

## **GI SPECIAL 5F25:**

### **NO MORE IRAQ FOR THESE SOLDIERS EVER: “LATVIA WITHDRAWING ITS MILITARY FROM IRAQ”**



A Latvian Army soldier holds his son after returning home from Iraq with the last unit in Riga June 19, 2007. Latvia is currently withdrawing its military contingent from Iraq. REUTERS/Ints Kalnins

**JP: “What Do You Think  
Of The Iraq War?”  
Soldier 1: “If I Told You,  
I’d Go To Prison For 20  
Years!”**

[Australians are reaching out to U.S. troops visiting there for the Talisman Sabre 9 “War Games” there. T]

**From: Max Watts [Australia]**

To: GI Special  
Sent: June 26, 2007 9:59 AM  
**Subject: REPORT 1 FROM Talisman Sabre 9**

First Report from TS 9 War games, US Soldier contacts

FROM Jean Parker and friends from the Stop the War Coalition, Sydney 0410 772 110

Rockhampton, Queensland, 23.6.07 14:00 hrs

### **Met 3 US Soldiers (in Uniform)**

**At first hesitated, then told soldiers we were from Stop the War Coalition protesting Talisman Sabre,**

**Very good, positive vibes.**

**Soldier(s) from Alaska**

**JP: What do you think of the Iraq War?**

**Soldier 1: If I told you, I'd go to prison for 20 years! (Very opposed, Has been to Iraq) Truck Driver.**

**Gave (all soldiers ) DVD's: "Sir No Sir", "Ground Truth", Appeal to Redress; very well received**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

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

Jun 26 (Reuters)

A U.S. soldier was killed in clashes with the Mehdi Army in Diwaniya on Tuesday when violence flared in the southern Iraqi city which was the scene of a major U.S. operation in April.

Two patrols were separately ambushed with roadside bombs and rocket propelled grenades, and helicopters were called in to provide support, the U.S. military said in a statement.

A witness said the fighting left four houses in flames and that three residents, including two women, were killed. A local hospital source said eight people were wounded.

The U.S. military said Mehdi militiamen ambushed the patrols from the cover of civilian buildings, including a school.

This forced U.S. troops to return fire into residential neighborhoods, the military said. It had no information on civilian or militia casualties.

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## Texas Soldier Killed In Baghdad



Sgt. Chris Davis, 35, of Lubbock, Texas, died June 23, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by insurgents using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. (AP Photo/KCBD TV)

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## Oklahoma Soldier Killed In Baghdad



Pfc. Jerimiah J. Veitch, 21, of Dibble, Okla. was killed June 21 in Baghdad when his vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade. (AP Photo/Veitch Family)

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## **Kansas Soldier Dies After Attack**



U.S. Army, Spc. Eric C. Palmer, 21, of Maize, Kan., a paratrooper from the 82nd Airborne Division who was wounded last week in an insurgent attack in Iraq, died June 24, 2007, the Department of Defense said Tuesday. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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## **Marine Killed In Anbar**

June 27, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070627-03

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – One Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West was killed June 26 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **“Criticism From Veterans And Even Those On Active Duty Is Reaching A Fevered Pitch” Signs Of Unrest “Are Starting To Be Readily Apparent”**

**Perhaps the most telling part of such criticism is how open disgruntled troops are becoming despite the risk to their careers -- signing their names to furious letters printed in military-owned newspapers; speaking on the record to reporters in Iraq about how badly the mission is going; writing members of Congress.**

June 24, 2007 By Kirsten Scharnberg, Chicago Tribune national correspondent  
[Excerpts]

The young combat veteran stared at the letter in disbelief when it arrived in his mailbox a few months ago.

The Marine Corps was recommending him for “other than honorable discharge.” The letter alleged he had violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice by wearing part of his uniform during an anti-war rally. Furthermore, the letter accused him of being “disloyal,” a word hard to swallow for a man who had risked his life to serve his nation.

“All this because I have publicly opposed the war in Iraq since I came back from it,” said former Marine Sgt. Liam Madden, 22.

**The military, with its hierarchical rank structure and absolute adherence to following orders, has never been an institution that takes kindly to debate from within.**

**But today, as an increasingly unpopular war drags on and troops are being sent on multiple combat tours, the criticism from veterans and even those on active duty is reaching a fevered pitch.**

**Perhaps the most telling part of such criticism is how open disgruntled troops are becoming despite the risk to their careers -- signing their names to furious letters printed in military-owned newspapers; speaking on the record to reporters in Iraq about how badly the mission is going; writing members of Congress.**

And then there are the protests in uniform, a throwback to the Vietnam War, when veterans such as Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) denounced the war in weathered fatigues.

Many of the protests involving vets in uniform are all-out street theater, like one in Washington last spring where protesters staged a mock patrol, manhandling people at

simulated gunpoint in order to illustrate how they say Iraqis are treated by American troops. Just last week in Chicago, a similar protest took place. The intended subtext of the uniformed protests is apparent: that protesters have additional credibility because they have witnessed the war, that the uniforms now being used in protest have walked the real-life battlefield.

“Guys like us -- veterans who served but then came to believe the war is not only wrong but illegal -- are not who the military wants speaking on a national stage,” Madden said.

**If Madden and the other Marines initially feared their high-profile discharge cases would serve to silence protest, the opposite seems to be slowly and quietly happening.**

**The men’s cases have spurred dissenters to voice their disapproval of the war while remaining within military guidelines.**

Take, for example, DOD Directive 7050.6. It provides the right of service members to complain and to request redress of their grievances, including to members of Congress. Some 2,000 active-duty and reserve troops have used the protection of that directive to sign “An Appeal for Redress,” an initiative that sends troops’ demand to end the war to Congress.

The wording of the appeal is intended to be patriotic and respectful while unequivocally anti-war: It begins, “As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform ... “ It ends, “Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for U.S. troops to come home.”

Of the three Marines caught protesting in uniform, the case of former Cpl. Cloy Richards has garnered the least public attention -- but the most within military circles. The 23-year-old from Missouri has been deemed 80 percent disabled from two tours in Iraq; he agreed this month before a military discharge review board that he would no longer protest in uniform to keep his honorable discharge and his veterans benefits that come to some \$1,300 per month.

But that hasn’t silenced Richards’ protest. He now attends anti-war demonstrations in civilian clothes; his mother attends as well, wearing his old uniform for him.

Others are also creative.

**A young infantryman based at Ft. Drum, near Watertown, N.Y., home to the 10th Mountain Division, well knows the fine balancing act it is to be a uniformed member of the military and a committed anti-war activist. Phillip Aliff -- he asked that his rank not be used, saying that would be against regulation -- is the president of the Ft. Drum chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War.**

Once a week, Aliff and the other IVAW members finish their duty day in uniform, change into civilian clothes and drive off base to meet at the Different Drummer, a cafe in Watertown modeled on the anti-war coffeehouses of the Vietnam War era.

"I'm definitely walking the line," Aliff said, admitting that none of his direct commanders know of his anti-war activities. "But we who protest have a collective experience. We took part in it ... so when even we say it's wrong, that carries some real credibility."

The Ft. Drum group has grown from two members when it was launched two months ago to 12 today. Aliff said the members encourage each other to speak out despite fear of reprisal.

**"None of us wants to get in trouble," Aliff said. "None of us wants to lose our jobs or our GI bills or our benefits. But we also feel we have to be willing to do what's right."**

By meeting off base and out of uniform, the Iraq Veterans Against the War members stay just inside the line of military code legality. They don't distribute literature on base or openly recruit new members at work.

"We know we have something to say so we are finding legal ways in which to say it," Aliff said.

A Zogby poll last year showed that war critics like Aliff may not be entirely on the fringes of the mainstream military.

The poll of 944 U.S. military personnel in Iraq conducted by Zogby International and Le Moyne College found that 72 percent believed the U.S. should pull out within one year.

**"The unrest has been churning below the surface for a while," said Madden, who is still waiting to see what will become of his less-than-honorable discharge recommendation.**

**"But now the signs of that unrest are starting to be readily apparent."**

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**"I Left Baghdad And A War That Has Every Indication That We Are Losing"  
"I'm Tired Of The So Called 'Elite Right' That Prolongs This War By Justifying It With Lies"**

May 16, 2007 StieberA, Ann Arbor Peace [Excerpts]

This letter was forwarded to me by a member of Veterans For Peace. Its author is in the 101st Airborne (active).

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Two weeks ago, as I was starting my sixth month of duty in Iraq, I was forced to return to the USA for surgery for an injury I sustained while in Iraq. When I recuperate they will want me to return to Iraq to finish my tour.

I left Baghdad and a war that has every indication that we are losing, to return to a demoralized country much like the one I returned to in 1971 after my tour in Vietnam.

Maybe it's because I'll turn 60 years old in just four months, but I'm tired.

**I'm tired of spineless politicians, both Democrat and Republican, who lack the courage, fortitude, and character to see anything but shallow solutions that are based on waging war.**

I'm tired of the hypocrisy of politicians who want to rewrite history by Rushing to war when the going gets tough.

I'm tired of the disingenuous clamor from those that claim they 'Support The Troops' by forcing them to re-enlist while not supporting them when they Return home.

I'm tired of a mainstream media that can only focus on car bombs and Casualty reports because they are too afraid to show the real story of civilian deaths and atrocities at the hands of our military.

I'm tired that so many ignore the bravery of the Iraqi people to go about their daily lives.

I'm tired of the so called 'Elite Right' that prolongs this war by justifying it with lies.

Sincerely,

(name deleted as to not hurt the individual)

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army

X Airborne Division"

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## **War Profiteer Thieves At KKR Submitted Fake Expenses Records; Gave Own Employees Better Housing Than Army Officers**

June 25, 2007 By Dana Hedgpeth, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

KBR, the government contracting firm formerly under Halliburton, did not keep accurate records of gasoline distribution, put its employees in living spaces that may be larger than warranted and served meals that appeared to cost \$4.5 million more than necessary under a contract to perform work in Iraq, according to an audit by a government oversight agency.



The fuel database kept by KBR also revealed flaws.

**More fuel had been sent out than generators could hold.**

**When auditors looked at the database in September 2006, it showed that 12,622 liters had been issued for December 2006 -- “a future date and an obvious impossibility,” the audit said.**

KBR managed its housing at its Camp Hope inside the Green Zone, resulting in most of its employees living in more spacious quarters than those they support, according to the report.

**Ninety percent of KBR employees were assigned to trailer spaces without roommates, meaning KBR employees appeared to have better housing than Army captains.**

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## **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.] Photograph: Sean Smith, Guardian Unlimited

Amiriya: The injured men were dragged into the courtyard of a nearby house in an attempt to prevent insurgents shooting them as they received emergency medical treatment. One lost a leg, the other suffered serious shrapnel wounds. It is not known whether they survived

Guardian photographer Sean Smith spent two weeks with the US army's rapid reaction Stryker units. The specialised units operate in the most dangerous parts of the capital and face daily battles with insurgents.

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



The coffin of Filipino-American U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Greg Phil Gagarin at his funeral June 20, 2007 at Candon, Ilocos Sur province in northern Philippines. Gagarin, 37, who served in Iraq with the U.S. Army's Bravo Battery, 1-37 Field Artillery, 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team which is based in Fort Lewis, Washington, was killed in action with an improvised explosive device during a mounted patrol on June 3, 2007. (AP Photo)

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## **Australian Anti-War Protesters Chain Selves To U.S. Military Vehicle**

June 24, 2007 AAP

TWO men have been arrested and charged by police for chaining themselves to a US marine vehicle in protest about a military exercise on Queensland's central coast.

Exercise Talisman Sabre, which involves 7500 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and 20,000 US troops, began at the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area north of Rockhampton last Monday and will continue until July 2. Two men, aged 23 and

26, were arrested after chaining themselves to a US marine vehicle about 2pm (AEST) today, police said.

**It is alleged the pair locked themselves into position underneath the vehicle while it was stopped at a set of traffic lights on the Bruce Highway at Rockhampton.**

**The two men refused to move for up to 90 minutes, causing major traffic delays, police said.**

Each has been charged with one count of public nuisance and will appear in the Rockhampton Magistrates Court on July 13.

A 42-year-old man and 36-year-old woman also were charged with one count each of public nuisance following a protest at an entrance to the Shoalwater Bay training area. A 28-year-old man was arrested and charged with one count of trespass on Commonwealth land at the same protest.

Yesterday 11 protesters were arrested and charged with trespass, including a 66-year-old woman from Goodna, south of Brisbane, who went missing in the training area on Tuesday. At least five other protesters were charged with trespass earlier in the week

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## **No Help For Wounded Soldiers’ Families; “I Threw My Hands Up Because I Don’t Know What To Do Any More”**

**Often waiting hours on end on a telephone helpline that yielded little information, Wade said it took her two years to get the necessary paperwork and fix other errors that resulted in lapsed government disability checks.**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Jun 18 By HOPE YEN, Associated Press Writer

Families of injured soldiers poured out tales of frustration Monday, telling a presidential panel they were forced to become full-time caregivers because of an overwhelmed health system.

Sarah Wade, wife of Army Sgt. Ted Wade, detailed an endless cycle of paperwork lost by the military after her husband’s Humvee was hit by an explosive in Iraq that caused him traumatic brain injury and severed his right arm.

**Often waiting hours on end on a telephone helpline that yielded little information, Wade said it took her two years to get the necessary paperwork and fix other errors that resulted in lapsed government disability checks.**

In addition, since medical facilities near their home in Chapel Hill, N.C., were inadequate, the Wades paid for extra travel to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington to get needed treatment.

**Eventually, Sarah Wade said, her employer fired her, saying she was inflexible and “had too much going on in her life.”**

**“I threw my hands up because I don’t know what to do any more,” Wade told the commission. “There just aren’t enough hours in the day for me to be advocate, attendant, driver, personal assistant and spouse.”**

**“No one will take ownership of the problems,” she added. “I don’t know if it’s because no one is able to tell the emperor he has no clothes.”**

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## **Bush Regime Asks For U.S. Military Command Base In Africa: African Governments Say Fuck Off**

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

June 26, 2007 The Guardian, Simon Tisdall in Washington

The Pentagon’s plan to create a US military command based in Africa have hit a wall of hostility from governments in the region reluctant to associate themselves with the Bush administration’s “war on terror” and fearful of American intervention.

A US delegation led by Ryan Henry, principal deputy under-secretary of defence for policy, returned to Washington last week with little to show for consultations with defence and foreign ministry officials in Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Djibouti and with the African Union (AU).

An earlier round of consultations with sub-Saharan countries on providing secure facilities and local back-up for the new command, to be known as Africom and due to be operational by September next year, was similarly inconclusive.

The Libyan and Algerian governments reportedly told Mr Henry that they would play no part in hosting Africom. Despite recently improved relations with the US, both said they would urge their neighbours not to do so, either.

**Even Morocco, considered Washington’s closest north African ally, indicated it did not welcome a permanent military presence on its soil.**

**“We’ve got a big image problem down there,” a state department official admitted.**

**“Public opinion is really against getting into bed with the US. They just don’t trust the US.”**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

June 26 (Reuters)

An Iraqi tribal leader was assassinated in Baghdad on Tuesday, Iraqi police said.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said that attack was in retaliation against Arab tribal leaders who had joined U.S. and Iraqi forces to fight insurgents.

A police source said Hamid Abid Al-Shijera from Wasit province and one of his companions were killed in a drive-by shooting in the southern Baghdad district of Saidiya.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army convey killed two soldiers on Monday in Latifiya, 40 km (25 miles) south of the capital, police said.

Clashes between insurgents and police left one policemen dead and three wounded in the town of Madaen, just south of Baghdad, police said.

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

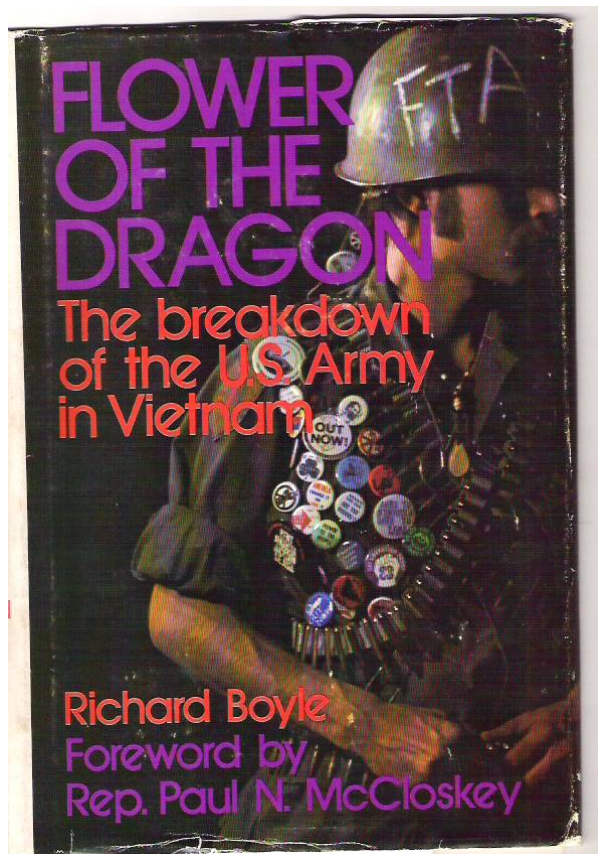
### **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852**

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

**“It’s My Experience In The Military  
In Iraq That Drove To Where I Am  
Today. I Was Far From An  
Activist”**

**“Flower Of The Dragon Was My Sir! No  
Sir!”**



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

June 22, 2007 By GARETT REPPENHAGEN. GARETT REPPENHAGEN is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq, and who is now the chair of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

IT WAS a nervous time in early 2005. Now, we’ve got some very courageous members who openly advertise that they are Iraq Veterans Against the War members, hold positions in chapters and throw it on the Internet. But then, man, I was scared to death.

I was blogging anonymously, and everything was very quiet. There was no Iraq Veterans Against the War when I first started speaking out.

I didn't have a history--there was no Sir! No Sir! being passed around.

### **Flower of the Dragon was my Sir! No Sir!**

**If you've never read this book, it's amazing. It goes through one journalist's experience during the Vietnam War. It opened my eyes and I realized that there was more history to the military--a soldiers' rebellion that I had no idea about.**

I joined the military for economic reasons. I had no desire to eventually come speak at a socialist organization about GI resistance to a war when I joined one month before September 11. I had no idea where that would take me.

**It's my experience in the military in Iraq that drove to where I am today. I was far from an activist.**

I was a little punk rocker, standing around at keggers and talking shit about the government. I'm the son of a Vietnam veteran. My father died when I was 13 of exposure to Agent Orange.

I was very naïve about things. I became a cavalry scout and eventually a sniper, and served in Iraq for a year around the Diyala province. It was strange times.

It takes courage to face your peers in the military, the structure, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which is a justice system with an agenda to continue a war. That makes it a very unfair system.

So when you're talking about soldiers rebelling, there's a huge sacrifice there. It takes a lot of support, and it takes money for legal battles.

There's a soldier out there without a job, without a home, on the lam, running and not knowing where to go.

It also takes inspiration.

**They have to know that there's people out there who support them and who are going to accept them, because they're abandoning all their friends who are in the military--all the people that they feel loyalties to.**

**On the other side, they might have some family and a couple old friends, but a lot of them lose touch.**

**We need a solution. And that solution is reducing the military manpower by any means, so the war can no longer continue.**

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# **“Public Opposition Doesn’t Lower Troop Morale, Being In A War That Is Clearly Based On A Lie Lowers Troop Morale”**



[revcom.us]

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

June 23, 2007 by Ron Jacobs, ZMag

**Liam Madden is a Marine veteran who spent seven months in Iraq. After returning to the United States, he became a co-founder of the Appeal for Redress.**

**This is a campaign of active service members who are appealing to the US Congress to remove all American military forces and bases from Iraq. He is also a member of the Iraq Veterans Against the War.**

**Recently, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) notified him that they were going to change his honorable discharge to a less than honorable discharge. He finds himself fighting this attempt while also continuing his organizing against the war.**



As for the Appeal for redress, there are now 2002 service men and women who have signed the statement. What follows is a brief exchange between Liam and myself over this attempt to silence him and other service members for speaking out against the war.

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*Ron: Liam, What exactly is the military trying to do to you?*

Liam: The Marine Corps notified me that I was being recommended for “Other than Honorable Discharge” from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) for two alleged violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

1. Wearing a partial USMC camouflage uniform at a political protest

**2. Making Disloyal Statements at a speech in New York City.**

**I said that “The War in Iraq is, by Nuremberg standards, a war crime and a war of aggression” and “the president has betrayed U.S. service members by committing them to a war crime**

**In essence, they are trying to apply the UCMJ to members of the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR) who aren’t supposed to be subject to it.**

**Further, they are attempting to silence political opposition to the war by intimidating vets and GIs.**

*Ron: Just to clarify, are you still in the reserves?*

Liam: I’m still a member of the IRR

*Ron: Why do you think they chose you? Is this also happening to other service people or vets?*

Liam: I believe they chose to target me because they perceive me as a figure head for the veterans who are speaking about the illegality of the war

Two other members of IVAW are being targeted. Adam Kokesh and Cloy Richards are both former Marines who have been under investigation by the USMC and Adam has already faced his discharge board

*Ron: Historically, is this that unusual for the military to come down on you?*

Liam: Normally people aren’t discharged from the IRR. It is simply a list of names the military can call upon in times of national crisis. When they don’t want someone on the list they typically just cross them off.

**However it is not unusual that the government cracks down on those who are questioning the motives of their actions. For example, COINTELPRO, the imprisonment of Eugene Debs, and harassment of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Ron: What is the status of the case? When do you have to go to court or whatever?*

Liam: They haven't scheduled a date yet

*Ron: What are the potential punishments if they bust you?*

Liam: It is basically a black eye on my record that makes it difficult to obtain future employment, particularly government employment

*Ron: What can people do to help you and whoever else is in a similar situation?*

**Liam: 1. Encourage GIs/Vets to press on in their opposition to the war. Do not be intimidated, if they were not concerned about our activities they wouldn't be acting to stifle our views.**

2. Join the Defense committee some friends are setting up

3. Sign the petition

**4. Donate to the legal defense fund at <http://www.ivaw.org/support>**

5. Boycott all gas except Citgo, this will to be my escalation of resistance after I return from the IVAW bus tour.

*Ron: Now, on to more general stuff. How is the Appeal for Redress progressing?*

Liam: The appeal has just passed the 2,000 mark. We are going strong and will continue to be an avenue for troops to speak out against the war.

*Ron: I was recently at a conference where several Iraq Veterans Against the War were present. In your estimation, how is the organization faring? Are numbers growing, etc?*

**Liam: We are growing rapidly. We are getting a lot of attention lately and we are on the leading edge of the anti war movement. Our activity is growing bolder and more independent of other groups.**

*Ron: From your perspective, do you think the military is feeling the heat from the growing disenchantment with the Iraq and Afghanistan wars--from within the military and otherwise?*

**Liam: Yes, troops aren't stupid; they know the government isn't telling them the whole story.**

No one is happy about the lengthening deployments and the deteriorating public support for the war.

**Let me be clear, public opposition doesn't lower troop morale, being in a war that is clearly based on a lie lowers troop morale.**

*Ron: Anything you want to add--especially to vets or active duty GIs who might read this?*

Liam: Honesty is the essence of loyalty. Criticizing a president and a war that is harming our nation is not disloyal despite what the government claims. If the war was legal by international standards, then the U.S. government should prove their case instead of attempting to silence the voices of opposition.



**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**

**“Immediate Withdrawal From  
Vietnam, Nixon Argued, Would Prove  
Us Weak And Irresolute”  
“As The War Continued, Defended On  
The Grounds Of National Honor And  
International Prestige, America’s Global  
Reputation Steadily Crumbled”**

From: WORKING CLASS WAR, by Christian G. Appy, U. Of North Carolina Press, 1984

Immediate withdrawal from Vietnam, Nixon argued, would prove us weak and irresolute. It would throw into doubt our will and capacity to prevail in any conflict or competition throughout the world; we would be seen as a “helpless giant.”

Ironically, as the war continued, defended on the grounds of national honor and international prestige, America's global reputation steadily crumbled.

It declined not so much because the United States was "failing" in Vietnam but because America persisted for so long in such a ruinous military intervention.

American soldiers experienced firsthand the contradictions and deceptions of U.S. policy.

Whatever leaders might say, those sent to fight the war soon realized that American intervention was not helping the people of South Vietnam, that it was not successfully containing communism, and that it was not bolstering national honor or credibility.

### **MORE FROM: WORKING CLASS WAR**

## **“We Weren’t Wanted There. We Knew That When We Were Over There”**

### **“After That I Started Thinking What The Fuck Are We Doing Here?”**

**[When soldiers arrived in Vietnam, they had the reasonable expectation that the overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese people appreciated their presence, truly wanted their support, and would at least treat them as friends and allies, if not liberators.**

**Such hopes were quickly dashed.**

**Soldiers soon learned that despite U.S. boasts about helping Vietnamese friends, the Vietnamese did not seem to want the kind of help American soldiers had to offer.**

In *Fields of Fire*, a marine on his first patrol entered the village of Phu Phong and was shocked by the hostile attitude of the villagers, particularly the children.

He said to his squad leader, "I really think these kids hate us."

The squad leader offered a blunt explanation of the children's animosity: "We try to kill their papa. . . . This whole valley is VC."

The new man replied, "It'll take a little getting used to. I just hadn't expected to be hated. Not by them."

The squad leader put an end to the conversation by responding, "Ah, it don't mean nothing."

This was the standard response offered by more experienced soldiers to those who raised questions or expressed doubts about the war. It was a way of acknowledging the contradictions in American policy without directly naming or scrutinizing them.

Often enough, in fact, soldiers proclaimed the war meaningless to avoid a confrontation with the war's most disturbing meanings.

If everyone simply agreed that the war was crazy or insane or meaningless, there seemed less chance of going crazy oneself. The lesson of survival, passed along from the men who had survived the longest, was to take the war on its own terms, however contradictory or troubling.

**Still, the widespread hostility of Vietnamese civilians toward American soldiers was not meaningless and not easy to ignore.**

**It stood in direct contradiction to the official claim that the Vietnamese people sought U.S. military intervention.**

**If they did, why the scorn in so many Vietnamese faces?**

**Why were there so many incidents like this one, described by Richard Deegan? “I know one time when I was over there (1967) we was going down to get chow one morning and this little Vietnamese kid said ‘Fuck you marine, goddamn Yankee go home, marine number 10.’”**

**After that I started thinking what the fuck are we doing here?**

**We're supposed to be saving them from the Viet Cong and the Communists and all this, and they're calling us assholes, and we're no good, and all this shit.”**

Even those who arrived in Vietnam at the beginning of the enormous American escalation of 1965 saw little evidence of Vietnamese support for their presence.

**A navy corpsman, recalling his 1965 tour, stated flatly, “We weren't wanted there. We knew that when we were over there.”**

An infantry captain, also in Vietnam in 1965, reported in an after-action interview: “We were moving alongside a large village complex and first the dogs started barking and then the drums started beating and Vietnamese were yelling in English: ‘Marines go back! We don't want you!’ or ‘We don't need you.’”

“And of course this is quite startling. The drum-beating was a signaling device to inform VC in adjacent villages or further up the line that Americans were approaching and to take warning. We found this to be true on other missions also.”

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

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

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.

## OCCUPATION REPORT

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

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



A boy watches as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division search his room during a home invasion near Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad April 21, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong (IRAQ)

[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?]

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

## **Arabic Speakers At Baghdad U.S. Embassy Up 75% [From 6 To 10]**

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veteran, who sent this in.]

June 20, 2007 Jonathan Karl and Maddy Sauer Report, ABC News.Com

Of the 1,000 U.S. employees at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, only 10 have a working knowledge of Arabic, according to the State Department.

That is still a slight improvement from last year when, according to the Iraq Study Group, six people in the embassy spoke Arabic.

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### **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **“No One Should Put Their Hopes In The Politicians In Washington To Stop The Occupation Of Iraq”**

June 22, 2007 EDITORIAL, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

The deepening crisis of the occupation of Iraq is leading more and more of the ruling establishment to fear the consequences of continuing the occupation. But withdrawing now would mean giving up on the long-term strategy for dominating the Middle East and restraining U.S. rivals.

So the Bush White House continues to play for time, hoping its fortunes will change--and the Democrats step back from any concrete measures to end the war.

This dynamic shows that no one should put their hopes in the politicians in Washington to stop the occupation of Iraq.

If they do take action, it will be because they feel the combined pressure of a strong resistance in Iraq, militant opposition within their own army, and active antiwar protests in the streets at home.

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## **“Bush And Cheney Are Never Going To Leave Iraq Willingly” “The Battle Of September Has Already Begun”**

June 17, 2007 Arianna Huffington, Huffingtonpost.com/ [Excerpts]

According to the White House -- and to the dwindling number of Congressional dead-enders still backing the war in Iraq -- we have to wait until September to be able to judge whether President Bush's escalation strategy has been a success.

Well, I've just returned from September and I can tell you two things:

- 1) I've seen the future and it doesn't work.
- 2) The administration will lie and claim that it does.

How did I accomplish this time-traveling feat?

Very simple -- I just watched Meet the Press, and there was Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, who together with General Petraeus will testify to Congress.

He demonstrated that along with the surge in troops, there's also been a surge in BS.

Crocker served up his crock in a bizarre, robotic manner that made him look like he had been put together by Disney Imagineers -- not surprising since the administration is running out of actual human beings willing to defend the war. So instead they rolled out the Crockerbot2000.



Today's show was required viewing for anyone who cares about ending this war, because it's clear that Crocker's talking points are a preview of the spin the administration will use come September.

So here, courtesy of Ambassador Crocker, is a sneak peek of some of what you're going to hear in September -- and what it really means:

**“America could not ask for a finer, more experienced and more able military leader than they have in Gen. Petraeus. I have heard him give tough, clear assessments to the president, to congressional visitors as they come through, and you've heard him in the open media... He calls it as he sees it.”**

**Translation: So, in September, when he tells you that the surge is working, you had better believe him!**

**“The other thing I think we're going to do (in September), because we owe it to our leadership at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, is also try to provide an assessment of what the consequences might be if we pursue other directions.”**

**Translation: Even if the surge isn't going so well come September, we are going to tell everyone -- especially those in Congress -- that if we leave Iraq we will unleash a genocidal bloodbath and war throughout the planet and, indeed, the entire galaxy. So we really need to give it more time.**

**“The surge buys time for a political process to get some legs under it.”**

**Translation: We really, really need to give it more time.**

**“There is nothing easy about the task in front of (Iraq's leaders), and I have certainly been struck since I've been here at the amount of commitment and effort that senior Iraqi officials have demonstrated to try and get the job done.”**

**Translation: We really, really, really need to give it more time.**

**“It's definitely not by any means a universally negative picture.”**

**Translation: Don't believe the facts, believe us!**

You know the soft bigotry of the Bush administration's low expectations for Iraq has finally hit bottom when “Hey, we're doing slightly better than universally negative!” has become the rallying cry.

**The president has said that Gen. Petraeus' September report will be “a very important moment.”**

**That would be true, if we could trust the general and the ambassador and the rest of the administration to honestly assess the situation.**

But looking at the facts on the ground, deceiving the American people about them, and making decisions based on those deceptions, has been the White House's M.O. for the entire run of the war.

**What makes anybody think the administration is suddenly going to change come the magical moment in September?**

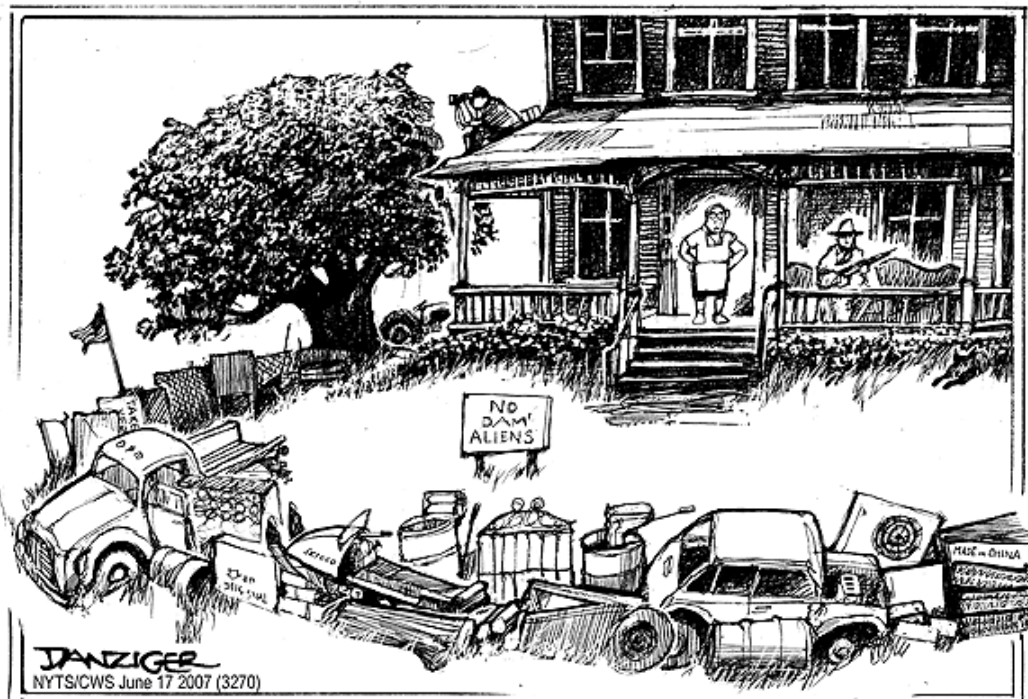
The Bushies are nothing if not consistent, so it's all but guaranteed they are going to obfuscate, spin, cherry-pick, and deceive.

Bush and Cheney are never going to leave Iraq willingly. If they were the kind of men who could be trusted to judge the facts honestly in September and act accordingly, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in right now.

The battle of September has already begun.

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Immigration Hardliners Across the Country Take the Law Into Their Own Hands



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## **Iraqi Interior Ministry Officer Accuses Bush Of “Creating Terror”**

26 June 2007 (IRIN)

Col Ahmed Abdullah Hassan of the Iraqi Interior Ministry, said “The extremists, the terrorists, are looking to find ways to divide and create terror and make life difficult for the people of Iraq.”

**LIAR  
TRAITOR  
TERRORIST  
TROOP-KILLER  
DOMESTIC ENEMY  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND  
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

**Troops Invited:**

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

**Received:**

**VICTORY FOR A MUSLIM FAMILY  
TARGETED BY HOMELAND SECURITY  
Father Is RELEASED From Detention!!  
THE FIGHT FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CONTINUES...**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Jun 25, 2007 QDLC - Immigrant Communities in Action

The Siraj Family, members of DRUM [Desis Rising Up and Moving] celebrate....

Another chapter in a nightmare that has torn up a loving Muslim family caught up in the U.S. "War on Terror" brings a VICTORY.

With their entire family detained by the US government in various facilities, the father of the Siraj family was released last week.

**The entire Siraj family was arrested in January. Just hours after their 24 year old son, Matin, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for false terrorism charges (based on an NYPD-paid informant), Matin's mother, father and sister were violently arrested in their homes by more than a dozen ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) officers of the Dept. of Homeland Security.**

The arrest and detention of the entire family was a clear intimidation tactic to silence a family speaking out against the US War on Terror's criminalization of South Asian, Muslim and Arab communities.

2 weeks after the family's detention, buoyed by community organizing by DRUM and countless supporters in solidarity with the family (including hundreds of letters of support to ICE!), the mother and sister were released, albeit on \$35,000 bond.

The community has continued to support and organize in support of the family and last week, the father was finally released, after languishing in jail for 6 months.

Mr. Siraj, an elderly man with several medical conditions including a hearing impairment, was released under an intensive governmental supervision unofficially known as the ankle bracelet program (involving electronic surveillance); curfew/nighttime house arrest; and parole-style regular check-ins.

While Mr. Siraj will continue to live under close watch though he poses no threat, the family continues to face an uphill legal battle, both for their own immigration cases as well as in their son's appeal.

We know that Siraj's release, while a victory for the family and a testament to the power of organizing, also opens up a detention bed for one more and leaves behind over 20,000 of our immigrant brothers or sisters to languish in private detention centers and county jails around the country.

Our work must continue...as Congress continues to propose bills that will most likely deepen the crisis for communities, particularly through increasing detention and deportation--we must keep up the fight for legalization without compromising away raids, surveillance, due process, detention and deportation.

**SUPPORT THE FAMILY: The family is facing over \$50,000 in legal fees; bond debt as well as trying to send their daughter to community college--financial support is desperately needed.**

**Make checks out to: "Shaheena Parveen Siraj". Mail donations to DRUM at: P.O. Box 720187, Jackson Heights, NY 11372**

**Again, thank you for your incredible support as we continue fighting for this family's freedom and the larger political attack on our communities.**

In Solidarity,  
DRUM

**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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