

## GI SPECIAL 5G23:



**“We Never Swore To  
Obey; We Swore To  
Defend”**

**“If Defending Requires Our  
Disobedience Of An Autocratic  
War Criminal, Then We Are So  
Bound By Our Oath”**



**This implication is alarming, especially considering that the current congress, who won the people's vote last November on their promise of swiftly terminating the quagmire in Iraq, has now occupied office for almost a half a year and still do scant more than mouth empty platitudes -unsubstantiated by meaningful action-about bringing our troops home.**

**They talk incessantly, but the freedom birds are still in the hanger.**

07/13/2007 by Daniel Joseph Black, Iraq Veterans Against The War. Served in: Camp Fox, Kuwait; KNB, Kuwait; Fallujah, Iraq; TQ, Iraq [ivaw.org/] [Excerpts]

"I took that oath seriously, and I believe that taking that oath means that I need to respect, and do respect, my service to the president." - Sara Taylor, President Bush's former political director

This casual, soft-spoken affirmation of circumstantially treasonous allegiance earned their speaker a scathing admonition from Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) reminding her that she has sworn to uphold and defend the constitution first, not George W. Bush.

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One strategy that I think takes a fairly practical, within-the-rules approach is the Appeal for Redress organized by marine veteran Liam Madden. In Madden's appeal to congressional representatives, written while on active duty, he formally and respectfully requests that they withdraw American forces from Iraq and discontinue the campaign (the appeal is viewable on its official website: <http://www.appealforredress.org/>). Madden does not, however, threaten disobedience or reprisal of any kind if his representatives fail to act in accordance with his wishes. It is simply his expression of position and perspective, his participation in the political process.

**Not everyone, unfortunately, has responded to Madden's politics in the same openness and respect with which he has presented them.**

**The July/August Atlantic Monthly features an article by Andrew Bacevich, professor of international studies at Boston College, sharply critical of Madden and his work, prophesizing a gloomy and disastrous-ridden future for any society**

**that makes the innocent but unforgivable mistake of allowing their own military a voice in affairs of national security.**

Among Bacevich's criticisms of Appeal for Redress, I was surprised to discover his displeasure that its distribution of power does not adhere to traditional models of top-down dominance: "In an arena where things typically start at the top, here the impetus comes from below."

Aside from the obvious counter-rebuttal that, by their very nature, redresses ascend hierarchies, Bacevich implies that not even extenuating circumstances can allow space for soldiers' civil participation.

**This implication is alarming, especially considering that the current congress, who won the people's vote last November on their promise of swiftly terminating the quagmire in Iraq, has now occupied office for almost a half a year and still do scant more than mouth empty platitudes -unsubstantiated by meaningful action-about bringing our troops home.**

**They talk incessantly, but the freedom birds are still in the hanger.**

Continuing to condemn soldiers behaving as citizens, Bacevich goes on to disparage even the notion that a tiny minority of soldiers "expect their opinions to be taken seriously." He apparently forgets the doctrinal political organization of the country those soldiers defend.

**We have, in the United States, at least a cosmetic democracy.**

The undertaking of that democracy's defense does not constitute forfeiture of the civic privileges that it affords its people. His sarcastic assertion that "national-security policies somehow require the consent of those in uniform" doesn't mesh well with any political framework that is allegedly legitimized by and representative of its people, essentially the lifeblood of democracy.

**'Ours is to protect democracy, not to practice' is an adage I'd often heard myself during my own years of military service, but while the words themselves are poetic and catchy, they aren't explicitly supported by any laws and are therefore unenforceable.**

**Abstention from democratic practice may be the chosen lifestyle of some who serve, but is not a binding statute for everyone who serves.**

**It is a personal choice, not codified legislation.**

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Of all the examples of constitutional decay surely rampant in today's United States, citizen soldiers working responsibly within the parameters of their first amendment rights can scarcely be counted among them.

George Bush's continuous assaults on the first amendment, and virtual annihilation of fourth and fourteenth, might constitute "advancing decay," but oddly do not draw such scrutiny from Bacevich here.

**More discrediting than his contempt for democratic principles and poor interpretation of the historical record is his imagined role of our troops as mindlessly obedient. As Liam himself pointed out in a Members Speak post "Silence is not an Option," the "manifestation of conscience within our ranks" must not be evaluated in a vacuum; there is a context.**

The fact of executive power operating outside of its bounds confounds the issue of a military becoming politicized.

Until we're able to acknowledge that a president undertaking criminal activities and abusing executive privilege matters, that it informs what constitutes appropriate behavior for those who would live or die under his charge, we are not ready to formally appraise the acceptability of current soldiers' political affairs.

**We never swore to obey; we swore to defend, and if defending requires our disobedience of an autocratic war criminal, then we are so bound by our oath.**

Lastly, Bacevich forewarns the dangers of unwarily maintaining a powerful military, a forewarning whose reasoning is at odds with itself.

In the sentence immediately following Bacevich's acknowledgment that our society is, indeed, a "democracy," he speaks of the pressing need of "renewed attention to hallowed principles of civilian control," a humorous if not mortifying lapse of contiguous thought that hardly needs my pointing out.

'Civilian control,' in the context of a 'democracy,' might be more concisely termed 'self-control;' it is neither the mandate nor the prerogative of this government to 'control;' it is only to 'represent.'

From all the scary prophecies Bacevich offers in his article to enlighten us, I take little to heart and see no need to fear.

**Troops would be well-advised to follow the directives of Senator Leahy rather than those of Professor Bacevich, lest they want to risk appearing before a court unsympathetic to the "I was just following orders" defense, which has proven weak for Sara Taylor in front of congress, Army Reservists standing court martial at Fort Hood over Abu Ghraib, and the unhappy defendants of Nuremburg Tribunals sixty years ago.**

**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

### **Texas Soldier Killed In Iraq**



Cpl. Rhett Butler, 22, of Glen Rose, Texas, died July 20, 2007, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck a road side bomb in Iraq. (AP Photo/Family Photo via Fort Worth Star-Telegram)

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### **Marine From Watertown Killed In Iraq**

July 25, 2007 AP; WATERTOWN, Wis.

A 21-year-old Marine from Watertown has died in Iraq.

The father of Corporal Matthew Zindars says his son was killed yesterday by a roadside bomb while on patrol in Ramadi.

The Marine was on his second tour of duty in Iraq. He came home from his first tour last October and volunteered to go back in March. He was due back in the U-S this October.

His dad, Ken Zindars, says his son volunteered for a second tour because his friends were going back and they needed help.

Matthew Zindars was a two-year member of American Legion Post 189. He graduated from Watertown High School in 2004 and attended Trinity-St. Lukes Lutheran grade school.

Ken Zindars says his son's unit performed security operations and cleared roadways of explosives. He says Matthew enlisted while in high school and was proud to be a Marine.

Zindars describes his son as a decent, dependable and unpretentious.

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## Family Mourns Slain Soldier



Spc. Courtney Tremayne Johnson

Eba Hamid, Staff Writer, The News & Observer

Army Spc. Courtney Tremayne Johnson, the 25-year-old Raleigh soldier killed in Iraq last week, was a family man, his relatives said Saturday.

The son, father, fiance, brother to two and cousin to many was soon to be an uncle.

"We had plans to raise our kids together," said his sister, Rikkia Jordan, 33, who is five months pregnant.

The Department of Defense said Johnson was killed in Besmaya, Iraq, on Wednesday when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire.

Johnson was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga.

**He is the third Raleigh soldier and the 85th North Carolinian to die in the Iraq war, according to [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org), which keeps track of the numbers. Only 11 states have had more fatalities.**

Johnson's deployment was to last until May 2008, but he was planning a two-week late-summer trip home to the family he hadn't seen since March.

An Army man, he also was a former Marine, his relatives said. He had enlisted in the Marines soon after graduating from Southeast Raleigh High. He joined the Army after a brief hiatus.

"He loved military life," Jordan said. "He wanted to make a better life for his son."

"And his whole family," added Robyn Hicks, 23, Johnson's fiancée.

Johnson's son, Camyz Powell, is 18 months old.

Hicks said she spoke to Johnson two or three times a week by phone and through e-mail while he was deployed.

She and many of Johnson's relatives gathered in Southeast Raleigh on Saturday afternoon on the front porch of his mother's home, where an American flag stood out of a bed of white flowers by the door. Cars piled onto the street as relatives and friends stopped by for comfort and conversation.

They said Johnson was lovable and enjoyed dancing and playing pranks on people. He was a father figure for his younger brother, Trevor, 17, and tried hard to keep his family together.

"He was a dreamer," said cousin Claude Gibbs, 46. "He had high expectations for what he wanted out of life."

In high school, Johnson played basketball as a point guard. He would spend hours daily at a local community center mentoring children there and coaching them in basketball, softball and karate.

It was also in high school that he met Hicks.

"They're high school sweethearts," said Johnson's mother, Asondra Johnson.

The two met in a gym class. Hicks said Johnson was sitting alone and something about him made her want to know more.

"I think what made him different from a lot of guys was he didn't have a problem with compromise," Hicks said. They were engaged close to Christmas in 2003. A wedding date had not been set.

Johnson enjoyed surfing the Internet, watching movies with his mom and fixing things around the house.

"We used to call him 'Little MacGyver'," Asondra Johnson said. "He loved taking things apart and putting them back together."

Asondra Johnson lives in a three- or four-year-old neighborhood of mostly Habitat for Humanity homes, a number of which Courtney Johnson helped build, his sister said.

He liked books about finance and history, paid special care to his appearance, loved to flash his smile and didn't like admitting there was something he couldn't do, relatives said.

Johnson's relatives all smiled or let out a laugh as they tried to find a way to describe him.

"It would be very hard to describe him in one way," Gibbs said. "He was so multidimensional."

Relatives said Johnson also loved to travel. He enjoyed the fast pace of New York and took photos of Italy and Greece in his Marine days.

Asondra Johnson said her son's commander in Iraq told her that her son kept up the unit's morale and that his peers were "really, really devastated by what happened."

His military awards include the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Army Service Medal. He has been awarded a Purple Heart posthumously.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete but will be provided by Carlton Gray Funeral Home in Raleigh.

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION:  
HOPELESS WAR:  
MILLIONS OF PISSED OFF IRAQIS TIRED OF  
BEING TREATED LIKE SHIT:  
GET THE FUCK OUT NOW!**



Foreign occupation troops from the U.S. 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division harass an Iraqi citizen on his own street in northern Mosul, April 29, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**



# Four U.S. Soldiers Killed By Sarobi IED

July 25, 2007 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 925-07

The Department of Defense announced today the death of four soldiers who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. They died July 23 in Sarobi District, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle. They were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Vicenza, Italy.

Killed were:

1st Sgt. Michael S. Curry Jr., 37, of Dania Beach, Fla.

Sgt. Travon T. Johnson, 29, of Palmdale, Calif.

Pfc. Adam J. Davis, 19, of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Pfc. Jessy S. Rogers, 20, of Copper Center, Alaska.

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## Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed: Probably American

Jul 25 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

International Security Assistance Force said a soldier was killed in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday by a rocket-propelled grenade. ISAF didn't release the soldier's nationality, but the majority of troops in the east are American.

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## French Soldier Killed In Wardak Three More Wounded

Jul 25 (AFP) & Ministère De La Défense 2007

A French army instructor died following an overnight rocket attack on an Afghan army unit in Wardak province, the French defence ministry said.

In Jaghato District of Wardak province, about 100 kilometres south of Kabul, the cantonment of a company of Afghan troops was the object of a heavy artillery attack during the night of July 24 until July 25.

A sous-officier of the 1er RCP, member of l'équipe of the groupment of the French parachute commandoes, who was with the local troops in this sector, was gravely wounded during the attack. Evacuated by air to the nearest occupation military hospital, he died in the morning.

Three other French soldiers were lightly wounded and a number of collaborator troops were injured in varying degrees.

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## **British Soldier Killed In Helmand; Two More Wounded**

25 July 2007 BBC NEWS & AFP

A British soldier has been killed and two others injured in an explosion in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, at about 5:50 am (0050 GMT).

The deceased, who has not been named, was serving with the 1st Battalion of The Royal Anglian Regiment. His next of kin have been informed.

The soldiers had been returning to base after a routine patrol when an explosion struck their Vector vehicle.

Following the explosion, the soldier was flown by helicopter to Camp Bastion for treatment, but he later died.

The injuries to the other personnel were described as "not life-threatening".

An MoD spokesman said: "The Vector vehicle could not be removed so it was destroyed to avoid it falling into enemy hands. The convoy continued to its destination."

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## **Britain Is Protecting The Biggest Heroin Crop Of All Time;**

**“Our Presence In Afghanistan And  
Iraq Is The Greatest Recruiting  
Sergeant For Islamic Militants”**

**“The Four Largest Players In The Heroin  
Business Are All Senior Members Of The  
Afghan Government”**



Killing fields: Farmers in Afghanistan gather an opium crop which will be made into heroin

**Afghanistan was not militarily winnable by the British Empire at the height of its supremacy. It was not winnable by Darius or Alexander, by Shah, Tsar or Great Moghul. It could not be subdued by 240,000 Soviet troops.**

21st July 2007 By CRAIG MURRAY, Associated Newspapers Ltd [Excerpts]

This week the 64th British soldier to die in Afghanistan, Corporal Mike Gilyeat, was buried. All the right things were said about this brave soldier, just as, on current trends, they will be said about one or more of his colleagues who follow him next week.

**The alarming escalation of the casualty rate among British soldiers in Afghanistan – up to ten per cent – led to discussion this week on whether it could be fairly compared to casualty rates in the Second World War.**

But the key question is this: what are our servicemen dying for?

There are glib answers to that: bringing democracy and development to Afghanistan, supporting the government of President Hamid Karzai in its attempt to establish order in the country, fighting the Taliban and preventing the further spread of radical Islam into Pakistan.

But do these answers stand up to close analysis?

There has been too easy an acceptance of the lazy notion that the war in Afghanistan is the 'good' war, while the war in Iraq is the 'bad' war, the blunder. The origins of this view are not irrational. There was a logic to attacking Afghanistan after 9/11.

**Afghanistan was indeed the headquarters of Osama Bin Laden and his organisation, who had been installed and financed there by the CIA to fight the Soviets from 1979 until 1989.**

**By comparison, the attack on Iraq – which was an enemy of Al Qaeda and no threat to us – was plainly irrational in terms of the official justification.**

So the attack on Afghanistan has enjoyed a much greater sense of public legitimacy.

**But the operation to remove Bin Laden was one thing.**

**Six years of occupation are clearly another.**

Few seem to turn a hair at the officially expressed view that our occupation of Iraq may last for decades.

**Lib Dem leader Menzies Campbell has declared, fatuously, that the Afghan war is 'winnable'.**

**Afghanistan was not militarily winnable by the British Empire at the height of its supremacy. It was not winnable by Darius or Alexander, by Shah, Tsar or Great Moghul. It could not be subdued by 240,000 Soviet troops.**

**In six years, the occupation has wrought one massive transformation in Afghanistan, a development so huge that it has increased Afghan GDP by 66 per cent and constitutes 40 per cent of the entire economy.**

**That is a startling achievement, by any standards.**

**Yet we are not trumpeting it. Why not?**

**The answer is this. The achievement is the highest harvests of opium the world has ever seen.**

**The Taliban had reduced the opium crop to precisely nil.**

I would not advocate their methods for doing this, which involved lopping bits, often vital bits, off people. The Taliban were a bunch of mad and deeply unpleasant religious fanatics. But one of the things they were vehemently against was opium.

That is an inconvenient truth that our spin has managed to obscure. Nobody has denied the sincerity of the Taliban's crazy religious zeal, and they were as unlikely to sell you heroin as a bottle of Johnnie Walker.

They stamped out the opium trade, and impoverished and drove out the drug warlords whose warring and rapacity had ruined what was left of the country after the Soviet war.

That is about the only good thing you can say about the Taliban; there are plenty of very bad things to say about them. But their suppression of the opium trade and the drug barons is undeniable fact.

Now we are occupying the country, that has changed. According to the United Nations, 2006 was the biggest opium harvest in history, smashing the previous record by 60 per cent. This year will be even bigger.

Our economic achievement in Afghanistan goes well beyond the simple production of raw opium. In fact Afghanistan no longer exports much raw opium at all. It has succeeded in what our international aid efforts urge every developing country to do. Afghanistan has gone into manufacturing and 'value-added' operations.

It now exports not opium, but heroin.

**Opium is converted into heroin on an industrial scale, not in kitchens but in factories. Millions of gallons of the chemicals needed for this process are shipped into Afghanistan by tanker.**

**The tankers and bulk opium lorries on the way to the factories share the roads, improved by American aid, with NATO troops.**

How can this have happened, and on this scale? The answer is simple.

**The four largest players in the heroin business are all senior members of the Afghan government – the government that our soldiers are fighting and dying to protect.**

**When we attacked Afghanistan, America bombed from the air while the CIA paid, armed and equipped the dispirited warlord drug barons – especially those grouped in the Northern Alliance – to do the ground occupation.**

We bombed the Taliban and their allies into submission, while the warlords moved in to claim the spoils. Then we made them ministers.

President Karzai is a good man. But nobody really believes he is running the country.

**He asked America to stop its recent bombing campaign in the south because it was leading to an increase in support for the Taliban. The United States simply ignored him. Above all, he has no control at all over the warlords among his ministers and governors, each of whom runs his own kingdom and whose primary concern is self-enrichment through heroin.**

My knowledge of all this comes from my time as British Ambassador in neighbouring Uzbekistan from 2002 until 2004. I stood at the Friendship Bridge at Termez in 2003 and watched the Jeeps with blacked-out windows bringing the heroin through from Afghanistan, en route to Europe.

I watched the tankers of chemicals roaring into Afghanistan.

Yet I could not persuade my country to do anything about it.

Alexander Litvinenko – the former agent of the KGB, now the FSB, who died in London last November after being poisoned with polonium 210 – had suffered the same

frustration over the same topic.

There are a number of theories as to why Litvinenko had to flee Russia. The most popular blames his support for the theory that FSB agents planted bombs in Russian apartment blocks to stir up anti-Chechen feeling.

But the truth is that his discoveries about the heroin trade were what put his life in danger.

**Litvinenko was working for the KGB in St Petersburg in 2001 and 2002. He became concerned at the vast amounts of heroin coming from Afghanistan, in particular from the fiefdom of the (now) Head of the Afghan armed forces, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, in north and east Afghanistan.**

**Dostum is an Uzbek, and the heroin passes over the Friendship Bridge from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan, where it is taken over by President Islam Karimov's people. It is then shipped up the railway line, in bales of cotton, to St Petersburg and Riga.**

The heroin Jeeps run from General Dostum to President Karimov. The UK, United States and Germany have all invested large sums in donating the most sophisticated detection and screening equipment to the Uzbek customs centre at Termez to stop the heroin coming through.

But the convoys of Jeeps running between Dostum and Karimov are simply waved around the side of the facility.

**Litvinenko uncovered the St Petersburg end and was stunned by the involvement of the city authorities, local police and security services at the most senior levels. He reported in detail to President Vladimir Putin.**

**Putin is, of course, from St Petersburg, and the people Litvinenko named were among Putin's closest political allies. That is why Litvinenko, having miscalculated badly, had to flee Russia.**

I had as little luck as Litvinenko in trying to get official action against this heroin trade. At the St Petersburg end he found those involved had the top protection.

**In Afghanistan, General Dostum is vital to Karzai's coalition, and to the West's pretence of a stable, democratic government.**

**Opium is produced all over Afghanistan, but especially in the north and north-east – Dostum's territory.**

**Again, our Government's spin doctors have tried hard to obscure this fact and make out that the bulk of the heroin is produced in the tiny areas of the south under Taliban control.**

**But these are the most desolate, infertile rocky areas. It is a physical impossibility to produce the bulk of the vast opium harvest there.**

That General Dostum is head of the Afghan armed forces and Deputy Minister of Defence is in itself a symbol of the bankruptcy of our policy.

**Dostum is known for tying opponents to tank tracks and running them over.**

He crammed prisoners into metal containers in the searing sun, causing scores to die of heat and thirst.

Since we brought 'democracy' to Afghanistan, Dostum ordered an MP who annoyed him to be pinned down while he attacked him.

The sad thing is that Dostum is probably not the worst of those comprising the Karzai government, or the biggest drug smuggler among them.

**Our Afghan policy is still victim to Tony Blair's simplistic world view and his childish division of all conflicts into 'good guys' and 'bad guys'.**

**The truth is that there are seldom any good guys among those vying for power in a country such as Afghanistan. To characterise the Karzai government as good guys is sheer nonsense.**

**Why then do we continue to send our soldiers to die in Afghanistan?**

**Our presence in Afghanistan and Iraq is the greatest recruiting sergeant for Islamic militants.**

**As the great diplomat, soldier and adventurer Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alexander Burnes pointed out before his death in the First Afghan War in 1841, there is no point in a military campaign in Afghanistan as every time you beat them, you just swell their numbers.**

**Our only real achievement to date is falling street prices for heroin in London.**

**Remember this article next time you hear a politician calling for more troops to go into Afghanistan.**

**And when you hear of another brave British life wasted there, remember you can add to the casualty figures all the young lives ruined, made miserable or ended by heroin in the UK.**

**They, too, are casualties of our Afghan policy.**

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

July 21 (Xinhua) & 7.24.07 (AP) & Novinite Ltd

**Bulgarian troops came under mortar fire in the early hours of Wednesday at Kandahar in Afghanistan, Bulgaria's Defence Ministry said. No Bulgarian**

**servicemen were injured in the attack that targeted the Kandahar airport, *whose security they ensure.* [Famous last words.]**

Taliban militants attacked a convoy of private Angar company in Bakwa district on Friday afternoon, a local police officer told Xinhua anonymously. Four guards were killed, he said.

The police officer did not say the company was a local or international one, but said it was supplying logistics for international troops deployed in Afghanistan.

In Uruzgan province, police clashed for three days with militants blocking the road leading to Kandahar province, leaving two policemen dead. NATO-led and Afghan army troops joined the battle Tuesday, reopening the road for civilian traffic, he said.

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

## **TROOP NEWS**

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



Lawrence Wilson and Simona Wilson Francis, parents of U.S. Army Pfc. Le Ron Wilson, lay flowers on their son's casket during burial services at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York July 17, 2007. Wilson, 18, from New York, died July 6, 2007, in Iraq of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



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# ***Rage At Ft. Lewis: Command Tries To Stop Individual Services For KIA***

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

July 24, 2007 By WILLIAM YARDLEY, New York Times

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Twenty soldiers deployed to Iraq from the Army base here had been killed in May — a monthly high — when the base announced a change in how it would honor its dead. Instead of units' holding individual services as casualties occurred, they would be held collectively once a month.

The anger and hurt were immediate. Soldiers' families and veterans protested the change as cold and logistics-driven. Critics online said the military was trying to repress bad news about deaths. The base put the plan on hold and its commander, Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby, is expected to decide Wednesday whether to go through with it.

**"If I lost my husband at the beginning of the month, what do you do, wait until the end of the month?" asked Toni Shanyfelt, who said her husband is serving one of multiple tours in Iraq.**

**"I don't know if it's more convenient for them, or what, but that's insane."**

**"By reducing it to once a month, I think they're taking away from us," said Staff Sgt. Jason Angelle. "Soldiers deserve individual honors."**

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## **510 More Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

July 23, 2007 Army Times

**Fort Wainwright:**

**About 200 aviation regiment soldiers at Fort Wainwright are being deployed to western Iraq to support ground troops there.**

The soldiers are from 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, known as Task Force Dragon. The task force's eight CH-47 Chinook helicopters were en route to the Middle East.

**Georgia:**

**About 130 soldiers from Fort Benning's 104th Transportation Company deployed to Iraq on July 8.**

The 104th Transportation Company is an element of 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, based at Benning. The unit will provide heavy equipment transportation support to coalition operations in northern Iraq.

**Oregon:**

**The 234th Engineer Company, based out of Warrenton, mobilized for deployment to Iraq in early July.**

The 234th will deploy more than 180 soldiers to Camp Shelby, Miss., for more than two months of training before deploying to Balad, Iraq. In Iraq, the company will conduct convoy security operations.

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## **Wildly Enthusiastic Troops Cheer Bush At Air Force Base**



The traitor Bush speaking to U.S. military personnel about Iraq, at the Charleston Club at Charleston AFB in South Carolina July 24, 2007. REUTERS/Larry Downing

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# **Britain Almost Out Of Troops, Memo Reveals; “There Is Concern Of Increased Attacks On The Large Base Where Some Troops Are Forced To Live In Tented Accommodation”**

23/07/2007 By Thomas Harding, Defence Correspondent

The head of the Army has issued a dire warning that Britain has almost run out of troops to defend the country or fight abroad, a secret document obtained by the Daily Telegraph has revealed.

Gen Sir Richard Dannatt has told senior commanders that reinforcements for emergencies or for operations in Iraq or Afghanistan are "now almost non-existent".

The "undermanned" Army now has all its units committed to either training for war in Iraq and Afghanistan, on leave or on operations.

Liam Fox, the shadow defence secretary, said the lack of reserves was "an appalling situation and damning indictment" of the way the Government handled the Services.

"They are being asked to carry out tasks for which they are neither funded or equipped for. There is an urgent need to review our strategic approach because we cannot continue over-stretching our Forces."

The document said that Britain's second back-up unit, called the Airborne Task Force formed around the Parachute Regiment, was unavailable. It was unable to fully deploy "due to shortages in manpower, equipment and stocks".

With the Army significantly under-strength by 3,500 troops – many disillusioned with being constantly on dangerous operations and away from their families – it is now struggling to plug the gaps on the frontline.

The Army now needed to "augment" 2,500 troops from other units onto operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to bring up the total force to 13,000 required. This remained "far higher than we ever assumed," the CGS said.

**The general's concerns came after three RAF personnel were killed in a mortar or rocket attack on the main British headquarters five miles outside Basra bringing the total dead in Iraq to 162.**

**With the main force pulling out of Basra city to the air station in the coming months there is concern of increased attacks on the large base where some troops are forced to live in tented accommodation.**

The plain-speaking officer later suggested that the British presence in Iraq was "exacerbating the security problems" and warned that the Army would "break" if it was kept there too long.

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## **War Profiteers Report “Higher-Than-Expected Profits” On Orders For Iraq And Afghanistan**

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

24 July 2007 BBC NEWS

Defence firms Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman have both reported higher-than-expected profits on orders for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lockheed, the world's biggest defence contractor, saw its shares rise 7%, as it increased its full-year forecast.

It made a profit of \$778m in the three months to the end of June.

Meanwhile, Northrop, the Pentagon's third biggest supplier behind Lockheed and Boeing, saw its quarterly profit rise 7% to \$460m.

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## **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.**

**“WE Ended The Vietnam War From Within, And You Guys Over There Can Do The Same”**

**“I Have Supported IVAW Since Day One Of Their Inception, And I Encourage All U.S. Citizen's AND Soldiers To Give Them Their Full Support Above All Else”**

From: Ward Reilly [Vietnam Veterans Against the War & Veterans For Peace]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 24, 2007  
Subject: RE: GI Special 5G20: Back In The Trenches

Dear GI Special,

**This issue featuring IVAW [Iraq Veterans Against The War] and their member's trip to Germany [GI Special 5G20: Back In The Trenches] really filled me with pride, and Jeff's journal was a true flashback.**

I was in Germany from 71-74, stationed at Panzer Kaserne (near Stuttgart) in the First Infantry Division, in the Weapons Platoon of C 1/16, and those were the last 3 years of the Viet Nam war era.

**In those 3 years, we completely took over the military in Deutschland and around the world, as documented in the outstanding movie "Sir! No Sir!"**

**When those of us that were resisters realized that prison was an upgrade in lifestyle compared to the Infantry, it got to the point that we basically refused most orders and caused general mayhem to the lifers and the system.**

I encourage all the GI's in Germany, and elsewhere, to simply resist the system.

Just say NO, as Nancy Reagan once said.

**As Jeff points out so brilliantly, the Army can't Court Martial everybody, plain and simple.**

Myself and 3 other members of my platoon deserted over there, were captured by 11 CID and MPI agents 45 days later, and we were all given Special Court Martial's... and guess what?

We didn't spend a single day in jail, even though we were all convicted of desertion.

**Reason why: The Army realized that if all of their soldiers went AWOL and then got sent to jail, they wouldn't have an Army left.**

Our punishment was being sent back to our units, and the prison sentences we were given at hard labor was vacated and suspended. They needed us, we didn't need them.

Party on Wayne, party on Garth. Let's stop this shit TODAY.

We would all defend OUR shores, but we should NEVER be tools of the corporate world, used to oppress foreign nationals in their own countries so the Cheney's and Bush's of the world can get rich using our blood.

**WE ended the Vietnam war from within, and you guys over there can do the same.**

Kudos to the crew that went to Germany to spread the word to our troops there.

**I have supported IVAW since day one of their inception, and I encourage all U.S. citizen's AND soldiers to give them their full support above all else.**

Internal resistance is truly the ONLY way that we will stop these fascists, and it is painfully obvious that both the democrats and the republicans are both war parties, as demonstrated today by the arrests of almost 50 activists that sat-in at Dem. Representative Conyers office, for simply demanding impeachment, and an end to the wars in the Middle East.

**There is no hope in waiting for them to end the wars NOW.**

**All they know is politics as usual, and that simply equates to MUCH more death, and the ruining of life to all of those actually in the war.**

I love IVAW ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/)), they are the voice of reality today. They ARE the truth.

Peace from Ward Reilly,  
S.E. National Contact, Vietnam Veterans Against the War  
Veterans For Peace,  
X-grunt STILL in the resistance

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**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.

## MIA--Missing In America



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 24, 2007  
Subject: MIA--Missing In America

### MIA--Missing In America

**George Bush surging into the lives of countless military families across America.  
Homes broken down like it was boot camp.  
Sacrifices eventually turn into nightmares.  
Nothing makes sense anymore.  
Children become lost in their parents' turmoil.  
There is always someone missing at home.  
Too bad America's war pimps get away.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran**

**Father WWII combat veteran  
Raised in military family  
July 24, 2007**

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

## **Terry Whitmore R.I.P.**



[ur.se/ramp/historia2/vietnam\\_personer1.php](http://ur.se/ramp/historia2/vietnam_personer1.php)  
**Marines, Vietnam; Age 21**



[ur.se/ramp/historia2/vietnam\\_personer1.php](http://ur.se/ramp/historia2/vietnam_personer1.php)

**From: Mark Shapiro**  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 24, 2007  
Subject: Terry Whitmore R.I.P.

**Terry Whitmore died last week in Memphis aged 60 - not unsurprisingly no mention in the American media –**



**Terry was personally awarded a Purple Heart by Lyndon (shit face) Johnson before he deserted from Vietnam.**

**We were both smuggled out of Japan on the same small fishing boat to the Soviet Union in early 1968 and then on to Sweden.** Reading his obituary I can still feel myself jumping from that small fishing boat onto a large Russian Navy ship with Terry onto a mattress held by Russian sailors as the small Japanese boat bobbed up and down with waves - it seems like only yesterday.

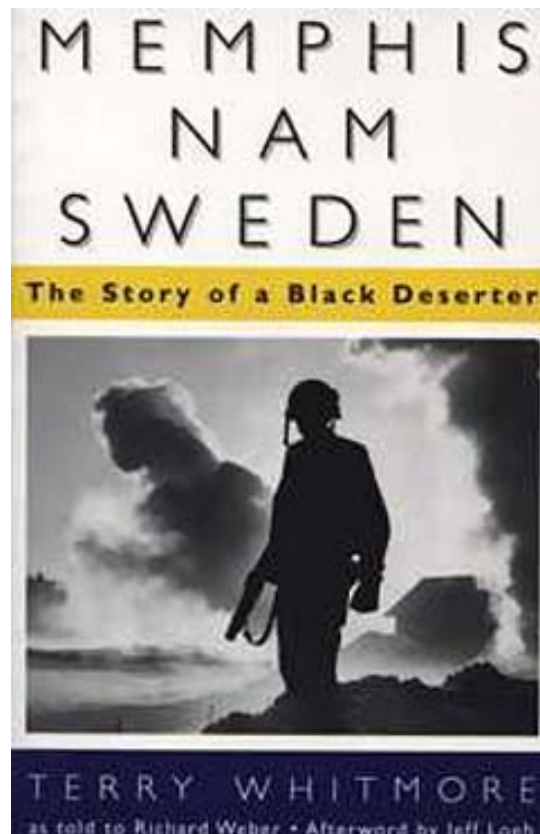
**Terry was a damn good man and was instrumental in exposing racism in the US military. All GI's Black and White should read his book.**

**Rest in Peace Terry.**

Keep up the good work with 'GI Special' - you've made a big dent in the Pentagon propaganda machine and thousands of active duty US military have woken up to the fact that the Bush War in Iraq has nothing to do with Freedom nor Democracy but it's all about Oil - Money and Power for Big Business - and Terry and I and thousands of others are living proof that GI's can Desert from the US Military and live to write about it 40 years later –

**Seemed a good option to me then - still does –**

**All the Best  
Mark**



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## GET THE MESSAGE?



A nationalist warrior carries a rocket-propelled grenade as he and his comrades fight British troops in central Basra July 16, 2007. The clash began before sunset when the Provincial Joint Coordination Center was subjected to small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades, said a British military spokesman. (AP Photo/ Nabil al-Jurani)

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## Contest: Your Choice For Silliest Stupid Fantasy Of The Year, So Far

**#1:** That Bush, all by himself, will order a military attack on Iran, and that the armed forces leadership will obey; all this done, mind you, in total secrecy.

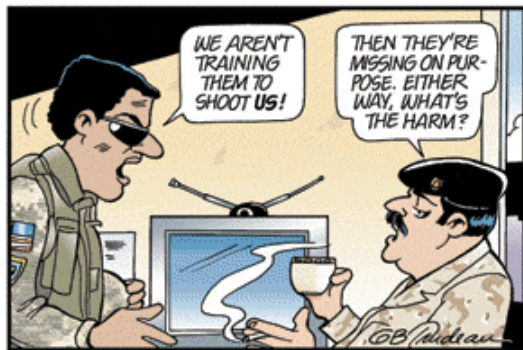
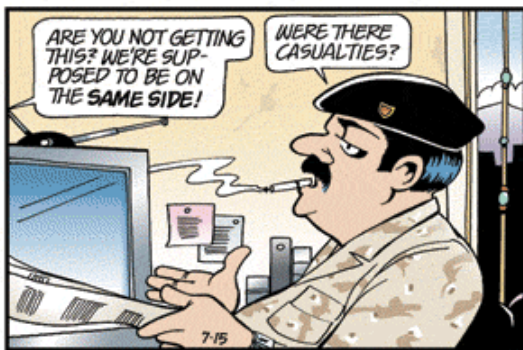
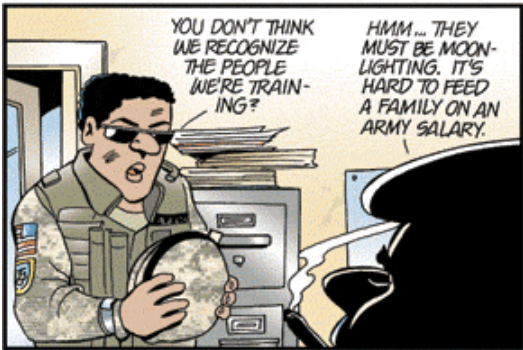
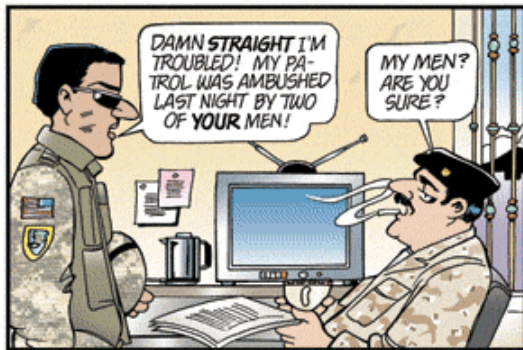
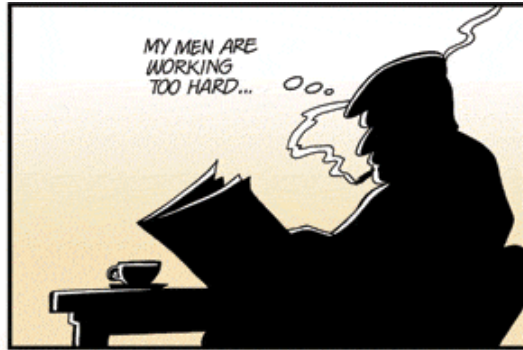
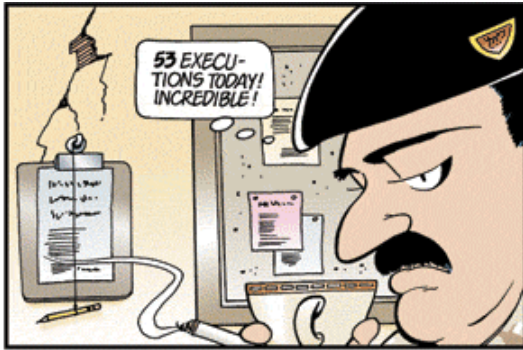
**#2:** That Congress will remove either Bush or Cheney from office.

**#3:** That an Executive Order has been issued by the White House outlawing protest against the wars in Iraq, and/or Afghanistan, and that people who do so will have their assets seized.

**#4:** That an Imperial war has been ended by the outcome of an election.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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