

**GI SPECIAL 5G24:**



**“Almost Every Soldier I  
Run Across Hates This  
War... Why The  
Silence?”**

**“Getting Back To Baghdad, I  
See A Commercial On AFN  
About How Servicemembers DO  
Have The Right To Speak Out”**

**From: Shock Awe  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 24, 2007  
Subject: Hey T!**

**It's Ronn Cantu again, back from my whirlwind R&R.**

**I told myself I had 15 days to piss off as many people as I possibly could with the help of IVAW - Los Angeles.**

**Someone described IVAW to me as the “platoon you wish you had.” I couldn't agree more.**

So what activities did I participate in? Well, within 12 hours of being home, I was in Congressman Ed Royce's office discussing the situation in Iraq from a soldier's perspective.

I hosted several guests including two war resisters.

I did an interview with Anita Dennis (I think of her as my surrogate mother.

She is who Cindy Sheehan SHOULD be in that she actually cares about the soldiers).

I did some public speaking at an event that drew over 100 people for an IVAW - LA fundraiser. I went on a local access TV show with Jabbar Magruder (IVAW LA President).



“An event that drew over 100 people for an IVAW - LA fundraiser” [Photo from Ron Cantu]

**Best of all, on July 20th, I participated in a protest in Long Beach with three other IVAWers.**

**That was an experience.**

**Everyone loved the IVAW soldiers except two who got in our faces about how we are traitors, how we “embolden” the enemy (though those of us who have experienced Iraq know that our enemy is plenty “boldened” by the thought of fighting for his country), and how the United States is going down the tubes when soldiers protest a war.**

**Both were thrown off when they learned that I was headed back to Baghdad the next day.**

One of the pro-war folk was a former Marine who tried to remind me of 9/11 (like anyone could forget).

He was just not hearing anything about Iraq not being involved.

When he tried to appeal to how we should help the Muslim women from their horrible lives, he wouldn't listen to how Saudi Arabia is worse than Iraq in that respect, but we wouldn't DARE go to war with them!

He ended by reminding me (as if I need reminding) that the whole protest was made possible by people like me.

Damn skippy.

**The second pro-war person was a tool of the FOX News Network. He was saying that by giving money to other countries, we have the RIGHT to take them over.**

**He never served in the military, but was quick to point out that by volunteering we effectively gave up all of our rights.**

**I tell you, T, I thought I was going to get violent and so did the other three veterans who I was with.**

He was saying that America was lucky that soldiers like us didn't exist during WWII or else we'd be speaking German which is typical of the pro-war cowards.

America collapsed Iraq's military... are they speaking English?

If by some strange feat of magic America's military was trumped, the only way we'd be occupied is if cowards like him didn't fight back.

He had no kids in the military, he never served.

He's basically granted himself the title of Armchair General.

At any rate, my R&R was less than restful or relaxing.

The way I describe it is that I fight to prolong the war in the world, I fight to end it in cyberspace.

Getting back to Baghdad, I see a commercial on AFN about how servicemembers DO have the right to speak out.

Almost every soldier I run across hates this war... why the silence?

Like everything in the military, this is a numbers game.

The precious few of us who are speaking out on active duty know that we're speaking on behalf of a silent majority, but we still can't do it alone.

But... once we redeploy, I fully intend to stand up the Fort Hood Chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Feel free to use my identity.

Keep fighting the good fight!

Ronn Cantu  
soldiervoices.net

**REPLY:**

This article describes the good fight, and who is leading it. GI Special can report on the battles in that fight, but the credit for making it happen must go to the brothers and sisters of Iraq Veterans Against The War, who understand that if the objective is to stop evil Imperial wars, the place to begin is with the troops who have been betrayed into fighting and dying for those who profit from them.

Respect,  
T

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **Three Marines And Sailor Killed In Diyala Tuesday; Command Delayed Announcement**

July 26, 2007 AP

Three Marines and a sailor were killed during combat in restive Diyala province, where operations are under way to clear the city of Sunni insurgents, Shiite militiamen and al-Qaida in Iraq fighters, the U.S. military reported Thursday.

The four perished on Tuesday, according to a military release.

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## **Florida Soldier Killed In Baghdad**



U.S. Army Pfc. Brandon K. Bobb, 20, of Orlando, Fla., died July 17 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/U.S. Army via Beaumont Enterprise)

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED Tuesday; Command Delayed Announcement**

7.26.07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070726-11

BAGHDAD – One MNC-I Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated during clearing operations in Baghdad July 24.

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# **U.S. Soldier Killed During Gunbattle In Southern Baghdad**

July 26, 2007 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD: A U.S. soldier was killed during a gunbattle in Baghdad, the military said Thursday.

The Multi-National Division-Baghdad soldier died during a small-arms fire engagement Wednesday in a southern section of the capital,

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## **Navy Explosives Technician From Manawa Killed In Iraq**

July 19, 2007 Associated Press

MANAWA, Wis. — A 38-year-old Navy explosives technician who recently arrived in Iraq was killed by a roadside bomb, his mother said Wednesday. It's her second son to die while serving his country, the family said.

Chief Petty Officer Patrick Wade, who joined the Navy after graduating from high school here in 1987, died Tuesday while on a mission in Samarra, north of Baghdad, his mother, Shirley Wade said.

"They were just on a convoy. They were going to take care of some explosives and their vehicle was hit by a very deep charge," she said, her voice choked with emotion. "He was a very outgoing young man. He enjoyed the service and his family. I just really can't talk about that."

Wade was deployed to Iraq about two months ago, the 70-year-old mother said.

Wade was married with two daughters, ages 3 and 1, and the family lived in Oak Harbor, Wash., which is north of Seattle, his older brother, Gary, said.

"He loved what he did. He was a good friend, a good brother, a good uncle. He was a good man," the brother said. "He believed in what he was doing and he believed that he was accomplishing his mission."

His brother got married in 2003 to a woman from California who also had served in the Navy, the brother said.

According to Gary, his younger brother's vehicle survived an initial bomb blast Tuesday, and he was killed when his crew discovered other bombs in a culvert under the highway. Steps were being taken to detonate them safely when they exploded.

"The blast was just that big," he said. The family was told the explosion left a crater 40 feet long and 6 feet deep, the brother said.

Pat Wade is the second son in the family to die in military service. An older brother, 37-year-old Bob, was killed in a helicopter accident in 1993 in Japan while serving in the Air Force, Gary Wade said.

Ever since high school, Pat wanted to follow his brothers into military service, said Gary, 48, who served four years in the Marines.

He wanted to become a Navy SEAL. "He just liked the adventure and the challenge," the brother said. He didn't make it but figured the next best thing was the explosives disposal team.

"He was an average, normal kind of guy except for the fact that he blew (expletive) up," the brother said. "He was looking forward to the next promotion to masters chief in another three years."

**Pat Wade is the 76th soldier, Marine or Navy member from Wisconsin killed in Iraq or associated with duties in Iraq.**

As of Tuesday, more than 3,600 members of the U.S. military had died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Deb Watry, superintendent of Little Wolf High School in Manawa where Wade graduated, said Wade has a nephew still attending the school.

News of Wade's death saddened residents in the central Wisconsin community of about 1,350 people, Watry said. "It is our first loss in a very small community. It impacts a lot of people."

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## **Seventh U.S. Military Member With Ties To Tracy Dies Pursuing His Goals**

July 15, 2007 By The Record

Army Pfc. Bruce Salazar Jr. of Tracy realized his childhood dream 18 months ago. He became a soldier.

Salazar, 24, was killed July 6 from wounds caused by an improvised explosive device - a roadside bomb - in Muhammad Sath, Iraq.

**Now, seven members of the U.S. military with ties to Tracy (pop: 81,000) have died during the war in Iraq, the second-highest per-capita rate in California. Three of the deaths occurred in the past 19 months.**

**Salazar is the 24th service member with San Joaquin County ties to be killed in Afghanistan or Iraq.**

It reminds us once again of the heartbreaking toll these wars are taking.

Salazar, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Steward, Ga., was deployed May 11.

While growing up in Modesto, he hung out at the military recruitment office nearby. Living temporarily in Fayetteville, Ark., he tried to sign up for the Army but was rejected because he didn't have a high school diploma.

He moved to Tracy in 2005 to live with a cousin and take courses at Tracy Adult School.

Once Salazar passed his diploma equivalency exam, he was able to enlist in the Army.

The outgoing Salazar has been described as "big-hearted, a good kid," excited about his role in the Army, close to his family, concerned more with others.

"He was a character," said his mother, Margaret "Suzie" Ruiz, who lives in Modesto, "always smiling, never letting anything get him down." Tracy Military Moms, a support group founded in 2004, will assist the grieving Ruiz, according to founder Marilyn Chorley.

Salazar, whose unit is part of the current influx of U.S. troops ordered by President Bush, had been in Iraq for only a few months. "He died doing what he loved to do," his mother said.

Memorial plans will be announced after his body is returned to the U.S.

As of Friday, 3,606 members of the U.S. military have died in Iraq, and more than 25,000 have been wounded or injured.

Few communities its size have incurred a heavier toll than Tracy.

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## **“Significant Improvement” In The Aim Of Attackers Firing Rockets And Mortars Into The Green Zone”**

Jul 26 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer

The U.S. military has noted a “significant improvement” in the aim of attackers firing rockets and mortars into the heavily fortified Green Zone in the past three months.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol on the road between Hillah and Diwaniyah, killing five officers and wounding two as they were on their way home from an operation with U.S. forces, police said.



We have seen in the last three months a significant improvement in the capability of mortarmen and rocketeers to provide accurate fires into the Green Zone.

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



US soldiers keep watch over a group of Iraqi prisoners of war during a large operation launched in Mosul, April 2007. AFP/Mauricio Lima)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **British Soldier Killed Near Nahr-E-Seraj**

**[Unlike the stupid lame empty meaningless cowardly crap churned out by U.S. command, the British have the intelligence, and the courage, to write serious battle reports when one of theirs is KIA. T]**

26 Jul 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in southern Afghanistan today, Thursday 26 July 2007.

The soldier died during a deliberate operation aimed at disrupting Taliban forces in the Upper Gereshk Valley of Helmand province. The soldier had been taking part in a task

force level operation codenamed 'Chakush' or 'Hammer' on Thursday 26 July 07 against the Taliban in the area between Heyderabad and Mirmandab, north-east of Gereshk.

After consolidating its position after securing a bridge crossing of the Nahr-e-Seraj canal, the company he was with was pushing west to clear further Taliban positions.

At around 6am local time, the company came under fire from Taliban fighters, and the soldier was shot. An emergency response helicopter was requested but he was pronounced dead at the scene. He was flown to the ISAF medical facility at Camp Bastion.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The funeral for 3rd Infantry Division U.S. Army Sgt. Gene L. Lamie, 25 years-old, from Homerville, Georgia, who was killed in an explosion in Iraq earlier this month, at Arlington National Cemetery July 18, 2007. REUTERS/Larry Downing

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**Danish Soldiers All Getting The Fuck  
Out Of Iraq “Early”**

# **“We Have Found A Way Of Packing Our Bags More Quickly Than Expected And The Soldiers Have Worked Hard For That”**

26 July 2007 FOCUS News Agency

COPENHAGEN. Denmark has withdrawn most of the 430 troops it has stationed in Iraq earlier than expected, a report said Wednesday quoting the Danish military.

The battalion, stationed in the southern city of Basra since 2003, under British command, was supposed to begin pulling out its soldiers on August 10.

But, according to a report by the Iraqi correspondent of the Danish TV channel TV2, sustained attacks by insurgents have led to most of them heading home early.

Danish military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jes Rasmussen denied that the early withdrawal was due to security reasons.

**“We have found a way of packing our bags more quickly than expected and the soldiers have worked hard for that,” he told TV2.**

**[Noticed those generals and Senators whining to the media about how it would take a year to get out of Iraq? Lying pieces of shit each and every one.**

**[Just fly a C-130 with loudspeakers over every U.S. base in Iraq with one simple message: “OK, load up and leave,” and see if it takes a fucking year to get to the nearest border. Two weeks would be slow. And you can bet the Iraqi resistance would be right there with fuel, food, traffic control, cheers and flowers too.**

**[And any idiot asshole local that took a shot at the departing army would find his or her head rolling down the street. Courtesy of the resistance soldiers, who, duh, do not wish a departing Imperial army of occupation to stop for any reason whatsoever, above all to do more fighting with them.]**

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## **Thieving Army Major And His Skanks Took Millions In Bribes**

July 26, 2007 San Antonio Express-News

Authorities have arrested a third person in Texas as part of their investigation into an Army contract-rigging and bribery case.

Justice and Defense department officials arrested Carolyn Blake in Dallas yesterday on charges she conspired to accept \$3.1 million in bribes from contractors and laundered money.

She pleaded not guilty in federal court.

Blake is accused of working with her brother, Major John L Cockerham, a contracting and procurement officer assigned to Fort Sam Houston.

Cockerham was arrested Monday on charges that he took \$9.6 million in kickbacks and anticipated receiving 5.4 million more for rigging military supply contracts.

His wife, Melissa Cockerham, 40, was also arrested on charges she accepted bribery payments and helped conceal them.

The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction described it as the largest bribery case to emerge from the Iraq reconstruction effort.

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**New Evidence Indicates Tillman  
Was Murdered;  
“It Appeared The Army Ranger Was  
Cut Down By An M-16 Fired From A  
Mere 10 Yards Or So Away”  
“No Evidence At All Of Enemy Fire  
Was Found At The Scene”  
Command Also Caught In Lie About His  
Last Words**

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

**Army attorneys sent each other congratulatory e-mails for keeping criminal investigators at bay as the Army conducted an internal friendly-fire investigation that resulted in administrative, or non-criminal, punishments.**

07.26.07 By MARTHA MENDOZA, AP

**SAN FRANCISCO - Army medical examiners were suspicious about the close proximity of the three bullet holes in Pat Tillman's forehead and tried without**

**success to get authorities to investigate whether the former NFL player's death amounted to a crime, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.**

**“The medical evidence did not match up with the, with the scenario as described,” a doctor who examined Tillman's body after he was killed on the battlefield in Afghanistan in 2004 told investigators.**

**The doctors - whose names were blacked out - said that the bullet holes were so close together that it appeared the Army Ranger was cut down by an M-16 fired from a mere 10 yards or so away.**

**Ultimately, the Pentagon did conduct a criminal investigation, and asked Tillman's comrades whether he was disliked by his men and whether they had any reason to believe he was deliberately killed.**

The Pentagon eventually ruled that Tillman's death at the hands of his comrades was a friendly-fire accident.

Among other information contained in the documents:

In his last words moments before he was killed, Tillman snapped at a panicky comrade under fire to shut up and stop “sniveling.”

**Army attorneys sent each other congratulatory e-mails for keeping criminal investigators at bay as the Army conducted an internal friendly-fire investigation that resulted in administrative, or non-criminal, punishments.**

**The three-star general who kept the truth about Tillman's death from his family and the public told investigators some 70 times that he had a bad memory and couldn't recall details of his actions.**

**No evidence at all of enemy fire was found at the scene - no one was hit by enemy fire, nor was any government equipment struck.**

**In more than four hours of questioning by the Pentagon inspector general's office in December 2006, [Lt. Gen. Philip R.] Kensinger repeatedly contradicted other officers' testimony, and sometimes his own. He said on some 70 occasions that he did not recall something.**

At one point, he said: “You've got me really scared about my brain right now. I'm really having a problem.”

**The documents show that a doctor who autopsied Tillman's body was suspicious of the three gunshot wounds to the forehead.**

**The doctor said he took the unusual step of calling the Army's Human Resources Command and was rebuffed. He then asked an official at the Army's Criminal Investigation Division if the CID would consider opening a criminal case.**

**“He said he talked to his higher headquarters and they had said no,” the doctor testified.**

Also according to the documents, investigators pressed officers and soldiers on a question Mrs. Tillman has been asking all along.

“Have you, at any time since this incident occurred back on April 22, 2004, have you ever received any information even rumor that Cpl. Tillman was killed by anybody within his own unit intentionally?” an investigator asked then-Capt. Richard Scott.

Scott, and others who were asked, said they were certain the shooting was accidental.

Investigators also asked soldiers and commanders whether Tillman was disliked, whether anyone was jealous of his celebrity, or if he was considered arrogant.

They said Tillman was respected, admired and well-liked.

The documents also shed new light on Tillman's last moments.

**It has been widely reported by the AP and others that Spc. Bryan O'Neal, who was at Tillman's side as he was killed, told investigators that Tillman was waving his arms shouting “Cease fire, friendlies, I am Pat (expletive) Tillman, damn it!” again and again.**

**But the latest documents give a different account from a chaplain who debriefed the entire unit days after Tillman was killed.**

**The chaplain said that O'Neal told him he was hugging the ground at Tillman's side, “crying out to God, help us.**

**“And Tillman says to him, `Would you shut your (expletive) mouth? God's not going to help you; you need to do something for yourself, you sniveling ...”**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

25 Jul 2007 Reuters & Jul 26 By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & (Xinhua)

Five Iraqi security forces members and two insurgents were killed during a raid in eastern Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed an official of the housing and construction ministry in Karrada, police said.

A car bomber attacked an army checkpoint in eastern Baghdad's Ghadeer district killing two soldiers.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol on the road between Hillah and Diwaniyah, killing five officers and wounding two as they were on their way home from an operation with U.S. forces, police said.

Guerrillas attacked a police checkpoint at Yarubiya on Iraq's northwestern border with Syria, killing three police.

Five Iraqi security members were killed and two others wounded in a clash with insurgents in Salahudin province, north of Baghdad, on Thursday, a provincial police source said.

"A joint police and Iraqi army force raided the area of Dibaie south of Tikrit, 170 km north of Baghdad, and fought a fierce clash," Colonel Hassan Ahmad from Salahudin province told Xinhua.

The fighting resulted in the killing of three soldiers and two policemen and wounding of two other policemen, Ahmad said.

A bomber blew himself up at the gate of a police station in northern Iraq on Thursday, killing at least six people and wounding 13, authorities said.

The explosion occurred about 11 a.m. in the Tal Abta area, some 80 kilometers (49.71 miles) west of Mosul, police Brig. Gen. Mohammed al-Waqaa said.

Those killed included five policemen, while the 13 wounded included 10 policemen, according to al-Waqaa.

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

**GET THE MESSAGE?**



(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

An American flag burns at a demonstration in the Shaab neighborhood in north Baghdad July 24, 2007.

Protesters raged against military operations in the Shiite stronghold of Husseinayah, where U.S. forces blocked access to the town on the northeast outskirts of Baghdad.

**The American military claimed Saturday that six militants were killed in an airstrike in the area, but Iraqi officials and relatives of the victims reported that 18 civilians died in the attack and 21 were wounded.**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **The War In Iraq Is The Greatest Lie In American History**



**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
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)

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

## **Jeff Sharlet: “A Leader Of The GI Resistance Movement During The Vietnam War And The Founding Editor Of Vietnam GI”**



Jeff Sharlet, linguist, U.S. Army Security Agency, 1963-1964

[Thanks to Robert Sharlet, who sent this in. He writes:

“We're getting it done, good progress on the memoir project. As an interim to finishing the massive web site on Jeff, I wrote a Wiki on him which Karen recently put up at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff\\_sharlet\\_and\\_vietnam\\_gi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_sharlet_and_vietnam_gi)

**“I trust all's well and have noted from GI Special that the only surge working is the rising tide of GI protest”**

Robert Sharlet  
Chauncey Winters Research Professor of Political Science  
Union College

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## Jeff Sharlet and Vietnam GI

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff\\_sharlet\\_and\\_vietnam\\_gi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_sharlet_and_vietnam_gi)]

**Jeff Sharlet (1942-1969), an ex-Vietnam GI, was a leader of the GI resistance movement during the Vietnam War and the founding editor of Vietnam GI [1] a monthly underground paper written by and for enlisted men who were committed to ending the war.**

### Early Life

Sharlet was born and raised in Glens Falls, NY, a small town in the foothills of the Adirondacks, and later in the state capital. In 1960 he graduated from The Albany Academy, a private military academy.

### Military Training And Assignment: Philippines

Restless during his first year of college, Sharlet withdrew and decided to fulfill his military obligation. In return for a three-year enlistment in the United States Army Security Agency (ASA), a communications intelligence outfit, he was promised a year's training in a Slavic language followed by a European posting.

But at the Army Language School (ALS, now the Defense Language Institute) he was bumped into the Vietnamese course. He and fellow Vietnamese students spent six hours a day in class over 11½ months. In early 1963 Sharlet was sent to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines where he was assigned to the 9th ASA2 at Stotsenberg Field Station as a Vietnamese translator/interpreter. With a Top Secret/Cryptographic security clearance he and fellow linguists monitored North Vietnamese military radio communications.

### Vietnam Duty

In late August 1963 Sharlet and a small team of linguists were flown to Saigon on short notice and transferred to the Army Security Agency's 3rd Radio Research Unit, Davis Station, named after the first American GI killed in combat during the Vietnam War [3] at Tan Son Nhut Air Base outside the capital. The transfer occurred at the time of the

secret coup planning by South Vietnamese generals against the Ngo Dinh Diem regime. [4]

From Davis Station, Sharlet and seven others were dispatched to an area in the jungle near Phu Lam where they worked on a remote corner of the base apart from Army signals personnel. Each day's product was sent by heavily armed jeep down to Tan Son Nhut from where it was airlifted to Washington, DC for analysis at the National Security Agency.

Very shortly before the November 1st coup which overthrew Diem, Sharlet and the special team were pulled out and ordered back to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

**By then, as he later related to family, he was beginning to experience doubts about the U.S. mission in Vietnam.**

A few months later, Sharlet was shipped back to Vietnam, this time on the eve of the 1964 South Vietnamese coup by General Nguyen Khanh against the junta on January 30th. Following the quick success of the coup, Sharlet was re-assigned north to Phu Bai, [5] an Army Security Agency base just below the 1954 boundary between North and South Vietnam, the DMZ.

There he was attached to Detachment J, a branch of the 3rd Radio Research Unit providing communications support for commando operations in North Vietnam. [6] Sharlet was also seconded to a nearby Marine intelligence unit [7] for long range reconnaissance patrols.

**By the time he finished his Vietnam tour late May 1964, Sharlet had seen enough political corruption and military incompetence of the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam [8] (ARVN), often compounded by exaggerated, upbeat reports by U.S. military advisors, to become thoroughly disillusioned with U.S. involvement in what he believed was a Vietnamese civil war.**

### **SDS Days At Indiana University**

Sharlet returned to college fall of 1964, re-entering Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington where he majored in Political Science. In early 1965, the Vietnam conflict escalated with the launching of U.S. bombing raids against the North and the landing of Marine combat units in the South. [9] By April, student protest against the war had begun to spread on U.S. campuses. At IU, a small group of students including Bob and John Grove, Robin Hunter, Peter Montague, Karl North, Rick Ross, Bernella and David Satterfield, Jim Wallihan, and Sharlet founded a chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). [10]

During the following two academic years at IU, Sharlet participated in, helped organize, or co-led SDS demonstrations against campus visits by several prominent pro-Vietnam War speakers, including former Vice President Richard Nixon, General Maxwell Taylor, General Lewis Blaine Hershey, and President Lyndon Baines Johnson when he spoke in nearby Indianapolis. [11]

On campus, he supported the protest against the arrest of two members of the leftist youth W.E.B. DuBois Club, [12] Bruce Klein and Allen Gurevitz. During his tenure as

SDS president Spring term 1967, with the help of his vice president Bob Tennyson, Sharlet took public issue [13] with IU President Elvis Jacob Stahr, Jr., a former Secretary of the Army, over his criticism of the New Left. Sharlet later played a significant role in getting an SDS activist elected IU student body president. [14]

Sharlet won a Woodrow Wilson Graduate Fellowship [15] which he chose to use at University of Chicago in its Political Science PhD program beginning fall 1967.

### **Chicago And Vietnam GI**

**During his IU years Sharlet had pondered the question of how to give voice to opposition to the war which he knew existed among many Vietnam GIs.**

In the summer of 1967 he went to New York City where he met fellow ex-Vietnam GI Jan Barry Crumb [16] and joined his fledgling organization, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW).

Returning to Chicago Sharlet began graduate work, but by the end of the Fall term decided to withdraw to resume his anti-war work full time.

**Using his Woodrow Wilson Fellowship funds, Sharlet launched the first GI-run anti-war paper addressed to GIs, calling it Vietnam GI (VGI).**

The first issue was dated January, 1968.

His associate editor was David Komatsu, and the editorial board of ex-Vietnam GIs included Jan Barry, Joseph Carey, William Harris, Peter Martinsen, Dink McCarter, James Pidgeon, Gary Rader, Francis Rocks, David Tuck, and James Zaleski. A civilian conscientious objector, Thomas Barton, [17] served as VGI's East Coast distributor and was responsible for unobtrusively shipping bundles of the paper to Vietnam.

**Vietnam GI quickly became a success among GIs stateside and in Vietnam [18] where soldiers like Maury Knutson, [19] stationed near Qui Nhon on the South China Sea, along with a number of sympathetic unit mail clerks helped circulate the paper surreptitiously.**

**It was free to GIs, and requests for individual subscriptions as well as multiple copies for distribution in stateside barracks and Vietnam combat units soared, with the print run reaching 30,000 copies by fall 1968. [20]**

**Letters-to-the editor indicated that single copies passed through many hands.**

In August a separate "Stateside" edition of VGI was launched.

Between issues, Sharlet worked wealthy liberal circles on both coasts for contributions.

Barbara Garson, author of MacBird, a widely performed anti-war play of the late 1960s, was an especially helpful West Coast contact. While traveling, Sharlet kept in touch with civilian activists running GI coffee houses outside major bases, [21] including Larry Langowski at Fort Sill, OK and Donna Mickleson, [22] national coordinator of the coffee house movement based in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as draft resistance groups which distributed Vietnam GI at induction centers in Chicago and Boston. [23]

In late 1968 Sharlet visited the Oleo Strut, the highly activist GI coffee house, and nearby Fort Hood in Killeen, TX. Run by Josh Gould and Janet "Jay" Lockard, it was associated with the strike of the "Fort Hood 43," [24] Black troops who refused riot duty at the August 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Sharlet also represented the burgeoning GI anti-war movement at conferences in Japan [25] and in Sweden [26] where he worked with the theologians Harvey Cox, Reverend Richard John Neuhaus, and Michael Novak.

**The success of Vietnam GI and the growing GI protest against the war led to national media coverage for Sharlet and the paper in Esquire, [27] New York Times, [28] and on the AP and NEA news wire services. [29]**

In early 1969 a problem first experienced in Vietnam resurfaced, and he underwent surgery for kidney cancer.

As David Komatsu wrote in Vietnam GI, "From there it was steadily downhill all the way. At the end, he said he had many new ideas for our fight, but was just too exhausted to talk about them." [30]

Sharlet died on June 16, 1969, age 27. [31]

#### **Posthumous Recognition**

**Sharlet's work as a founder of the GI protest movement was eulogized in the underground press throughout the country, including The Movement, [32] Veterans Stars & Stripes for Peace, [33] Guardian, [34] and The Old Mole of Cambridge, MA [35].**

**David Dellinger with Barbara Webster published a long remembrance of Sharlet for the magazine Liberation. [36]**

**A new GI coffee house in Frankfurt am/Main in then-West Germany was dedicated to him, while Fred Gardner, in the definitive account of the 1968 Presidio Mutiny [27], The Unlawful Concert (1970), dedicated his book to "Jeff Sharlet, founder of Vietnam GI, dead at 27." [37]**

During past decades a number of scholars of the Vietnam anti-war movement have written about Sharlet and Vietnam GI in books and journals, including in recent years Andrew E. Hunt, The Turning: A History of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (1999) [38]; David Cortright, Soldiers in Revolt: GI Resistance During the Vietnam War (reissued 2005) [39]; and Bob Ostertag, People's Movements/People's Press (2006) [40].

**The most dramatic recognition has been the award-winning documentary, Sir! No Sir! (2005), on the Vietnam GI anti-war movement screened in theaters across the country and internationally and recently shown on Sundance Channel, co-dedicated to Sharlet, as the director David Zeiger [41] put it, "for starting it all."**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Endnotes;

1 David Cortright, a major chronicler of the Vietnam GI protest movement wrote, "Vietnam GI, the most influential early paper, surfaced at the end of 1967, distributed to tens of thousands of GIs, many in Vietnam, closed down after the death of founder Jeff Sharlet in June, 1969." *Soldiers in Revolt: GI Resistance During the Vietnam War (1975)*, p. 324. For the front pages of the Vietnam GI issues, see [http://www.sirnosir.com/archives\\_and\\_resources/galleries/cover\\_pages/vietnam\\_gi.html](http://www.sirnosir.com/archives_and_resources/galleries/cover_pages/vietnam_gi.html).

2 See 9th ASA, select "About 9th USASAFS."

3 ASA Specialist 4th class James T. Davis was killed in a Viet Cong ambush outside Saigon on December 22, 1961. See <http://www.comcenterspec.homestead.com/DavisStation.html>.

4 On the South Vietnamese military's coup planning and the Kennedy Administration's involvement resulting in the overthrow and death of President Diem on November 1, 1963, see Grant, *Facing the Phoenix*, pp. 198-215, based on extensive interviews with Lucien Conein, the CIA operative who served as liaison between the White House and the coup plotters; Prados, *The White House Tapes: Eavesdropping on the President: A Book and CD Set*, especially the audio on JFK's meetings with his secret committee on the coup planning on disks 2 & 3; and Dommen, *The Indochinese Experience of the French and the Americans*, pp. 520-59, based on declassified State Department cables and CIA reports between Saigon and Washington, DC on the progress and final execution of the coup plans.

5 The Phu Bai military base was 9 miles SE of Hue, capital of one of South Vietnam's northernmost provinces. See the map at <http://www.cswayne.com/huemap.html> which shows the village of Phu Bai just south of the ASA base.

6 See *The Pentagon Papers: As Published by the New York Times*, p. 238.

7 On the Marine 1st Composite Radio Company, see USMC, *1st Radio Battalion, Vietnam Veterans*. On the composition and mission of the Marine unit, see *Radio Battalion*.

8 See Brigham, *ARVN: Life and Death in the South Vietnamese Army*, especially ch. 5. On the disastrous battle of Ap Bac (January, 1963) which became emblematic of the South Vietnamese Army's failures, see Halberstam's firsthand account in *The Making of a Quagmire*, pp. 146-62; and Sheehan's detailed discussion in *A Bright Shining Lie*, pp. 212-65.

9 On the launching of the bombing campaign, Operation Rolling Thunder, on March 2, 1965, and the landing of the first Marine combat battalions at Danang on March 8, 1965, see respectively Lewy, *America in Vietnam*, pp. 375-78 and 42-49.

10 On the formation of the IU chapter of SDS in 1965, see Wynkoop, *Dissent in the Heartland: The Sixties at Indiana University*, pp. 36, 43-44, 46, and 51.

11 On LBJ's appearance in Indianapolis on July 23, 1966 and the preemptive arrests of many of the IU SDS protestors, see Wynkoop, *Dissent in the Heartland*, pp. 44-45.

12 The first DuBois Clubs, Marxist discussion groups named after a prominent African American civil rights leader, were organized in the San Francisco Bay Area during 1963. The following year the national organization, W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America, was formed. See Freeman, *At Berkeley in the Sixties*, p. 27. By 1966 the national organization was under investigation by U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach. In September, Klein and Gurevitz were arrested on the IU campus for defying the university's ban on the DuBois Club participating in the fall activities fair at the student union.

13 See Jeff Sharlet, "The Role of the New Left on the Campus: State of the Students, State of the University," *The Spectator*, March 13, 1967, pp. 3-6, for Sharlet's reply to IU President Stahr's remarks in an address to the university faculty.

14 Sharlet, at the time SDS president, was a draftsman of the winning candidate's campaign platform. The SDS activist was declared victor in the election. See *Indiana Daily Student*, April 14, 1967, p. 1.

15 Woodrow Wilson Fellowships were awarded for graduate study through a national competition to seniors showing the greatest promise of becoming college teachers and covered graduate school tuition, room, and board. See <http://www.woodrow.org/fellowships.php>.

16 Jan Barry Crumb, who later shortened his name to Jan Barry, was founder and first president of VVAW. See Nicosia, *Home to War: A History of the Vietnam Veterans Movement*, pp. 15-17.

17 See Barton's interview, "Jeff Sharlet and Vietnam GI," an "extra" feature on the DVD *Sir! No Sir! The Suppressed Story of the GI Movement to End the War in Vietnam*, Displaced Films, New Video Group, 2006.

Barton today sees himself carrying on Sharlet's work in his current role as editor of the daily online Iraq GI antiwar newsletter, *GI Special*, archived at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>, which he conceived of as a continuation of *Vietnam GI* in the present context. He also assisted ex-Iraq GIs in organizing *Iraq Veterans Against the War*.

**18 In *The New Winter Soldiers: GI and Veteran Dissent During the Vietnam Era*, p. 104, Moser wrote that *Vietnam GI* "became one of the most successful soldier newspapers of the period." While the press run for the first issue was relatively modest, Cortright in *Soldiers in Revolt*, p. 55 reported it was soon "exceeding fifteen thousand." Reviewing the paper's history, Ostertag in *People's Movements/People's Press*, p. 126, concluded that "*Vietnam GI* set a standard of excellence unmatched in the underground GI press."**

19 On Knutson, see Jim Pidgeon, "My Son the Newspaper," *Vietnam GI*, April 1968, p. 7.

20 See Franklin, *Vietnam and Other American Fantasies*, p. 106.

21 On the organization of GI coffee houses, see Cortright, *Soldiers in Revolt*, pp. 53-54. For the military's reaction, see Ben A. Franklin, "Antiwar G.I.'s and Army Head for Clash Over Vietnam," *New York Times*, April 28, 1969, p. 22.

22 Mickleson was co-founder with Fred Gardner of the GI coffee house movement. See Moser, *The New Winter Soldiers*, p. 98.

23 See Foley, *Confronting the War Machine: Draft Resistance During the Vietnam War*, pp. 321 & 420, n.62.

24 "Fort Hood Strike," *Vietnam GI*, Stateside edition, September 1968, p. 1.

25 The conference took place in Kyoto in August, 1968. On Sharlet's participation, see Halstead, *Out Now!: A Participant's Account of the American Movement Against the Vietnam War*, pp. 427-28.

26 The meeting took place in Stockholm in October, 1968 as reported in the Swedish press, "Sexton Faktasokare Fran USA (Sixteen Factfinders from the USA)," *Dagens Nyheter*, October 28, 1968, p. 1.

27 Robert Christgau, "Military Personnel Will Not Participate in Any Activity Having to Do with Creating a Union," *Esquire*, August 1968, pp. 112 & 116.

28 Donald Janson, "Antiwar Coffee Houses Delight G.I.'s but Not Army," *New York Times*, August 12, 1968, pp. 1 and 41.

29 The NEA's national feature by Tom Tiede, "GI's Aim Resentment at Brass," ran in the Schenectady (NY) *Union-Star*, September 24, 1968, p. 19., while the AP's national feature by Fred Hoffman, "GI Protest Newspapers Add Fury to Army's Ire," ran in the Albany (NY) *Times-Union*, May 25, 1969, p. A-7.

30 "Jeff Sharlet Dies," (obituary), *Vietnam GI*, August 1969, p. 3.

31 "Mr. Sharlet, Founder of GI Magazine," *Miami (FL) Herald*, June 18, 1969, p. 3-B.

32 Lincoln Bergman, "Jeff Sharlet, Editor of Vietnam GI," *The Movement*, August 1969, p. 17.

33 "Jeff Sharlet Dies," *Veterans Stars & Stripes for Peace*, Summer 1969, p. 1.

34 Jim Retherford, "Jeff Sharlet Dies of Cancer," *Guardian*, July 5, 1969, p. 3.

35 "We regret to announce the death of Jeff Sharlet, Founder and Editor of Vietnam GI," *The Old Mole*, June 20-July 3, 1969, p. 2.

36 David Dellinger & Barbara Webster, "The first edition of Vietnam GI came out in January, 1968. ... Today Jeff died of cancer," *Liberation*, July 1969, p. 2. The July issue was dedicated to Sharlet.



37 Published by Viking Press, see page v.

38 Published by New York University Press, see pp. 23, 26, 30-32, and 34.

39 Originally published by Anchor/Doubleday, reissued by Haymarket Books, see pp. 55 and 324.

40 Published by Beacon Press, see pp. 125-32.

41 In the late 1960s Zeiger had been a civilian volunteer at the Oleo Strut, the GI coffee house near Fort Hood, TX. For his filmography as a writer/director, see David Zeiger-Moviefone.

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### **External Links And Sources**

<http://www.sirnosir.com> [Vietnam GI resistance online archives]

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/index.html> [Vietnam War history and timeline]

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/virtualarchive/> [Vietnam War online archives]

<http://www.vwip.org/vwiphome.html> [Vietnam War Internet Project]

<http://www.clemson.edu/caah/history/facultypages/EdMoise/bibliography.html> [Vietnam War bibliography]

<http://www.nasaa-home.org/> [ASA history]

<http://www.oldschoolsandspies.org/> [ASA Davis Station, Saigon]

<http://www3.iath.virginia.edu/sixties/> [Sixties Project]

<http://www.sds/revolt.org/documents.htm> [SDS documents]

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## **“If They Survived, They Surely Might See The Troops Point Of View”**

From: Felicity Arbuthnot  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 26, 2007  
Subject: 'The Army you have ...'

'In December 2004, at a town hall meeting with troops in Kuwait, a soldier asked Rumsfeld about the lack of armor on military vehicles.

Rumsfeld explained the situation this way: “You go to war with the Army you have. They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time.” '

**Reading this I pondered on Rumsfeld et al, who have taken the young to war, never fought themselves, never seen a shot or missile's damage, scuttle in to the Green Zone (by helicopter) under guard in Iraq and the Afghan equivalent and yet are so casual with the lives of others.**

**I thought again of the distraught father, who lost his son to Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld's smash and grab raid for oil, who mourned that the Bush administration regards those so loved by their family and friends, as: 'throwaway soldiers'.**

**Next time they pitch up in Iraq, they should be made to drive themselves in to Baghdad (it's only about twenty minutes) unescorted, or even better: walk.**

**Not the situation they 'might want', but hey ho, if they survived, they surely might see the troops point of view.**

**Felicity A.**

**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.

**OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the USA searches through the personal possessions of an Iraqi household during a night armed home invasion in the town of Al-Meshahda, 32 miles north of Baghdad, June 11, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

**[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.**

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**AL-QAEDA’S BEST FRIEND:  
FIGHT HIM NOW, OR HE’LL FOLLOW  
YOU HOME**



**7.24.07: The inspiring leader Bush expresses joy and respect as he greets enthusiastic troops at Charleston Air Force Base in Charleston, South Carolina. (AFP/Jim Watson)**

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