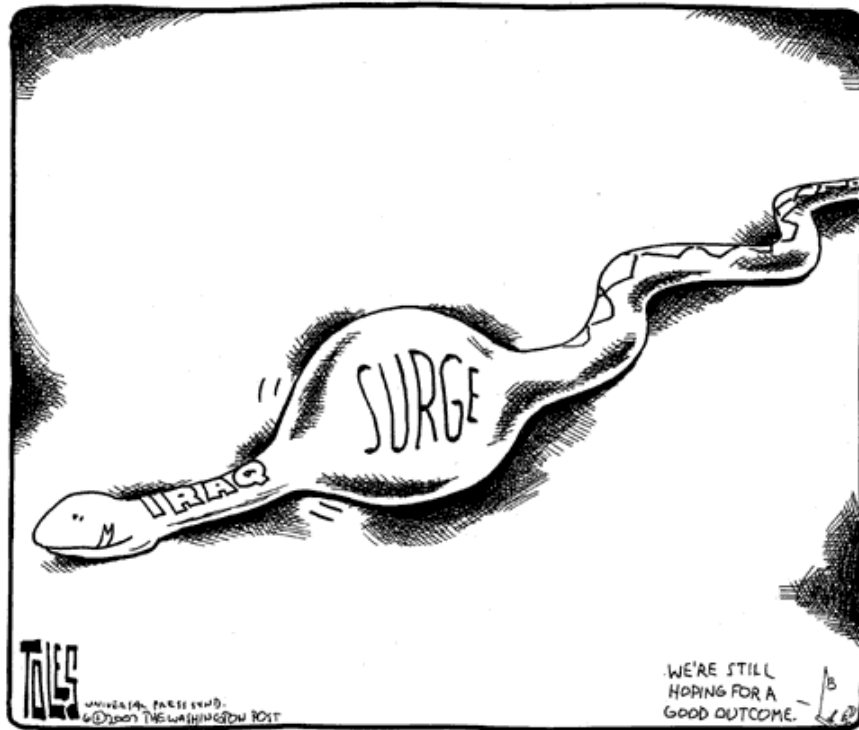


GI SPECIAL 5F11:



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

**“We All Fulfilled Our
Duties”**

**“I Can Tell You That Many
People, If Not A Majority, Still In
The Military, Do Not Agree With
This War”**

“They Just Aren’t Saying It On Television. Yet.”

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

The oath of enlistment affirms that the enlistee will support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and obey the orders of the President and officers appointed over them. That’s the gist of it.

But what is one to do when the President is a domestic enemy of the Constitution?

06/04/2007 by David J. Kalbfleisch, Iraq Veterans Against The War, www.ivaw.org/

I participated in Operation First Casualty 2 (NYC) two weekends ago, and it was an amazing experience. The response was overwhelmingly positive, especially in Brooklyn. A Muslim man in a park thanked me for speaking out, and several NYPD members thanked me for my service.

The best disapproving remark anyone could muster was, "Punks! Why did you enlist?!" As usual, this was coming from someone who obviously never served in the military and has only the marketing driven, overly romanticized view of what it was like.

I can’t speak to why every member of IVAW joined the military.

I can tell you that I joined for a few reasons, one of which was the often repeated "money for college." I could spend time expounding upon how the enlistment contract is a bait-and-switch and how the fine print reveals it isn’t really a contract at all (the government reserves the right to change everything, and the enlistee has little recourse), but those things aren’t even relevant.

What the hecklers really need to understand isn’t why we joined; they need to understand the oath we took.

The oath of enlistment affirms that the enlistee will support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and obey the orders of the President and officers appointed over them. That’s the gist of it.

But what is one to do when the President is a domestic enemy of the Constitution?

Are you supposed to shut up and not say anything?

That is what most IVAW members did while they were still in; now most (but not all) of us are out, and we are exercising our first amendment rights while we still have them. For some history context, check out history.electdave.org.

As an officer, my oath was to defend the Constitution and execute the duties of my office to the best of my ability.

It said nothing about blind loyalty to the President, and I don't mind saying that I think he is a war criminal who deserves to spend the rest of his life in prison.

While I was in, I stood my watches and juggled the paperwork to the best of my ability. I met my obligation. Now that I'm out, I'm trying to defend the Constitution as an IVAW member and Green Party candidate for Congress.

That's what the hecklers don't get.

We all fulfilled our duties, and most of us were honorably discharged.

When the people who fought the war are speaking out against it, instead of running your ignorant mouth, maybe you should listen.

Having been out less than a year, I can tell you that many people, if not a majority, still in the military, do not agree with this war.

They just aren't saying it on television.

Yet.

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, Another Wounded In Baghdad

June 10, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070610-15

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations in a southern section of Baghdad June 10. One other Soldier was also wounded.

U.S. Soldier Killed, Another Wounded In Diyala

June 10, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070610-01

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Multi-National Division -North Soldier died of wounds as a result of injuries sustained from small arms fire while conducting operations in Diyala Province, June 9.

One Soldier was also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

Maine National Guard Member Injured By Roadside Bomb

June 6, 2007 The Associated Press

SABATTUS, Maine -- A Maine Army National Guard member is returning to the U.S. after being injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

A Guard spokesman said Spc. David Saucier was injured Sunday while on convoy duty. There is no word on the extent of Saucier's injuries, but Maj. Mike Backus of the Guard said he is recovering

Saucier is a gunner with a field artillery unit stationed in Kuwait.

Resistance Blows Up Bridge With U.S. Army Convoy On It: Many Casualties

6.10.07 AP

BAGHDAD (AP) — An apparent car bomber took aim at a US convoy carrying demolition experts on Sunday, collapsing a major highway overpass south of Baghdad and trapping American soldiers in the rubble.

The vehicle detonated beside a support pillar, bringing down an Army checkpoint and a tent that had been on the collapsing span, dubbed "Checkpoint 20" by the US military.

The overpass, one of two crossing over Iraq's main north-south highway in the region, appeared to be closed to all but military traffic at the time.

A US Army quick reaction force and the staff of Armour Group International, a private security firm that was in charge of the passing convoy, worked for some 45 minutes to pull trapped men from the rubble about six miles east of Mahmoudiya.

There appeared to be several casualties, including an Iraqi interpreter who was wounded, according to Donald Campbell, an official with the security firm who was at the scene.

Iraqi police said the overpass was a vital link across the highway for villagers in the area because the other spans have been taken over by US forces.

A police officer in nearby Iskandariyah, speaking on condition of anonymity because of security concerns, said a curfew had been imposed on vehicles and pedestrians after the attack on the span.

**GUESS WHO'S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN'T
GUESS WHY
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier takes up a position during a search for suspects at a Shiite neighborhood in the southeast of Baghdad February 17, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

Fighting Overnight In Baghdad;

Humvee Destroyed; Casualties Not Announced

June 10, 2007 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer

In Baghdad, police and witnesses in Baghdad said overnight clashes between U.S. troops and Shiite militiamen left at least five people dead and 19 wounded in an eastern district.

AP Television News video footage shot Sunday showed the charred skeleton of what appeared to be a Humvee and a low-flying Apache helicopter firing flares as several hundred people, including teenagers and children, were gathered around the smoldering vehicle below, mostly teenagers and children.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier Killed Near Sangin; Four More Wounded

9 Jun 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards in Afghanistan today, Saturday 9 June 2007.

The soldier was killed at around 11.10 hrs local time roughly three kilometres outside of Sangin, Afghanistan.

The soldier was part of a combined Grenadier Guards and Afghan National Army (ANA) patrol that had been taking part in an operation to help widen and deepen irrigation ditches for locals in the area. They were en route to assist an ANA patrol that had been ambushed in a separate location when their Land Rover E-WMIK was caught in an explosion.

Following the explosion, the patrol came under sustained small arms and RPG fire from Taliban positions. Four other soldiers were injured in the ambush.

The patrol fought off the Taliban until reinforcements arrived allowing them to extract the casualties from the damaged WMIK, whilst under fire from the Taliban.

They returned to a secure base where they were met by a medical team who pronounced one soldier dead at the scene. The four casualties were moved onwards by

helicopter to Camp Bastion where they received medical treatment for minor injuries before being discharged later this evening.

Assorted Resistance Action

8 June 2007 BBC & June 10, 2007 Associated Press

At least two policemen have been killed in Afghanistan by a bomb which blew up their patrol vehicle in the province of Kandahar, police say.

They say that two others were injured in the roadside blast near the Pakistani border.

Another policeman was killed on Thursday in neighbouring Zabul province, police say.

Kandahar military spokesman Gen Abdul Raziq told the BBC that the roadside bomb went off on Thursday in the Shoar district of Kandahar, 100km east of Kandahar city.

The Taleban says that 13 policemen were killed in the encounter.

In northwestern Afghanistan, meanwhile, militants attacked three separate posts Saturday in Murghab district of Badghis province, sparking a six-hour long battle that left two police killed

TROOP NEWS

"Let Our Troops Speak!" "Stop Harassing Heroes!" [Statement By The Military Project]

After multiple tours in Iraq, Adam Kokesh, Liam Madden and Cloy Richards received honorable discharges from active duty.

These Marines continued to honor their oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic by joining Iraq Veterans Against the War and speaking out against a war they saw as illegal and immoral.

As a result of exercising their right to freedom of speech, (a right they were told they were fighting for in Iraq) the Marine Corps, while admitting that The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) does not apply to Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

service members, is trying to refuse them IRR honorable discharges for alleged violations of the UCMJ!

This bold attempt by the government to suppress the views of our service men and women must not go unchallenged.

The Military Project sees Adam Kokesh, Liam Madden, Cloy Richards, The IVAW, and all active duty and reserve troops who have the courage to speak out against this illegal war as true patriots and heroes.

We urge all people of conscience to "Support The Troops!" by sending letters of support and financial donations to IVAW and by contacting elected officials to tell them, "Let Our Troops Speak! Stop Harassing Heroes!"

IVAW- Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 8296
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Sincerely,
The Military Project
contact@militaryproject.org

MORE:

**“Stay The Course, Cpl. Adam
Kokesh, We Are With You All The
Way”**

**“Don’t Let Them Interfere With
Your Mission”**

June 5, 2007 by Elaine Brower, Opednews.com [Excerpts]

The growing number of troops in dissent in the U.S. military is taking its toll on our Government. Since at least 1 million military members have rotated in and out of Iraq now 4+ years into this illegal and immoral war, anger among those that have to fight for a cause unknown even to them is on the rise.

A Zogby poll issued in June of 2006 showed that 72% of the troops stationed in Iraq wanted withdrawal by the end of that year.

Last year the DoD reported over 8,000 soldiers were absent without leave (AWOL). This year when the numbers started to climb past 15,000, DoD stopped reporting them. Recruiting is at an all time low, and service members who have served a tour of duty in Iraq, are redeployed 2 or 3 more times, referred to as “The Back-door draft.” Public

refusals to deploy by Lt. Ehren Watada, Sgt. Kevin Benderman, Spc. Suzanne Swift, Augustin Aguayo, and many others (www.couragetoresist.org), are climbing. These are Americans who joined an all-volunteer military because they are patriots and swore an oath to protect and defend the United States Constitution.

So what the hell is the Marine Corps. thinking when they take a patriot like Cpl. Adam Kokesh, USMC, from Kansas City, Missouri, and convene a U.S. military disciplinary panel on June 4th to revoke his “Honorable Discharge?”

Cpl. Kokesh, who has just 2 weeks left in the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR), served the Marine Corps since 1999 with a tour of duty in Iraq, joined Iraq Veterans Against the War. Adam, like the other 400 members of IVAW, and the growing number of war resisters, realized that the invasion and occupation of Iraq was illegal and in violation of the Constitution they were sworn to uphold.

Cpl. Kokesh and others participated in Street Theatre in Washington, D.C. and New York City, wearing desert “cammies”, which could be bought at Bozo’s Army and Navy Store, portraying what it would be like to live every day in an occupied country where foreign soldiers equipped with M-16’s and heavy armor, were a constant presence. Where these soldiers would harass you in your town or village, push you to the street, point the barrel of that gun in your face, and take your family away; or maybe shoot them on the spot.

These IVAW members know what that is like because it is a reality to them. They so badly want to educate American citizens as to what this country is not only asking our soldiers to do, but the conditions that Iraqi people have to face every day.

Some Marine Officer saw Kokesh’s picture in the Washington Post and decided to make an example out of him. After notifying Kokesh that the military would convene a military panel to examine the fact that he may have violated a rule prohibiting troops from wearing uniforms without authorization, Kokesh emailed the officer and used “obscenities”.

So not only did the Marine Corps. pursue this innocuous and obnoxious charge, they included “using obscene language to a superior officer.”

Now, I am the mother of a Marine Sergeant. He lives under my roof, and his buddies visit regularly.

Have you ever participated in a conversation with a U.S. Marine?

Cover your ears if you are a religious person, or too proper to use any profanities except “Shoot”.

Those guys are worse than truck drivers. Every other word out of their mouth is an obscenity, and so many they could invent the “U.S. Marine Corps. Dictionary on Using Foul Language”. My own 85 year old mother cannot have a conversation with my son unless he apologizes every other word.

Is the Marine Corps. kidding?

I'm afraid not.

Pursuing this case against Cpl. Kokesh was a huge mistake on their part.

The Corps. claimed that this type of "Street Theatre" effects recruitment and does a disservice to those who wear the uniform. Recruitment couldn't possibly be damaged by a bloody and illegal war raging in a foreign country where our soldiers should not be dying. No, what could Adam be thinking.

Not only that, the Corps wanted to make an example out of him.

But you cannot make an example out of a Marine who is angry. They see black and white, there is no grey area.

Adam has made his decision and followed his conscience knowing that the killing of innocent civilians must stop, and nothing will get in his way. In fact, what the military panel did is enrage him even more.

Good for the anti-war movement!

Good for Iraq Veterans Against the War!

And good for Adam!

Stay the course, Cpl. Adam Kokesh, we are with you all the way.

Don't let them interfere with your mission.

MORE:

***"The More They Try To Silence Us,
The Louder We Will Speak"***

**"A General Officer Making Hateful
And Prejudicial Comments While In
Uniform Is Protected By The First
Amendment"**

**"Honorably Discharged Marines Adam
Kokesh And Liam Madden Are Being
Prosecuted For Exercising Their Right**

To Free Speech By Speaking Out Against An Immoral War”



06/06/2007 by Eli Wright; Members Speak [Iraq Veterans Against The War] ivaw.org/.
[Excerpt] Originally posted at: thankyoult.org

In 2003-2004, Lt. Gen. William Boykin made over 23 public appearances in evangelical churches while in uniform and sometimes at government expense.

He equated the fight against Islamic extremism in the Mid-East as a fight against Satan and he referred to Allah as idol worship.

The Dept of Defense considered Boykin’s remarks “freedom of speech,” even after his words angered the Muslim community in the U.S. and heightened the fear of U.S. foreign policy among Muslims worldwide.

General Boykin is still on active duty, still making public appearances and is head of Pentagon intelligence. Has the military asked if General Boykin’s public comments are placing American soldiers at risk?"

So, let me get this straight... A General Officer making hateful and prejudicial comments while in uniform is protected by the First Amendment, but honorably discharged Marines Adam Kokesh and Liam Madden are being prosecuted for exercising their right to free speech by speaking out against an immoral war?

This is an obvious case of double-standards and preferential treatment towards senior officers.

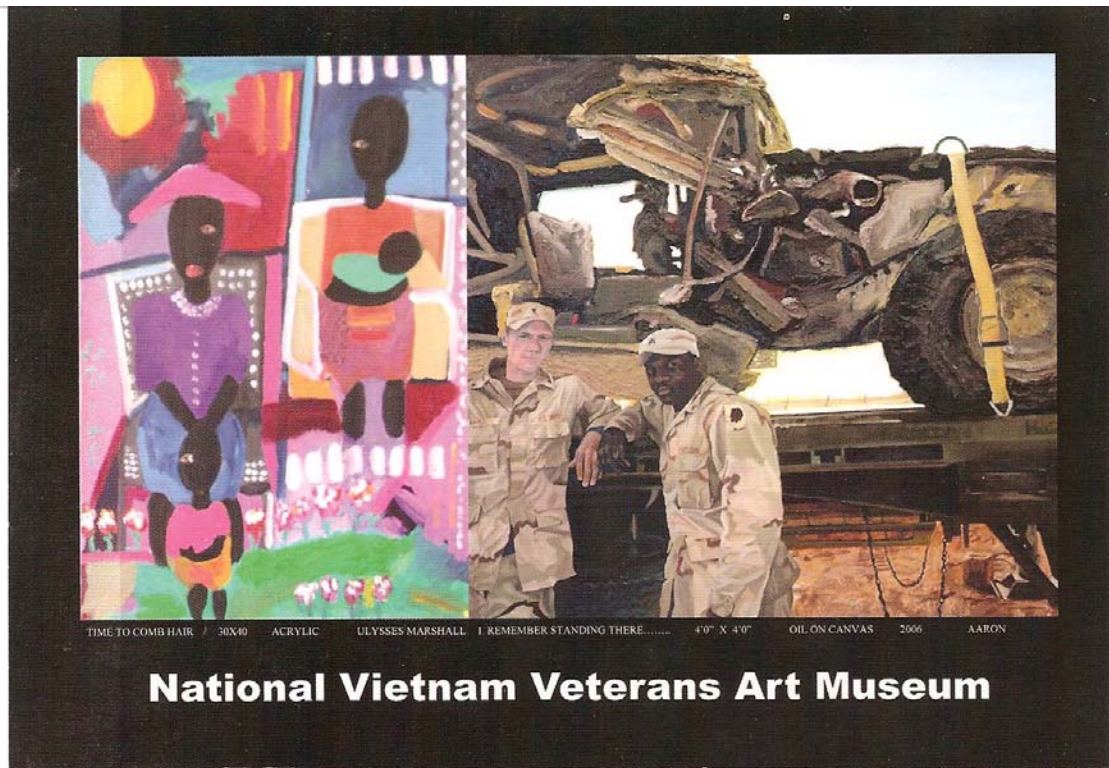
The Marine Corps is wasting their time and our money to harass Adam and Liam for speaking the truth.

They didn’t make disrespectful comments toward the faith of others, they spoke out in support of bringing their comrades home, yet the military tries to prosecute them under the UCMJ, which they are not even subject to.

It's time for the military to exercise some of the integrity and honor they claim to stand for and stop trying to silence our voices when we stand up and speak out for what is right.

Maybe they should be prosecuting Gen Boykin for conduct unbecoming of an officer.

The more they try to silence us, the louder we will speak.

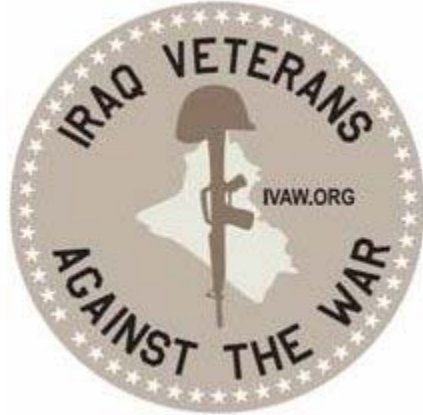


[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project]

“We Got To Meet A Number Of Active Duty Soldiers Stationed In Heidelberg”

“Most Were Decidedly Anti-War, And One In Particular Described

His Friends As His Anti-War Crew Of ‘About Three Squads’”



05/13/2007 by Adam Charles Kokesh; Members Speak [Iraq Veterans Against The War] ivaw.org/ [Excerpts]

Three members of IVAW, Jeff Englehart, Thomas Cassidy, and myself, are currently touring Germany to spread the message of IVAW, reach out to American active duty personnel, and support the German peace movement. Of particular interest is the community movement in Ansbach to stop the expansion of the US Army base there. Darnell Stephen Summers of the Stop the War Brigade, an international veterans peace organization based in Germany, organized the trip. Garrett Reppenhagen is expected to join us in a few days.

On the morning of Thursday, the 10 of May, after spending all night packing all my earthly belongings into my Bronco, I caught a bus from DC to New York to catch a flight to Frankfurt. It was only right before boarding that I got to meet Tom and Jeff. I had the pleasure of wearing my new “We Will Not Be Silent” t-shirt, which was supplied by Artists Against the War. This is their traditional t-shirt that says, “we will not be silent” in Arabic, and then underneath in English in small letters. This has particular relevance to the history of the Nazi Party.

After a long flight, we arrived in Frankfurt and were met by Darnell and Rudi Friedrich of Connection E.V., which supports international war resisters and has been instrumental in organizing our trip. We then took a train to his home in Offenbach and spent most of the day planning and strategizing for the tour.

That evening we kicked off our tour with an appearance at an underground punk show in Frankfurt featuring Scheisse Minnelli and Christ on Parade. Meike _____ coordinated the event. The concert was held literally underground in a vast cold storage cellar that had been used as a bomb shelter during World War II. I even got to have my picture taken by a sign that was spray-painted onto the bricks where there was an airlock for gas attacks.

We got to meet a number of active duty soldiers stationed in Heidelberg.

Most were decidedly anti-war, and one in particular described his friends as his anti-war crew of “about three squads.” I see an IVAW chapter waiting to happen.

The next day we got on a train to Ansbach, but for an unrevealed reason, the track was blocked, and after an hour we had to turn around and go back to Frankfurt, then take a circuitous route that got us to Ansbach at about nine. We met Boris Meyer, of the Ansbach Peace Coalition, and Vice Chairman of the citizen action group, Enough is Enough, who took us to the home of our host in Ansbach, Jurgen Wangler, where we had a reception and a BBQ.

That evening we went to Darnell’s favorite hangout in Ansbach, Gazebo Billiards, which is a popular hangout for American troops stationed here.

After making good on my promise to beat Darnell silly at the pool table, I got to meet with a number of soldiers who were grappling with their upcoming deployments to Iraq. One of them wanted to challenge me to a game of pool and wanted to bet drinks, so I told him if he won I would buy him a drink, but if he won, he had to read our IVAW pamphlet. I won.

Talking to these guys wasn’t easy, but most of our discussions ended with me telling them that if they go to Iraq, they should only do so after making an informed decision and having “done your homework first.” They all seemed to take that to heart.

Today we got to sleep in and Tom and Jeff went to Nuremburg for the day to revisit their old stomping grounds. I am the only one in our group, (including Garrett) who has not been stationed in Germany. I stayed back to translate our statement for the press conference tomorrow and continue planning with Boris. The advanced text of that statement is here below:

Statement for Press Conference 070514

We are Iraq Veterans Against the War.

My name is Adam Kokesh and I served in Fallujah from February to September of 2004 with a Marine Corps Civil Affairs Team. Tom Cassidy served in Ba’qubah from February 2004 to February 2005 as a battalion logistics coordinator with the First Infantry Division. Jeff Englehart served in Ba’qubah from February 2004 to February 2005 as a Cavalry Scout with the First Infantry Division.

Iraq Veterans Against the War has three objectives.

First and foremost, bring the troops home now. And when we say the troops, we mean all the troops.

It doesn’t matter if they’re wearing an Army uniform, a Marine Corps uniform, a Navy uniform, an Air Force uniform, a Bechtel uniform, a CACI uniform, a Blackwater uniform, a KBR uniform, or a god-damned Halliburton uniform.

And when we say now, we don’t mean six months from now, or eighteen months from now, or fifty years from now. Now means now.

Second, take care of the troops when they get home.

Support the troops means support the veterans. We have troops returning from Iraq with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, missing limbs, and depleted uranium poisoning. The US government refuses to acknowledge the problems associated with depleted uranium, and troops cannot get tested.

Of the 1.5 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, only one fourth of them have left the military and we are already seeing the inadequacies of the Department of Veterans Affairs. And there is no plan to accommodate the other three quarters. And yet the President of the United States still claims to support the troops.

Third, pay reparations to the Iraqi people. America owes them a debt, which we will never be able to repay. But we can try to put this behind us by acknowledging what we have done, apologizing, and attempting to make amends.

We are here to reach out to active duty members of the United States military stationed in Germany and let them know what they can do to help stop the US occupation of Iraq.

Soldiers need to know that when they decide to resist, they will have the support and thanks of the global moral majority.

We are also here to support the German peace movement. As in the United States, protestors are often dismissed as ignorant and childish, but with the voices of veterans backing them up, they have the credibility they deserve.

It is clear that real change will not come from your government or ours, but rather from the righteous voice of compassion.

The people of Ansbach have chosen to stand up not only to the imperialism of the United States, but also their own country's history of complicity. The US military has long chosen its own tactical advantage over the consideration of the people in the communities that it affects and claims to protect. It is sad that it has taken so long for Germans to make this stand, but we support them in their opposition.

Germany has long been complicit in America's aggression. There is no longer any valid premise for the vast American presence in this country. It is not for your security or benefit, but supposedly for the benefit of America, and it is not in the world's best interest. The lesson of World War II should not be to remain silent during the next war of aggression.

In the words of Dante Alighieri, "The hottest layers of hell are reserved for those who in times of great moral crises maintain their neutrality."

On behalf of all peace loving people of the world, wir shweigen nicht!



"Another Bad Day" with Moving Wall © 2006 Ron Mann

◆ **BUILDING ON THE WALL** ◆
25 YEARS OF THE
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of The Wall with an exhibit of artwork inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum of Chicago, Illinois will host "Building on the Wall" from November 2007 to November 2008. The NVVAM invites artists working in any medium to submit work that reflects the impact of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on American culture.

Inquiries & electronic images (JPEGs no larger than 600x800 pixels) may be emailed to <wall@nvvam.org> or sent as CDs/DVDs or photographs (do not send artwork) to:

Building On The Wall
National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum
1801 S. Indiana Avenue
Chicago IL 60616

More information can be found on our website at www.nvvam.org



[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project]

“Out Of The Army In 3 1/2 Days”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in. He writes: amazing - this man was discharged in 3 and a half days for desertion - wonderful news!!]

June 10, 2007 By Nancy Montgomery, Stars and Stripes, HEIDELBERG, Germany

Want out?

Spc. Chris Capps of the 440th Signal Battalion did.

After one deployment in Iraq and what he assumed was soon to be another in Afghanistan, he went on leave one day and never came back.

"I was a deserter," he said.

But Capps wasn't prosecuted, just as most deserters aren't, according to the Army.

Instead, after he turned himself in last month at Fort Sill, Okla., one of two Army personnel processing centers, he was out of the Army in 3 1/2 days with an "other-than-honorable" discharge.

Now he's living in Hanau with his German wife, looking for a job and protesting the wars he was once a part of.

Capps had done his homework on how to leave the Army, "breaking his contract but honoring his conscience, he says, "without having charges brought against him. He is one of about 110 U.S. Army Europe soldiers who last year sought guidance from the Military Counseling Network.

"Want out? Find out. Get out!" one of MCN's fliers says.

“I Give The Army A Giant, Capital F For ‘Failure To Get It’” “The Stupidest Thing I’ve Ever Read”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
6.11.07

In recognition that Army families are a "key component of our readiness" and "shoulder a great burden of sacrifice, supporting their soldier and often enduring long periods of separation from their loved ones," effective immediately, the word "families" will be capitalized in all Army correspondence, according to an April 24 memo by the director of the Army staff ("Capital status for families," Frontlines, May 7).

This was definitely the stupidest thing I've ever read.

In the aftermath of "Everyone's staying another three months," followed by, "Well, in the next six weeks we'll probably get around to letting you know if your service

member has actually been extended,” and, “Oh, all future deployments will be 15 months,” this just makes everything so much easier to bear.

I feel so much more important, listened to and appreciated to know that, whenever they’re categorizing Army families in military correspondence, they will do it with a capital “F.”

Maybe the person whose job it is to sit around and come up with new ways to make military correspondence even more convoluted should be reassigned to help figure out who’s extended and who’s not, and then let the rest of us know what’s going on for once.

I understand that the intentions for this change were good, but reading this was so frustrating and made me feel as though the people making decisions are ignoring the elephant in the room and hoping to placate Army families with grammatical favors.

A capital “F” doesn’t cut it.

My husband and I have moved five times in four years, and recently chose a large duty station so that we might stay in one place for another three to five years. That decision will cost my husband at least one more deployment after he’s finished with what is now his third.

These are the things Army families think about; we don’t even read military correspondence.

I give the Army a giant, capital F for “Failure to get it” and “Focus on something that matters, if you want to appreciate Army families.”

Kirsten Workman
Killeen, Texas

Pentagon Shits On “The Faces Of The Fallen” Pace Shut Down Portrait Exhibit Of U.S. Troops Killed In Iraq But Wont Send The Portraits Home To Their Families

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

2007-06-08 Canada IFP

The US Department of Defence has abruptly shut down Faces of the Fallen, an exhibition of 1,319 portraits of American military killed in Afghanistan and Iraq on the pretext of sending the portraits "home to the families of the troops to serve as a lasting tribute to their service."

But Pentagon has refused to allocate the \$32,500 need to de-install the exhibit which has been housed at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial since March 2005, and send the portraits home, forcing the Faces of the Fallen Foundation to ask for public donations.

"Sadly, our exhibition portrays less than half the number of brave men and women who have lost their lives in America's latest war," Annette Polan, the founder of Faces of the Fallen said. "It captures a mere snapshot in time, yet it recognizes and memorializes the sacrifice of all these fallen heroes."

"I don't wake up in the morning wondering why my son died; I know why he died," Commons said. "He performed the ultimate community service; he gave his life trying to save the life of someone else. Of that I can't be more proud. These paintings, these carvings, these etchings, these faces of the fallen, pay tribute to another generation of young men and women who have answered the nation's call."

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace, the man who was instrumental in disbanding the exhibition, justified his actions saying the picture remind him of a photo he keeps on his desk of Marine Lance Cpl. Guido Farinaro, the first Marine under Pace's command to die in Vietnam.

Polan said that before the orders to take down the portraits came, viewers asked if the exhibit will travel around the country so that Americans and visitors who cannot come to Arlington also have an opportunity "to remember, to honor and to mourn."

Pentagon Confirms It Sought To Build A 'Gay Bomb' [The Pentagon Is So Fucking Stupid It Defies The Imagination]

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in. He writes: the pentagon is so fucking stupid it defies the imagination!]

Jun 8, 2007 Hank Plante, Reporting (CBS 5)

BERKELEY A Berkeley watchdog organization that tracks military spending said it uncovered a strange U.S. military proposal to create a hormone bomb that could

purportedly turn enemy soldiers into homosexuals and make them more interested in sex than fighting.

Pentagon officials on Friday confirmed to CBS 5 that military leaders had considered, and then subsequently rejected, building the so-called "Gay Bomb."

Edward Hammond, of Berkeley's Sunshine Project, had used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a copy of the proposal from the Air Force's Wright Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio.

As part of a military effort to develop non-lethal weapons, the proposal suggested, "One distasteful but completely non-lethal example would be strong aphrodisiacs, especially if the chemical also caused homosexual behavior."

The documents show the Air Force lab asked for \$7.5 million to develop such a chemical weapon.

"The Ohio Air Force lab proposed that a bomb be developed that contained a chemical that would cause enemy soldiers to become gay, and to have their units break down because all their soldiers became irresistibly attractive to one another," Hammond said after reviewing the documents.

"The notion was that a chemical that would probably be pleasant in the human body in low quantities could be identified, and by virtue of either breathing or having their skin exposed to this chemical, the notion was that soldiers would become gay," explained Hammond.

The Pentagon told CBS 5 that the proposal was made by the Air Force in 1994.

"The Department of Defense is committed to identifying, researching and developing non-lethal weapons that will support our men and women in uniform," said a DOD spokesperson, who indicated that the "gay bomb" idea was quickly dismissed.

However, Hammond said the government records he obtained suggest the military gave the plan much stronger consideration than it has acknowledged.

"The truth of the matter is it would have never come to my attention if it was dismissed at the time it was proposed," he said. "In fact, the Pentagon has used it repeatedly and subsequently in an effort to promote non-lethal weapons, and in fact they submitted it to the highest scientific review body in the country for them to consider."

Gay community leaders in California said Friday that they found the notion of a "gay bomb" both offensive and almost laughable at the same time.

"Throughout history we have had so many brave men and women who are gay and lesbian serving the military with distinction," said Geoff Kors of Equality California.

"So, it's just offensive that they think by turning people gay that the other military would be incapable of doing their job. And it's absurd because there's so much medical data that shows that sexual orientation is immutable and cannot be changed."

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Most Troops Don't Like Generals: "Careerism Masquerading As Principle"

"The Military's Senior Leadership Is Out Of Touch With The Troops, More Concerned With Their Political Safety Or Financial Future Than With The Sacrifice Of Leadership"

June 2007 By Melissa Tryon, Washington Monthly [Excerpts]

In 2003, I found myself in a Kuwaiti desert, preparing for battle, foiled by a weather slide that wouldn't print.

I'd led my detachment of tactical intelligence analysts only three months but had really been preparing for combat leadership since taking my Oath of Office almost seven years earlier. I'd pushed myself to run faster than the Army standards for males, to identify traditionally "enemy" vehicles on sight, and to immerse myself in Middle Eastern history, culture, and basic languages.

Now sand was invading every crevice of body and machine, and all my expensive training was useless for want of a properly formatted printout. My husband (academy classmate and Ranger-qualified infantry officer) was only yards away, preparing his antitank platoon for the same fight, and I knew that watching his gun truck cross the line of departure a few hours before mine would be frightening, as would the constant threat of ambush or incoming fire; but it never occurred to me that the single greatest stressor when preparing for a light infantry brigade's ground invasion would be "Death by Dell."

It wasn't that the slide was essential to the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom, since the weather could be briefed in three letters—H-O-T; it was that our major was growing so furious about the technical snafu that it was paralyzing all attempts at analysis.

Beloved by higher-ups for brains and PowerPoint wizardry but prone to temper tantrums when subordinates failed to understand his self-contradictory orders, he was the “Staff Officer” stereotype personified.

He was, in short, perfect material for a generalship.

I tell this story because Democrats seem to have developed an attachment to generals.

In 2004, when John Kerry wanted to project commitment to a strong defense, he surrounded himself with high-ranking retired military officers. (During the Democratic convention that year, twelve retired admirals and generals stepped onto the podium to endorse him.)

When the midterms came around in 2006, the liberal online magazine Salon proudly noted that two retired generals had called for a Democratic takeover of Congress.

And, just recently, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Web site carried statements from five generals endorsing the Iraq Accountability Act, which calls for drawing down the troops.

Well, maybe that helps get us out of Iraq.

But if it’s military votes you want, that’s not the way to do it.

That’s because most troops don’t like generals.

Generals don’t think like the other 99 percent of troops, because generals are political animals as much as they’re military animals.

Their career advancement depends greatly on White House and congressional favor.

Their subordinates know this.

We don’t envy them the hassle of juggling politicians, reporters, subordinates, and the salesman and contractors peddling some brilliant new gadget that real troops will think worthless.

But we also associate them with air-conditioned Iraqi palaces, aides fetching cold drinks, and hours spent cleaning to prepare for their nice little speech.

That’s why once reporters and strangers are out of the room, the real bitching begins.

The gist of the complaints is consistent: that the military’s senior leadership is out of touch with the troops, more concerned with their political safety or financial future than with the sacrifice of leadership.

That’s rarely been as clear as it is now, when generals have remained largely silent as military training and readiness—especially in the Reserves and the National Guard—have been steadily decimated by an uncertain, fundamentally nonmilitary mission in Iraq.

The difference between a good military leader and a bad one is simple: a good leader has strategic knowledge, tactical competence, and a dedication to troops and country over self; a bad one lacks such traits.

The duty to advise civilian political leaders about military strategy requires moral courage. Generals must object to plans that are not militarily sound.

Unfortunately, a lot of mediocre leaders are promoted based on their caution or staff work, adding to a self-perpetuating problem.

Loyalty to the system matters a great deal for promotion; today's generals pick tomorrow's generals, and they often pick officers who look and think like they do.

Unfortunately, this causes many good military leaders to flee.

They don't want the frustrations created by micromanagement, inattention to training, or unclear missions.

(A 1999 study at Fort Benning, "Home of the Infantry" and notionally the heart of the Army, confirmed what most of us already knew: "leavers" are generally considered to be among the best officers—competent, innovative thinkers that the Army needs most.)

As the war in Iraq grinds on, we see the fruits of such trends.

Bluntly put, there's no escaping the role played by top military brass in getting us to this point.

Nor can the brass avoid blame for understating the catastrophic implications of White House decisions for military readiness, training, supply, recruiting, medical systems, and overall morale.

Even if civilian politicians didn't know how to use their defense resources judiciously, you'd think that generals and admirals, who get paid over \$100,000 a year to be the military's far-seeing advocates, would have pointed out the serious disconnect between civilian visions and genuine military capabilities. They might have warned that if the military isn't capable of fulfilling current missions without exhausting itself or instituting a draft, then the military is out of business: Not. Mission. Capable.

To be sure, some generals perform superbly, and some have even sacrificed their careers in order to voice unpopular thoughts. (Witness Eric Shinseki.) Also, every general has been steeped in military ethics emphasizing the importance of civilian control of the military, which makes voicing dissent a delicate matter that must always be weighed against respect for the Constitution.

Nevertheless, for too many senior military officials, going along with poorly considered civilian plans has been justified in the name of respect for civilian control.

It often looks more like careerism masquerading as principle.

When we see hypocrisy or weakness in leaders, we struggle to honor anything more than the courtesies demanded by rank.

Over the last decade, Gen-X and Gen-Y soldiers and leaders have become disillusioned, looking up at a military hierarchy that seems more Office Space than Band of Brothers.

With the military falling apart from the inside out, the last thing we need is undeserved praise heaped on the military senior leadership behind the status quo. Democrats should understand this.

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Attack Destroys Collaborator Police Agency Building Near Tikrit

June 10, 2007 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer & (Reuters)

A truck bomber struck an Iraqi police agency in northern Iraq on Sunday, killing at least eight and wounding 50.

The explosion, which occurred about 10:30 a.m., devastated a building housing the local highway police headquarters in the Albu Ajil village on the eastern outskirts of Tikrit, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.

The attacker detonated his payload after smashing into a blast wall, flattening a small reception building and causing heavy damage to the main two-story building just 20 yards away, the officer said, adding that most of the eight killed and 50 wounded were police.

Police and rescuers dug through the rubble in a desperate search for survivors or bodies of more victims. About 60 vehicles inside the compound also were destroyed.

"It was a huge blast, my house was damaged," said Khalaf Eidan, a 45-year-old shopkeeper who lives nearby. "I thank God that none of my children were hurt."

The blast was the deadliest of a series of attacks and other violence that killed at least 22 people, many targeting Iraqi police as militants continue to hammer the country's shaky security forces.

Assorted Resistance Action

June 10, 2007 Reuters & By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer

The body of a policeman was found shot in central Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Police said they have found the body of Colonel Faris al-Duri in the Sunni al-Adhamiya district of northern Baghdad.

In other violence Sunday, a roadside bomb struck a police patrol near a gas station in Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding five officers, according to the provincial police center for Diyala

A car bomber smashed into a police patrol about 12 miles south of the provincial capital of Baqouba, killing two policemen and wounding three others, officers at the provincial police center said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

Guerrillas elsewhere in the province killed two policemen in Khalis, they said.

In northern Iraq, a roadside bomb targeted a convoy of a Kurdish brigade that had recently been deployed in western Baghdad as part of the security operation, killing one soldier and wounding three, an army officer from the brigade said on condition of anonymity.

The attack occurred in Sulaiman Pak, 90 miles south of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

A roadside bomb targeting a military patrol killed one soldier and wounded six others in the Tuz Khurmato district, south of the northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

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| <p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p> |
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OCCUPATION REPORT

**60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops
Dead:**

Big Surprise



An Iraqi child sits among the wreckage of his home after a night home invasion raid by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA in al Orfali Shiite district next to Sadr city eastern Baghdad on June 7, 2007. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist. T]

The women and children were moved into a room, where they huddled together in silence. The men had been forced down onto their knees wherever they were apprehended, their hands secured behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and their eyes covered by makeshift blindfolds. YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.07

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

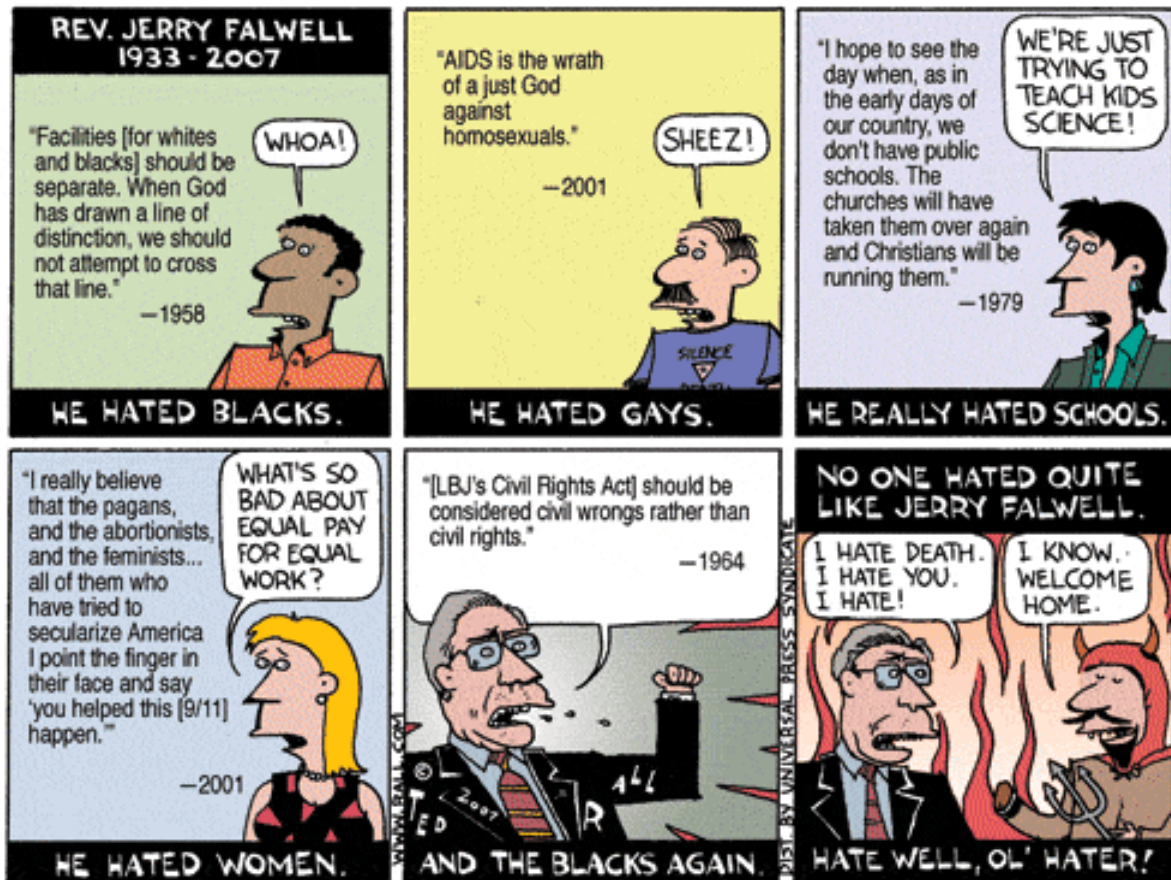
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SOLDIER**

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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/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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