there and guard (wrecked) trucks, and then abandon them, everyday, was absurd."

When Mortillo was growing up in North Jersey, he could see the World Trade Center from his house. He enlisted two months after the towers fell.

"I wanted to defend this country," he said.

In Iraq "I saw the motives didn't add up, the mission didn't add up." Companies like Halliburton earned huge profits, Mortillo said, while his platoon suffered three killed and seven wounded.

**"Put yourself in Iraqi shoes," said Mortillo, who served in Samarra in 2004 and 2005. "A foreign invader comes and kills your brother. Are you just going to forget that?"**

"We have brought so much death and destruction down upon these people."

**He's against the war "because I care about those who are still in the military. When they're called upon, it should be only in defense of the American people. That's not the motive for this war."**

## **IRAQ VETS LEADING MARCH ON PENTAGON 3.17.07**



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

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



The casket of Army Spc. Aaron Michael Genevie, 22, of Chambersburg, Pa., at Arlington National Cemetery April 30, 2007. Genevie was killed April 16 when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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**“It Is The Soldiers Who Have Been  
Telling Me From The Frontline  
That The War They Have Been  
Fighting Is A Hopeless War”  
General Sir Michael Rose Says:  
“Of Course We Have To Admit  
Defeat”  
Iraqi Insurgents “Right To Try To  
Force The US-Led Coalition Out”**

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, NY City Labor Against The War & The Military Project; Mark Shapiro & JM, who sent this in.]

May 4, 2007 Julian Borger, The Guardian

A retired British army general says Iraq's insurgents are justified in opposing the occupation, arguing that the US and its allies should "admit defeat" and leave Iraq before more soldiers are killed.

**General Sir Michael Rose told the BBC's Newsnight programme: "It is the soldiers who have been telling me from the frontline that the war they have been fighting is a hopeless war, that they cannot possibly win it and the sooner we start talking politics and not military solutions, the sooner they will come home and their lives will be preserved."**

**Asked if that meant admitting defeat, the general replied: "Of course we have to admit defeat. The British admitted defeat in north America and the catastrophes that were predicted at the time never happened.**

**"The catastrophes that were predicted after Vietnam never happened. The same thing will occur after we leave Iraq."**

General Rose is a former SAS commander and head of UN forces in Bosnia. Last year, he called for Tony Blair to be impeached for going to war on "false pretences".

He has written a book, entitled Washington's War, which compares the Iraqi rebels to George Washington's irregular forces in the American war of independence.

**When he was asked if he thought the Iraqi insurgents were right to try to force the US-led coalition out, he replied: "Yes I do. As Lord Chatham (the politician William Pitt, the Elder, who, in the second half of the 18th century called for a cessation of hostilities in the colonies and favoured American resistance to the British Stamp Act) said, 'if I was an American - as I am an Englishman - as long as one Englishman remained on American native soil, I would never, never, never lay down my arms'.**

**"The Iraqi insurgents feel exactly the same way. I don't excuse them for some of the terrible things they do, but I do understand why they are resisting the Americans."**

**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.**

**"War Czar" For Bush?  
Still No Takers:**

# “It’s The Nuttiest Idea Ever”

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

May 07, 2007 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Now that the White House is searching for a “war czar,” it begs the question of who has been coordinating U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan the past four years.

A team of West Wing players led by national security adviser Stephen Hadley has tried to keep turf-conscious agencies marching in the same direction on military, political and reconstruction fronts. A few Bush aides say privately, however, that the White House probably should have recruited someone to oversee the war effort a year ago.

Hadley interviewed several candidates in the past few days. He has contacted at least six retired military leaders - either to learn what they think about the job or to try to persuade them to take it.

So far, there have been no takers for the job.

“It’s the nuttiest idea ever,” said James Carafano, a defense expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

He said a war coordinator at the White House would be outside the regular chain of command. “It confuses lines of authority. It’s like adding a fifth wheel on a car.”

Trying to integrate government operations inside the White House is a prescription for disaster, he added.

“You’re too far from the battlefield. You’re in the wrong time zone. You can’t make timely decisions. You don’t have the staff,” he said.

“The administration will be over before they even have the communications and everything in place to do this.”

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

May 6 (VOI) & 5.7.07 By HAMID AHMED, AP & Reuters & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & By RAVI NESSMAN, Associated Press Writer & (VOI)



**8 policemen were killed and 12 were wounded when a car bomb targeted a policeman check point in Al Salam district to west outskirts of Baghdad around 11,30 am.**

**Car bombers attacked a police checkpoint on the outskirts of Ramadi, killing five police officers.**

**A bombing and an ambush in Baqouba, an insurgent stronghold northeast of Baghdad, killed two soldiers and two policemen Monday as militants apparently step up a campaign against Iraqi security forces.**

**The attacks began about 4:30 a.m. when a booby-trapped house exploded during a raid, killing two Iraqi soldiers and wounding three. About six hours later, guerrillas ambushed a police station elsewhere in the city, killing two officers and wounding two others, police said.**

Insurgents accuse Iraqi security forces and police of collaborating with U.S.-led forces and the Iraqi government.

The Islamic State in Iraq, a militant group, said it was holding nine Iraqi police and defence personnel and demanded the release of all Muslim women prisoners in exchange for their freedom. The group said the policemen being held included high-ranking officers.

Baghdad: An Iraqi police officer was killed by unidentified attackers inside his home in the western Baghdad neighborhood of al-Jihad on Sunday, an Iraqi police source said.

Diala: Diala police chief Ghanim al-Qurayshi survived an attempt on his life on Sunday when a sniper missed him and shot one of his bodyguards, an Iraqi police source said

Iraqi security forces, backed by U.S. troops, launched a security operation in Saadiya district, Diala province, in a search for a missing local council member, a police source said on Sunday

A Missan oil company employee was killed and two others were wounded when a land mine exploded near them in eastern Missan, 380 km southeast of Baghdad, a company source said on Sunday.

Around this morning , a police patrol found a body of a police commissioner which was lain on the road of Hawija – Abasi near Shakldi village to the west of Kirkuk.

Around afternoon a police patrol found a dead body of a man which was identified later as the chairman of Al-Wajihya town municipality who was captured yesterday night near his house.

A policeman was killed when guerrillas opened fire on him at New Baquba neighborhood (west of Baquba city) shortly after mid-day.

12 citizens were and 25 wounded in a car bomb explosion in Al-Bothyab village where Al-bu Risha tribe live (the tribe which leads the tribes' coalition against insurgents) in Anbar province south Iraq around 11.30 am.

In northern Iraq, guerrillas attacked an Iraqi military checkpoint at the town of Baaj, killing two soldiers, two police officers and a civilian, police said.

The Khalis public hospital received the bodies of six Iraqi National Guard soldiers, medics in the hospital said.

An explosive device went off near an Iraqi police patrol, wounding a policeman and destroying a vehicle in western Mosul, Ninawa police operations room chief said.

Hilla - unknown attackers shot and killed a police officer near the city, a police source said

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **I Don't Care**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 07, 2007  
Subject: I Don't Care by Dennis

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **I Don't Care**

**The Green Zone is the price of gas  
after an expensive gas heating winter,  
it's just another way to continue  
to make billions upon billions of Bush dollars...  
The Wall Street Stock Market  
is going up up and up  
as traders make their blood money  
inside the Green Zone...  
The Green Zone feeds on KFC  
McDonalds and Pizza Hut's for the Lower class...  
The Upper class feed on steaks  
and lobsters and ala cart and a wine list**

we are safe here, inside the Green Zone...  
The bombing and killing bothered no one  
after all, they were just Iraqis,  
it was a good security test to learn from...  
perhaps an inside job inside the Green Zone.  
The money is shaped like the United States  
with George Bush's face on a billion dollar bill  
inside the Green Zone...  
The War Profiteers inside  
want the war to go on forever  
and laugh as both sides  
fight each other  
out side the Green Zone...  
As long as one side kills the other  
and then the other side kills the other  
and then the other side kills the other  
the people are happy  
inside the Green Zone...  
You don't even have to be in Iraq  
just watch TV in your living room,  
about the killing room  
to be in the Green Zone...  
Remember to pay with green backs first  
before you pump your gas,  
throw up your hands, what can you do,  
why even worry, inside the Green Zone...  
It's deja vu all over again  
just put it on your credit card  
the one that looks  
just like the American Dream...

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***The Pentagon's Latest Attempt To  
Silence Soldiers' Blogs:  
"A Soldier, Of All Citizens, Has  
The Right And Responsibility To  
Tell The Truth"***

**From: Monica Benderman**  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 07, 2007

I've been reading about the Pentagon's latest attempt to silence soldiers' blogs.

In November 2004, Kevin wrote an email to George Bush telling him he “was not worth the dust off the boots of the soldiers in Iraq.”

*[See a copy of that letter just below. T]*

He kept on talking, and the commanders threatened him with “Making Disloyal Statements” and “Disrespecting a Superior Officer” for his actions.

They couldn’t make it stick.

Kevin and I both kept on talking, and they set him up on false charges of Missing Movement and put him in prison for over a year - he was in prison, but he didn’t stop talking, and I didn’t either.

They took away his pay, his benefits and threatened a Dishonorable Discharge and even from a Loss of Privilege cell he found a way to get his statements to me for publishing and he kept on talking.

Now he’s out of prison, his case is on appeal and he’s working in the private sector while on administrative leave from the Army until they can settle his case. He has not stopped talking about the truth of what he knows.

A soldier, of all citizens, has the right and responsibility to tell the truth - they are the defenders of the policies our administration puts in place under the watchful eye of the American people. When both have failed the soldiers, soldiers have the right to tell them so.

No one wants to hear that they’ve made a mistake and certainly no one wants it proclaimed publicly in a national or international forum, but when the mistakes affect matters of life and death there really isn’t much to consider when it comes to telling the truth about them.

No amount of threats and intimidation from the Army worked at keeping Kevin from talking - beginning with letters he sent to Senators while he was serving in Iraq, continuing with letters he sent from a military prison which we posted online -- and knowing there’s still more to come.

Soldiers’ lives are worth defending.

Monica Benderman

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[From: GI SPECIAL 3A9; 1.9.05]

## **George Bush: A Domestic Enemy Of The United States**

November 20, 2004

To: George W. Bush  
From: SGT Kevin M. Benderman

**When are you going to tell the truth to the people of the United States? Why don't you tell them why you want to be in Iraq so bad?**

I was there for six months and I did not see the first weapon of mass destruction. I did receive orders from the company commander to shoot children if they threw small rocks at us and that was when I figured out that the entire thing was way over the line.

**Over 1200 soldiers have died in Iraq so that you can have a couple billion more dollars, that should make you feel very good about yourself.**

**The soldiers that have died for this sham that you have put over on the American people are so much more deserving than that. You are not worth the dust off of their boots. If you truly had respect for the military and the people that serve then you would not continue to kill them in your war.**

**I joined the Army to protect my country and not to be a mercenary for a political despot. If you wish to put me in prison because of my views then you should make room for about 75% of the military.**

**And while you are at make some room for yourself and about half of your administration. You are responsible for what happened at Abu Gharaib and you are shirking your responsibility.**

**The commander in chief is not above the UCMJ, as you would like to believe.**

**I want to fulfill my contract that says I joined the Army to protect my country against all enemies foreign and domestic, and as far as I am concerned you are a domestic enemy of the United States.**

You care nothing for this country; you just care about the profits that are to be made from the oil in Iraq. That much is evident to me from the way the contracts were passed out to Halliburton and KBR. It must be nice to have the deck stacked in your favor by the president of the USA.

**Since your are raising the debt ceiling of America so that we can pay the bills that you have run up, why don't you forgive the debts of every one in the armed forces since they are the ones that are making it possible for you to make billions from the oil from Iraq.**

Sincerely,  
SGT Kevin M. Benderman

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**May 7, 1984:  
A Victory For Vietnam Veterans  
[But At What A Price]**



Carl Bunin Peace History May 7-13

**American veterans of the Vietnam War reached a \$180-million out-of-court settlement with seven chemical companies in a class-action suit relating to the use of herbicide Agent Orange in Vietnam.**

The veterans charged they had suffered injury and illness from exposure to the defoliant used widely in the war to eliminate cover for Vietnamese forces opposing the U.S. military presence.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

***How's That 'Surge' Going?***  
**“While We Waited With Scores Of  
Other Vehicles, Mortars Were Fired  
At The Airport”**  
**“Iraqi Soldiers Ask Us If We Have Any  
Bullets To Give Them”**

20 April 2007 By Andrew North, BBC News, Baghdad

Trying to get into the centre of Baghdad earlier this week offered one view of how far away the Americans and Iraqi authorities are from gaining control here.

**We were at the airport. Just before we were due to leave, the entrance car park was hit by a car bomb.**

US troops and private security forces who guard the perimeter locked the whole area down for the next four hours. No traffic was allowed in or out.

**While we waited with scores of other vehicles, mortars were fired at the airport. Fortunately for us they landed on the other side of the runway, plumes of smoke shooting into the air.**

As we drove into the city, we counted six blast holes left by recent roadside bombs along just one 100-metre stretch of road. A large patch of damaged, blackened Tarmac on a bridge spoke of another attempt to destroy a key crossing.

On our drive into the city, we encountered several Iraqi army checkpoints. But almost every vehicle - including ours - was being waved through.

Many new checkpoints have been set up across Baghdad. But what is their purpose, many Iraqis ask, when they seem to stop so few people?

**It is not always encouraging when they do - a couple of times we have been pulled over by Iraqi soldiers who ask us if we have any bullets to give them.**

No-one knows the exact figures, but at the end of another week of unspeakable, random carnage, hundreds more Iraqi families are grieving.

Exhaustion and despair hang over the country.

And there are no signs of change.

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# ***So Much For That “Sovereignty” Bullshit: U.S. Military Dictatorship Ignores Iraqi “Government” And Builds Their Wall After U.S. Ambassador Lies About Not Doing It***

04 May 2007 by Chris Floyd, Chris-floyd.com [Excerpt]

Speaking of concrete walls, remember the wall that was being constructed around the Adhamiya neighborhood?

Remember how Imperial Viceroy -- sorry, U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said he would “obviously..respect the wishes of the (Iraqi) government and the prime minister” after the Iraqi government and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki vociferously protested against the American construction of the ghetto in Adhamiya?

Well, guess what?

Crocker lied.

As the Telegraph reports:

**American forces have completed construction of a concrete wall around the Baghdad district of Adhamiya despite protests from the Iraqi prime minister and local residents who claim that they are now at the mercy of militants.**

Capt Mohammad Jasim, an Iraqi soldier manning a checkpoint on the Adhamiya bridge, said: “The Americans did not listen to us. We think this wall has made the area inside the wall more dangerous for people.”

Um Doraid, a middle-aged housewife, said: “We here inside the wall are still as vulnerable as ever.”

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## ***Welcome To Liberated Iraq: Demonstrate? Against Bush’s Occupation? Prison Camp For You!***



U.S. soldier detain a protester as local residents rally against the U.S. military presence in Kamaliyah neighborhood in Baghdad May 2, 2007. Hundreds attended the rally, some throwing stones on an passing American convoy. (AP Photo/Adil al-Khazali)



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

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



An Iraqi housewife tried to comfort her child as foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division engaged in a night home invasion search her house in Mosul, May 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

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

**“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!**

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **“Palestinians Detained By Israeli Security Forces Are Routinely Tortured”**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

May 7, 2007 By Conal Urquhart in Tel Aviv, The Guardian

**Palestinians detained by Israeli security forces are routinely tortured and ill-treated, according to a new report published by Israeli human rights groups yesterday. The ill-treatment, which includes beatings, sensory deprivation, back-bending, back-stretching and other forms of physical abuse, contravenes international law and Israeli law, the report says.**

The Centre for the Defence of the Individual and B’Tselem, an Israeli human rights group, compiled the report after interviewing 73 Palestinians who had been arrested in 2005 and 2006.

**The report found that almost 50% of detainees who were arrested in raids or at random were beaten by the army or police before they were handed over to the Shin Bet security agency for interrogation.**

The prisoners were interrogated for an average of 35 days and spent most of their time in tiny cells in solitary confinement. They were interrogated from five to 10 hours a day. More than half did not see a lawyer or representative of the Red Cross for the whole period of interrogation.

The report found that prisoners were effectively starved by being offered food designed to appear rotten or unappetising.

Their only exercise was the walk from the cell to the interrogation room during which they were shackled, handcuffed and blindfolded. In some cases more extreme treatment

was used. One in five detainees were deprived of sleep for up to three days and a quarter were beaten by their interrogators.

**Out of more than 500 complaints against Shin Bet since 2001, not a single one has been upheld. Israel's justice ministry said Shin Bet interrogations were carried out in accordance with the law, although it declined to comment on the "interrogation techniques" detailed in the report.**

In 1999, the supreme court banned the torture of suspects but left several loopholes which allowed it to continue.

[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**



[Via Ma'Moun Salim Sukkar]

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## **“The Democrats Seem Content To Let This Murderous Horror Run On”**

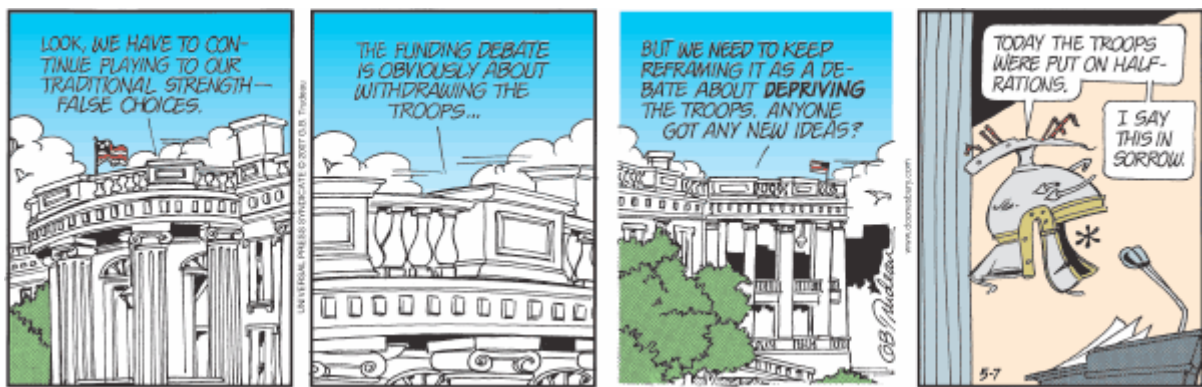
04 May 2007 by Chris Floyd, Chris-floyd.com [Excerpt]

And so the transformation of Baghdad -- one of the great cities of the world for more than a thousand years -- into a squalid open-air prison continues apace.

This, we are told, is “liberation.”

And the American Establishment, despite a good deal of thus far non-signifying sound and fury from the Democrats, seem content to let this murderous horror run on.

**They tinker on the margins -- should we demand that a certain portion of troops begin to be withdrawn at a certain, ever-receding date? -- when it is plain that the only thing the United States can do at this point to mitigate the suffering of the Iraqis is leave -- and pay reparations for the criminal ruin and death we have caused.**



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

## **Received:**

# **Re: Crackdown On Soldier's Blogs**

From: Joshua Karpoff  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 07, 2007  
Subject: RE: GI Special 5E6: Not Worth Dying For

There's a line you emphasised:

“3. The Soldier doesn't use government equipment when on his or her personal blog.”

This is going to be a key sticking point.

If a soldier were to use a personal laptop to write the post and edit the blog, but do so from a military base, using the military's computer network, would that be using government equipment?

When soldier's post stuff that criticize the war, their commanders are going to try to find any loophole possible to nail them.

This loophole sounds like it can go both ways, so people should watch out.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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