

## **GI SPECIAL 5H5:**

### **The Occupation Surges Forward To Victory!**



U.S. Army troops from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division bring a broken down Bradley Fighting Vehicle into position to be towed while on patrol in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad Aug. 4, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

# **“I Do Think The Veterans And Soldiers Are The Ones To Lead The Way”**

**Comment: T**

**These are some lines from two emails received from someone who has never been on the evening news, never been interviewed by a pontificating network correspondent, never been invited to speak to an anti-war rally or postured importantly on any other stage. She is not an “American icon.”**

**She also has never sneered at citizens of the USA as stupid, greedy lazy garbage who don't care about the war in Iraq, as some have done and still do.**

**This is a woman with grandchildren in the army, who works in a mall, and who decided that she wouldn't just complain about the Bush's wars, she would act.**

**So, all by herself, she started talking to sailors who come to her mall from a nearby naval base, and giving them copies of Traveling Soldier and GI Special.**

**Then she took the lead this year in helping to organize a meeting in New London, Connecticut.**

**When Jonathan Hutto, Liam Madden, and Fabian Bouthillette from Iraq Veterans Against The War agreed to come there to speak, she worked with others in New London to bring out 30+ local citizens to hear why outreach to members of the armed forces is the most effective way to oppose the war, an unprecedented turnout there.**

**Most likely, none of the "important people" in Washington DC have ever heard of her. Most likely, if they did hear of her, they wouldn't really care that much.**

**Just some grandmother who works in a shopping mall? Who cares what she thinks, or does?**

**Yet when Senator Whoever and Representative So-And-So are long buried and forgotten, Johanna Pettit, and more like her all over the USA, will be remembered and honored as the people who made history and changed America forever.**

**That's how it works when people begin to stand up and fight back.**

**As tyrants, dictators and corrupt politicians have learned the hard way in one country after another, when the Johannas stand up, in ever-increasing numbers, and decide that enough is enough, the earth shakes, governments fall, and people take back their own destiny.**

**The few words she writes below contain more truth, and a better understanding of reality and what work must be done, than 10,000 long winded speeches by politicians and self-proclaimed "anti-war leaders."**

**Respect,  
T**

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**From: Johanna Pettit  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 23, 2007 & July 30, 2007  
Subject: Vets and soldiers have a lot of power [Excerpts]**

I have no doubt at all that the vets and soldiers have a powerful tool, the love of the American People, and they must use it on moral grounds because so many are suffering.

There are so many problems all going back to the take over of our country.

I do think the veterans and soldiers are the ones to lead the way.

They have the power to talk to the people and have them listen.

[A friend] says if I can fight Bush and the war he can fight an unjust legal system. He is upset to the center of his being.

Our fight has made him want to fight.

It is interesting how you go in a direction and it just grows in a lot of directions.

Love and peace,  
Johanna

MORE:

***Americans Are Indeed Highly  
Intelligent And Aware;  
Majority View President, Congress  
And Large Corporations In  
General With “Anxiety And  
Loathing”***

**“There’s A Sense That Every Single  
One Of These Institutions Is Totally  
Out For Their Own Betterment,  
Versus The Public They Serve”**

**“When Those Who Expressed  
Pessimism Were Asked To Identify A**

# Reason, The Iraq War Was Cited By The Highest Proportion, 56%”

Comment: T

Next time you run into one of those smug, self-righteous, elitist shit-heads who infest the anti-war movement like lice, and who specialize in writing lying articles about how most people don't care about anything but American Idol, mall shopping, etc. etc. cram this up their ass with a sharp stick.

These egomaniacs get off on loudly contrasting their own brilliance with the filthy lies they puke out about how most Americans are stupid clods: “zombies” they call us.

Drive them out of our movements now.

These elitists merely alienate people, and push them away.

They serve Bush and the Imperial government. If they're not on his payroll, they should be.

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August 2, 2007 By JOHN HARWOOD, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- Americans are feeling decidedly sour about the economy and those in charge of it, fueling Democratic efforts to target business interests in the 2008 election campaign.

More than two-thirds of Americans believe the U.S. economy is either in recession now or will be in the next year, a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll shows.

**In addition, the poll shows a lack of confidence in economic leaders.**

**That includes not just Mr. Bush and Congress, both of whom have the approval of fewer than one-third of all Americans, but the financial industry, large corporations in general and energy, drug and insurance companies in particular.**

“They're ambivalent about the current economy but pessimistic about the future,” said Republican pollster Neil Newhouse, who conducts the Journal/NBC survey with Democratic counterpart Peter Hart. One consequence is anger at leading economic actors, who respondents believe are failing to protect ordinary Americans' interests.

**“There's a combination of anxiety and loathing,” Mr. Hart said. “There's a sense that every single one of these institutions is totally out for their own betterment, versus the public they serve.”**

**The biggest drag on Republican fortunes remains the Iraq war, which has depressed the nation's mood across the board.**

Just 19% of Americans say things in the nation are headed in the right direction, while 67% say the country is off on the wrong track.

**When those who expressed pessimism were asked to identify a reason, the Iraq war was cited by the highest proportion, 56%. For the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, a plurality of Americans say the U.S. is less safe than before the attacks.**

Failures in the health-care system are next on the list at 31%, as Americans continue to struggle with rising costs and coverage gaps.

**Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine of New Jersey, in Washington yesterday to lobby for higher federal health-care spending, argues that the two concerns feed on each other since Americans “think the war is pre-empting our ability to deal with health care and other issues.”**

The poll shows Wall Street itself is a target of public ire. Just 16% expressed substantial confidence in the financial industry, slightly below those expressing confidence in the energy industry (18%) or the pharmaceutical industry (17%). Large corporations (11%) and health-insurance companies in particular (10%) fared even worse.

**About 67% of Americans expressed high confidence in the military.**

**By comparison, local governments drew expressions of high confidence from 34%, public schools 32%, religious leaders 27%, the national news media 18% and the federal government 16%.**

### **MORE:**

8.2.07 NBC News Poll, Wall St. Journal [Excerpt]

**Overall pessimism rises, with 62% saying victory [in Iraq] is no longer possible compared to 32% who say it is.**

**Democrats, independents and Republicans all disapprove of Congress’s job performance by at least 2-to-1 as lawmakers head for summer vacation.**

**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**

## **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Baghdad**

August 5, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office RELEASE No. 20070805-14

BAGHDAD – Two MNC-I Soldiers died of wounds suffered during combat operations in Baghdad August 5.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed, Two Wounded In Baghdad**

August 5, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070805-11

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed and two others were wounded during combat operations in a western section of the Iraqi capital Aug. 4.

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## **Manchester Soldier Killed In Action**

July 20 2007 WTVM

Twenty-five-year-old Army Specialist Benjamin Bartlett, Jr. was killed in Iraq Sunday by a rocket-propelled grenade.

He was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, as a fire support specialist assigned to the Second Battalion, Seventh Cavalry Regiment, Fourth Brigade Combat Team of the First Cavalry Division.

Many of Bartlett's friends in his hometown of Manchester, Georgia, are shocked and saddened by the news of his death. It's Manchester first loss of the Iraq War.

Known as Trey by his friends, Bartlett was known as shy, but always nice to everyone.

"Very quiet, very, kind of shy. You had to know him to get him to talk to you," said Tara Davis, a family friend.

A 2000 graduate of Flint River Academy, Bartlett worked at this hardware store in high school.

"He was a fine young fellow, he came from a good family in town," said Lee Taylor, Bartlett's former boss.

Taylor says the Bartlett family was stricken by tragedy in recent years. "His mother died at an early age, he had a sister that died, and his father just died earlier this year," Taylor said, and added that both of Bartlett's grandparents have also passed away.

"You almost thought he was going to be over there and be okay, because how much more can happen?" Tara Davis asked.

Davis and her family knew Trey for most of his life. Her younger brother, Lance, was Trey's best friend.

She says coping with the loss of his family was difficult for him, but he found a new purpose in his life by serving his country. "He found a place, he found a home, he had pride for his country, and that's what I believe he was meant to do," she said. Davis says she finds comfort in knowing that Trey is in a better place, with the people he loved the most.

"It's heartbreaking for the rest of us, but his whole family is together now," she said.

Funeral plans for Specialist Benjamin "Trey" Bartlett have not been finalized. His extended family is waiting for his remains to be returned to the U.S., which could take about a week.

Meanwhile, Spc. Bartlett has been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

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## Bakersfield Soldier Killed In Iraq

July 22, 2007 BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)

A Bakersfield Army sergeant killed in Iraq when his vehicle was attacked was remembered by family as a happy, well-respected man.

Sgt. 1st Class Luis E. Gutierrez-Rosales, 38, an Army Ranger, was killed Wednesday along with three other soldiers. They died in Adhamiyah, Iraq, when their vehicle was attacked by insurgents using an improvised explosive device and small-arms fire, the Defense Department said.

Gutierrez-Rosales was a platoon leader on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

He was a graduate of Bakersfield High School who served in the California Conservation Corps before joining the Army when he was 21, said his sister, Noemi Rosales.

Gutierrez-Rosales, known as "Kiki" to his family, always wanted to be a soldier. His mother, Maria Rosales, remembered him as a "happy, happy guy," who smiled, and talked to everybody. "He would say, 'Hi, how are you' to anyone on the street. And I say that not because he was my son, but because it is the truth."

He told his family not to worry about him, joking, "Oh, don't worry, God doesn't want the good-looking guys in heaven."

“He was always laughing with us,” said his sister, Sandra Rosales.

Gutierrez-Rosales had an 8-year-old daughter, Amber, and planned all his R&R trips around her, said Noemi Rosales.

Gutierrez-Rosales was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Schweinfurt, Germany. He was due to rotate out of Iraq in two months and had planned to marry his fiancée in Las Vegas before returning to Germany.

Maria Rosales had just come home from work Wednesday when she heard the knock on the door.

“I just opened the door and the two men were there, and I knew,” she said. “But I will try to be strong, because that’s what he always wanted.”

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## UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW



Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO. He writes: Pics showing what happens when US bases get mortared/rocketed. Obviously taken by a GI. I found them online, and don't know who took them.

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# AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

## **21-Year-Old Was The Second Houston-Area Serviceman Killed In As Many Days**

July 26, 2007 By ALLAN TURNER, Houston Chronicle

The military, tradition holds, turns boys into men. And that was true with Zachary Endsley, a quiet young man from Spring who, his stepfather recalled Wednesday, rocked along with life at a steady pace without a grumble or gripe.

"The Army turned him into a fine young man in a hurry," David Carroll mused. "But then he always was a good kid."

Carroll's comments came as he and his wife, Melinda; stepson, Aaron; and daughters Katy and Kimberly grappled with the magnitude of their loss. Endsley, a 21-year-old private, was killed in combat Monday in Afghanistan.

He was the second Houston-area serviceman killed in as many days. On Sunday, Marine Lance Cpl. Bobby Twitty, 20, of the Grimes County community of Bedias, was killed in a vehicle accident in Iraq.

The Rev. Larry York, minister of Crossroads Baptist Church, described the Carroll family as "my best friends." "Zachary's interests were to finish school and join the military and serve his country," York said. "He had a real passion to do that. He was interested in providing the freedoms we enjoy. He was a brave young man."

Carroll said his stepson graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 2004 and enlisted in the Army in December 2005. "There was an Army recruiting office not far from where he was working," Carroll recalled. "I suppose that's why he chose that branch of the service."

Endsley was sent to Afghanistan in January.

"He came home one evening and informed us of his decision to join," Carroll said. "Our response was that we were very proud of him.

"During war time, he understood the consequences of his actions and the dangers. We found that quite admirable. He joined when he knew there was a probability of seeing action.

"He was extremely polite," Carroll said. "He was a jokester type of guy. If you got him to say anything, he'd probably say something funny. ... He loved to play his guitar. He loved computer games. He wasn't extremely studious. He went to community college for a semester and decided that maybe that wasn't for him. He was one of these quiet kids. He'll be greatly missed."

Twitty joined the Marine Corps after he graduated from Madisonville High School in 2005.

Funeral services have tentatively been set for 2 p.m. Sunday at Madisonville Funeral Home. A mortician there said the family asked not to be contacted by the media.

Twitty's aunt, Carolyn Johnson, quoted in Wednesday's Navasota Examiner, described him as "a tough boy and a tough man with a big heart."

Twitty had been in Iraq five months.

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## ***Take Your Pick:***

**A. DoD And George W. Bush Are The  
Worlds Biggest Heroin Dealers**

**OR**

**B. The U.S. Military Has Completely Lost  
Control Of Afghanistan**

August 5, 2007 By MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press Writer

U.N. figures to be released in September are expected to show that Afghanistan's poppy production has risen up to 15 percent since 2006 and that the country now accounts for 95 percent of the world's crop, 3 percentage points more than last year, officials familiar with preliminary statistics told The Associated Press.

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

August 03, 2007 Xinhua & August 1, 2007 The Associated Press & Aug 5 (Reuters) & (Xinhua)

Taliban insurgents killed nine Afghan police and wounded eight in separate attacks in the south and southeast of the country in the past 24 hours, provincial officials said on Sunday.

Three policemen were killed and three wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the eastern province of Kunar on Sunday, said provincial governor Shalizi Deedar.

Taliban insurgents killed two policemen and wounded three in a attack on a police post in the Chapa Dara district in another part of Kunar, provincial spokesman Shah Wasi Mangal said.

“We killed seven Afghan police and overran three police check points in the Chapa Dara district of Kunar province on Sunday morning,” said Taliban spokesman Zabullah Mujaheed.

Separately, four Afghan policemen were killed and three wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade hit their vehicle in the southern province of Logar late on Saturday, said provincial governor Abdullah Wardak.

The Taliban on Friday claimed they had captured an Indian engineer in Baghlan province of northern Afghanistan. A local Taliban commander, Bahlol, said Taliban guerrillas on Thursday abducted the Indian who was working for a power project at Puli Khumri, the capital of Baghlan.

In southern Kandahar province, police fended off a Taliban attack at their checkpoint in Zhari district on Tuesday, leaving one policeman dead, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

A bomb attacked a police vehicle patrolling in Manogal district of the eastern Kunar province on Sunday, killing three policemen and injuring two others, provincial government spokesman Shah Hussein Mangal told Xinhua.

Taliban militants attacked a police checkpoint in Jalai district early Sunday morning and the police fought back.

During the 3-hour conflict, one policeman was killed and another one injured, while one militant was injured and captured.

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

## **TROOP NEWS**

**Military Families Tormented By  
“Privatized” Landlords:  
They Combine Filthy, Dangerous  
“Privatized” Housing With Blackmail  
To Clear Families For Moving;  
A \$300 “Transfer Fee”**

**Here, you have to once again either abide by very strict inspections or pay someone of their choosing to clean it for you.**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
August 06, 2007

An article in the July 16 Army Times addressed differences in military housing since the Army gave control to private companies ("Poor housing conditions," Letters). There are so many things wrong that I had to put my two cents in.

When the Army began talking about giving control to private companies, I attended all the meetings and listened to all the Army officials and the people from the companies.

**They swore things were going to change for the better, that things like moves in and moves out were going to be much easier for us. They also stated that standards were going to be held just as high as when the Army ran it, and that maintenance issues would be resolved quicker and better.**

Things went rather well at Fort Bragg, N.C. In June 2006, my family moved to Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., on PCS orders.

What a rude awakening it was.

**We agreed to take old housing until new housing became available. There is black mold in many areas around the house, including the bathroom, which has no window or ventilation system, and the furnace was full of mold. Also, the pest problem in these old houses is unbelievable.**

**There are windows in my house that will not stay open, and they are too old to replace or get parts for, so maintenance's solution for that was to cut dowels to the size that was needed to prop the windows open if I wanted to get some fresh air in the house.**

**We understood that it would be our responsibility to move ourselves from old to new housing, but then they explained that there would be a \$300 transfer fee.**

**What do they need that for?**

**They are already getting 100 percent of our Basic Allowance for Housing.**

**As far as the easy moves in and moves out, I sure don't see that at this post. At Fort Bragg, it was "sweep, mop, wipe everything down" and you were done.**

**Here, you have to once again either abide by very strict inspections or pay someone of their choosing to clean it for you.**

**I have seen people not be able to clear because the floor wasn't shiny enough or the oven (that is probably 15 years old) needs to be wiped out with Windex.**

Aren't these the same rules we had to go by when the Army ran it? Where is the difference?

Deb Owen  
Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

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***Sound Familiar?***  
**“Discontent Is Growing Among  
Chinese Ex-Soldiers”**  
**“Beijing Fears The Veterans’  
Discontent”**  
**“The Biggest Protest By Veterans In  
China Since The 1949 Revolution”**



**An anonymous military source said: “The government was caught unprepared . . . It is worried that veterans will continue to link up and bring chaos to society.”**

08/03/2007 Beijing (Asia News)

**Discontent is growing among Chinese ex-soldiers.**

**They accuse local governments of leaving them without work after dismantling war units, and of not paying them pensions as decreed by the central government, which fears the veterans' protests.**

**On the occasion of festivities to mark the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the People's Liberation Army, Chinese veterans say they have "little to celebrate" because "no one listens to their grievances or helps them to emerge from a tragic situation" of unemployment and poverty.**

The government has demobilised 1.7 million soldiers in more than two decades. Between 1997 and 2000 alone, 500,000 troops were rendered redundant to aid the nation's "modernisation" drive.

However, no alternative form of employment or social security has so far been found for these demobbed soldiers.

**A veteran of the Navy, Mrs Chen, told the South China Morning Post about her odyssey: "I gave service for many years but when I was dismissed from active service I no longer received anything. What's more, I have serious kidney problems now because I used to work with toxic substances. The government has never cared about this so I have tried to kill myself twice."**

After years of legal battles, Chen managed to get a council pension but not a military one: "Now I want to live, to be close to my only daughter. The only thing I ask is to be able to buy food, and medicines for treatment."

**Ex-soldiers put the blame most of all on provincial governments which, after having demobilized armed units in the wake of economic openings and subsequent industrial privatization, did not manage to supply new places of work to soldiers and also refuses to pay them the service insurance stipulated by the central government.**

The matter has been taken up by President Hu Jintao himself, who since 2003 has been asking for the "highest commitment" to supply soldiers with an alternative job.

He has also reminded local governments of their duty towards "protectors of the Homeland". But his call appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

A group of veterans said: "It is the autonomous municipality of Beijing that ignores us most of all. They don't seem to hear what the central government is saying." This statement was confirmed by an Asia News source in the capital who said: "Here it is said that there is no communication between Zhongnanhai (the headquarters of the central government, a few metres away from the entrance to the Forbidden City) and the rest of the city. The two ignore each other."

**Beijing fears the veterans' discontent.**

The Communist Party has always seen the armed forces as an indispensable tool to keep its monopoly over the government, which has lasted for more than 50 years now. Thanks to the army, the revolt of the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square on

4 June 1989 was suppressed. The army played a fundamental role in bringing about the end of the Cultural Revolution and the arrest of the Gang of Four.

**In April, 1,500 retired officers and soldiers from 20 provinces wearing their old uniforms staged silent sit-down protests in front of the General Political Department of Beijing, a branch of the PLA which oversees personnel, propaganda dissemination, song and dance troupes and athletes.**

The protest started on Monday 11 and ended on Wednesday 13

**Police and officials dispersed the protest by forcibly putting the petitioners on rented buses and sending them back to their hometowns. On the Wednesday, however, more than 400 retired soldiers gathered on the steps of the office of the department to protest.**

**It was the biggest protest by veterans in China since the 1949 revolution.**

**An anonymous military source said: "The government was caught unprepared . . . It is worried that veterans will continue to link up and bring chaos to society."**

**The Chinese government allocated US\$ 60 billion to its military budget in 2004, but pensions for retired servicemen average 300 yuan (US\$ 30) per month.**

**One of them, decorated with 15 medals for bravery, said: "This is all I have left, after a life of service to the Party."**



## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

# **Baghdad Electricity Cut By Resistance Attacks; Only Two Incoming Power Lines Left; “When We Fix A Line, The Insurgents Attack It The Next Day” Water And Power Off In South Iraq For Three Days, So Far**

August 4, 2007 By: STEVEN R. HURST, (AP) [Excerpts]

**Water mains have gone dry in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, where the whole province south of Baghdad has been without power for three days.**

“We no longer need to watch television documentaries about the stone age. We are actually living in it. We are in constant danger because of the filthy water and rotten food we are having,” said Hazim Obeid, who sells clothing at a stall in the Karbala market.

**Aziz al-Shimari, the Electricity Ministry spokesman in Baghdad, said power generation nationally was only half of demand and that there had been four countrywide blackouts over the past two days.**

“Many southern provinces, such as Basra, Diwaniyah, Nassiriyah, Babil have disconnected their power plants from the national grid. Northern provinces, including Kurdistan, are doing the same,” al-Shimari said.

He complained that the central government was unable to do anything about that or the fact that some provinces were failing to take themselves off the supply grid once they had consumed their daily ration of electricity.

Najaf province spokesman Ahmed Deibel confirmed to The Associated Press Sunday that the gas turbine generator there was removed from the national grid. He said the plant produced 50 megawatts while the province needed at least 200.

“What we produce is not enough even for us. We disconnected it from the national grid three days ago because the people in Baghdad were getting too much, leaving little electricity for Najaf,” he said.



Which confirmed al-Shimari's charge that "we have absolutely no control over some areas in the south."

Al-Shimari said the electricity shortages now were the worst since the summer of 2003, shortly after the U.S.-led invasion to topple Saddam.

"And what makes Baghdad the worst place in the country is that most of the lines leading into the capital have been destroyed. That is compounded by the fact that Baghdad has limited generating capacity."

**He said that there are 17 high-tension lines running into Baghdad but only two were operational. The rest had been sabotaged.**

"When we fix a line, the insurgents attack it the next day," al-Shimari said.

**In Karbala, provincial spokesman Ghalib al-Daami said a 50 megawatt power station there was shut down for lack of fuel and the whole province had been without water and electricity for past three days.**

He said almost half the provincial capital had sewage seeping above ground because pump trucks to clean septic tanks were unable to operate for lack of gasoline. The health threat to citizens was also contaminating crops in the region.

**Many people who normally would rely on small home generators can't afford to buy fuel. Gasoline has shot up putting the fuel out of range for all but the wealthy.**

The lack of electricity is particularly acute at this time of year when average daily temperatures reach between 43 and 49 Celsius.

"We wait for the sunset to enjoy some coolness," said Qassim Hussein, a 31-year-old day labourer in Karbala.

"The people are fed-up. There is no water, no electricity, there is nothing, but death. I've even had more trouble with my wife these last three days. Everybody is on edge."

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**"The Reception We Received In  
The Military Towns Show That  
Military Members Are Ready For  
Anti-War Activism"**



From: Cherie Eichholz  
Sent: 2 Aug 2007  
Subject: Convention Resolution

At the upcoming VFP convention, a resolution will be presented to the board and members, regarding reaching out to military personnel, specifically through strategies like the March 2007 Veterans' Convoy: see [report below].

**We believe military personnel who resist this war need to know they have our support.**

We are asking for your support in getting this resolution approved at the convention.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Kelson and Cherie Eichholz

Cherie Eichholz  
Veterans For Peace National Office  
[www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)  
314-725-6005 ext. 105

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Veterans For Peace.org [Excerpts]

**Veterans For Peace sponsored a veterans' convoy through the southeastern United States that terminated in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans. This is the story of the convoy.**

Veterans, including those who served in the Vietnam and Iraq wars, traveled to Fayetteville NC, home of the Army's Ft. Bragg, on March 17, 2007 to attend the local anti-war parade and rally as the first event of the veterans' convoy. The parade and rally were a fitting beginning of two weeks of effort to support the troops, end the war and to work for peace and justice.

The day after the parade and rally, members of the convoy, hosted and supported by local peace activists, fanned out at lunch time throughout the parking lots of fast food restaurants to engage active duty military members about the war.

The active duty service people were given copies of two videos, Sir! No Sir! and The Ground Truth, GI Rights pocket card and a copy of the Appeal For Redress.

The Appeal For Redress is a way for active duty service members to appeal to their Congressional and Senatorial representatives to urge an end to the war. It is sponsored by active duty service members, and by a committee of veterans and military family members.

**An Iraq War veteran, in a related action, stationed himself and one volunteer on the sidewalk near the entrance to the front gate of Ft. Bragg.**

The veteran held a sign saying, Iraq Veterans Against the War and the volunteer, standing about 20 yards behind, held a sign with the organization's WEB site. As soldiers drove by, a small minority of them ignored the action, gave a thumb down sign or flashed the finger. Three stopped and angrily yelled pro-war slogans.

**However, the response of passing troops was overwhelmingly supportive. They smiled, waved and/or gave a thumb up or the peace sign.**

**After engaging the troops in Fayetteville, the participants went by bus convoy to engage the troops stationed in five other military bases, to wit: Fort Jackson, SC; Ft. Stewart, GA; Mayport/Jacksonville Naval Stations, FL; Ft. Benning, GA, and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama.**

Again, the convoy members were received overwhelmingly in a warm and appreciative manner as documented in media reports.

**For example, one soldier, when he was driving by the convoy action, upon realizing what was going on, got so excited that he flew open his driver's door and started out of his car to greet us before he stopped his car and parked it.**

**He excitedly exclaimed that he was against the war.**

Most soldiers who were approached were very respectful and accepted the materials convoy members handed them. A small minority waved convoy members away. There was no hostility expressed, not by convoy members or by service personnel. Police officers at one stop thanked the veterans for coming to support the troops.

A soldier said he believed Veterans For Peace convoy members were supporting the troops in good faith and thanked them for coming.

**At least one military family engaged in debate. The Appeal For Redress was offered through a car window and accepted by the female driver. A man sitting next to her in an army uniform took it from her and threw it out the window. The woman got out of the car, retrieved the Appeal For Redress, re-entered the car and began a dialog with the soldier, possibly her husband.**

**Convoy members engaged many people at shopping centers who were related to soldiers, including spouses. Every one of these people, not most, but all, were very appreciative of convoy members' efforts, even excited.**

**There were spikes in the numbers of signers of the Appeal For Redress and membership applications by active duty members of the armed forces to Iraq Veterans Against the War from the areas the convoy visited.**

Veterans For Peace members learned a great deal from the veterans' convoy.

**Many of us believe that the Appeal For Redress, which was initiated by active duty military personnel, and the reception we received in the military towns show that military members are ready for anti-war activism.**

**The convoy effort and like actions may be the way to fuel this activism.**

**Some members of the convoy are seeking donations and funding to finance a full time presence by members of Veteran For Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War at as many bases as possible.**

**“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**

## **“How Did This Country Become The Imperial Power It Has Become?”**

**We have frittered away our substance in pursuit of power which was not ours to possess, and stolen money from poor people in backward countries who could not defend themselves.**

Date: Aug 4, 2007  
To: GI Special  
From: Mycroft [Veteran] [Excerpts]  
Subject: The Empire

How did this country become the Imperial power it has become?

Barbara Tuckman who wrote the classic Guns of August, discusses this in her The Proud Tower, a series of 8 essays/snapshots about the epoch that preceded and created WWI.

By 1890 the Indian Wars were finally brought to a close with the battle of Wounded Knee.

The country to the Pacific was ours, but it wasn't enough.

Alfred Thayer Mahan had just written a brilliant strategic explanation of the dominant importance of Naval power in the military situation, and it was read widely and greedily by the Japanese, the Germans (Kaiser Wilhelm II had a copy placed on every German vessel), of course the English, and the Americans.

The thought came into vogue that since we were now a great power, we should dominate the Caribbean, safeguard the coming Panama Canal, and even dominate the Philippines and create an "Open Door" to China for American goods. We also needed to annex Hawaii to enable our ambitions in the Pacific.

And so a series of ferocious battles ensued for the soul of the country.

The first great test was the struggle for annexation of Hawaii. On the one side were the Imperialists, who preferred to be called "expansionists", such as Roosevelt, Lodge, Beveridge, and Mahan.

On the other side were those who later formed the "Anti-Imperialist League", such as Carl Schurz, Samuel Gompers, Andrew Carnegie, Speaker of the House and one of the greatest politicians in our history Thomas Reed of Maine, and finally the president of Harvard Charles Elliot, who was considered the finest private citizen in the country.

Meanwhile the Cuban freedom fighters were fighting the Spanish, as were the Phillipinos fighting for their freedom.

Well, the battleship Maine blew up and we dispatched the Spanish, and we shelled Manila and embarked on a viscous war with the Pilipino freedom fighters.

Terrible atrocities were committed on both sides.

But in the end we prevailed and crushed the free aspirations of both countries in the name of Empire.

We had forsaken our own ideals, our very purpose, our promise to the world and to humanity itself, and reduced ourselves to the role of colonial butcher as we quite literally stepped into the boots of the Spanish.

**We have frittered away our substance in pursuit of power which was not ours to possess, and stolen money from poor people in backward countries who could not defend themselves.**

### **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.

# What To Do Now? Organize Something Worth Organizing: “The Amount Of Active, Reserve, And Guard Signatures Would Be Staggering”

[From The GI Special Achieves: 2005]

Engaging those returning from Iraq in conversation, you are going to get both pro and con responses. However, reflecting on my own experiences with those I've spoken to, the overwhelming majority believe this insane conflict to be wrong from the get go. There's a bit of information we've fallen way short of making the general public aware of!

From: Alycia A. Barr  
To: thomasbarton@earthlink.net  
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2005 3:15 AM  
Subject: GI SPECIAL 3C88

Your article, “Demand His Resignation,” sums up my feeling on the subject, especially point #2.

I'm right there with you, and want you to know you have my full attention and support.

Our soldiers know the “military machine” can make them, or break them. Which, in my opinion, is why they continue to deploy, some for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> time, back to a situation they have already determined to be a bogus cause. That, coupled with the brainwashing about protecting their buddies, is enough to prompt, even my own son, to label redeployment his “duty.” My response to him is always the same. “When a stupid man does something he is ashamed of he always declare that it is his duty.”, George Benard Shaw, and “Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.”, Alexander Hamilton.

After many, many conversations with those currently serving, as well as, countless Vets, that theme of , “I can't let them go without me...”, is a constant. Only in the seasoned

Vets have I heard, "Instead of letting 'em know I had his back, I should've been saying 'let's get the fuck out of here. Maybe he'd be alive today.'"

That loyalty is ingrained into every recruit's training, and one that need to be addressed and debunked within the ranks, when an illegal action is involved, like this invasion. That's one of the reasons I rail about the IVAW being brought to the forefront of this "stop the war" effort, because it's a joke without them, and accomplishes nothing!

Engaging those returning from Iraq in conversation, you are going to get both pro and con responses.

However, reflecting on my own experiences with those I've spoken to, the overwhelming majority believe this insane conflict to be wrong from the get go. There's a bit of information we've fallen way short of making the general public aware of!

**If your "resignation" petition were to materialize bet the amount of active, reserve, and guard signatures would be staggering.**

In Peace and Humanity,  
Alycia A. Barr

**[This is the article she refers to: From GI Special 3C88: 10.20.05]**

## **Demand His Resignation**

"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. ME 6:373, Papers 12:356

It's absolutely amazing that otherwise rational people who can go on for days and weeks about how the Congress is a war Congress can turn right around and ask Congress to impeach George Bush over the issue of the Iraq war.

If you want Bush out:

1. Start a national petition campaign demanding his resignation and that of his entire government.
2. When you hit one million signatures, gather in Washington DC, and every other major city, and above all at the gates of every military base in the country, on a date certain, and engage in a peaceful assembly, in order to gauge public support for further, more extensive activity, and to show our brothers and sisters in the armed forces our honorable intentions, and our need for their support.
3. Determine the next steps to take to enforce the resignation. Be sure our troops are well informed.

When a clear majority wish his resignation, things will get interesting.

Our troops will not obey orders to kill us at that point.

Of course it will take time, and extensive preparation. Winning always does.

T

**MORE:**

02 November 2005 By Scott Conroy, CBS News

The New York [anti-war] rally drew a crowd of what appeared to be thousands of protesters, who ranged in their political affiliations from moderate Democrats to members of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

“I wish there were more people here,” Janice Bryant of New York said. “I don’t understand what everybody’s thinking in this country. What do people need to understand that these people in this administration need to go?”

While the World Can’t Wait organization hopes to initiate a public drive that will eventually force President Bush out of the White House, the group does not attempt to lay out the chain of events that would produce such an outcome.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **“Glad Tidings From Baghdad At Last”**

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

August 3, 2007 Jonathan Steele, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Glad tidings from Baghdad at last.

The Iraqi parliament has gone into summer recess without passing the oil law that Washington was pressing it to adopt.

For the Bush administration this is irritating, since passage of the law was billed as a “benchmark” in its battle to get Congress not to set a timetable for US troop withdrawals. The political hoops through which the government of Nouri al-Maliki has been asked to jump were meant to be a companion piece to the US “surge”.

Just as General David Petraeus, the current US commander, is due to give his report on military progress next month, George Bush is supposed to tell Congress in mid-September how the Maliki government is moving forward on reform.



**The signs are that, on both fronts, the administration will carry on playing for time. Bush and his officials are already suggesting they will maintain the surge for another year, and that Petraeus's report will merely be an interim score card. It will not use the fateful Vietnam-era language of light at the end of the tunnel, but it will say progress is under way and therefore more congressional patience is needed.**

Similarly Ryan Crocker, the US ambassador in Baghdad, is playing down the urgency of the benchmarks. He has reminded the US media that Congress can take years to make reforms on complex issues such as immigration and healthcare. He argues it is unfair to expect the Iraqi parliament to do everything as fast as outsiders might wish.

**That said, the administration - particularly the vice-president, Dick Cheney - and the oil lobby are enraged that the oil law is stalled.**

**The main reason is not that the Iraqi government and parliament are a lazy bunch of Islamist incompetents or narrow-minded sectarians, as is often implied.**

**MPs are studying the law more carefully, and have begun to see it as a major threat to Iraq's national interest regardless of people's religion or sect.**

This is the second bit of good news from Iraq.

Civil society, trade unions, professional oil experts and the media are stirring on the oil issue and putting their points across to parliament in the way democracy is meant to work. The oil unions have held strikes even at the risk of having leaders and members arrested.

The pervasive outside image of Iraq as a country in free-fall where violence on a mass scale is an ever-present threat is not wrong. But it can mask the fact that "normal life" and indeed "normal politics" are still possible.

**The real reason why the Bush administration wanted the oil law rushed through was that it feared public discussion, and was worried that the more people understood what the law entails, the greater the chances of its defeat. Key parties in the Iraqi parliament oppose it, including the main Sunni party - which this week withdrew from government - as well as the Shia Sadrists and Fadhila.**

Washington has promoted the law as a "reconciliation" issue, claiming its early passage would show that Iraq's ethnic and sectarian communities could share revenues on a fair basis. But this is a trick.

Only one of the law's 43 articles mentions revenue-sharing, and then just to say that a separate "federal revenue law" will decide its distribution.

The law that Washington and the US oil lobby really want would set the arrangements for foreign companies to operate in Iraq's oil sector. Independent analysts say the terms being proposed are far more favourable for foreign oil companies than those of any other oil-producing state in the region, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

They all impose some safeguards for the national interest, whether it is having a national company that controls production; specifying in contracts the maximum level of foreigners' profits; limiting foreigners to a small number of fields; or insisting that disputes are arbitrated in local rather than international tribunals. Other big oil countries, including Russia and Venezuela, insist on parliamentary approval for contracts covering "strategic" fields or for joint ventures.

**Platform, an oil industry watchdog, warns that the Iraq oil and gas law could "sign away Iraq's future". Greg Muttitt, its co-director, says: "The law is permissive. All of Iraq's unexploited and as yet unknown reserves, which could amount to between 100bn and 200bn barrels, would go to foreign companies."**

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

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



Iraqi kids stand by their damaged house in Sadr City June 30, 2007. Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S.A. attacked their neighborhood before dawn. Iraqi police and hospital officials said the victims were civilians killed in their homes. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

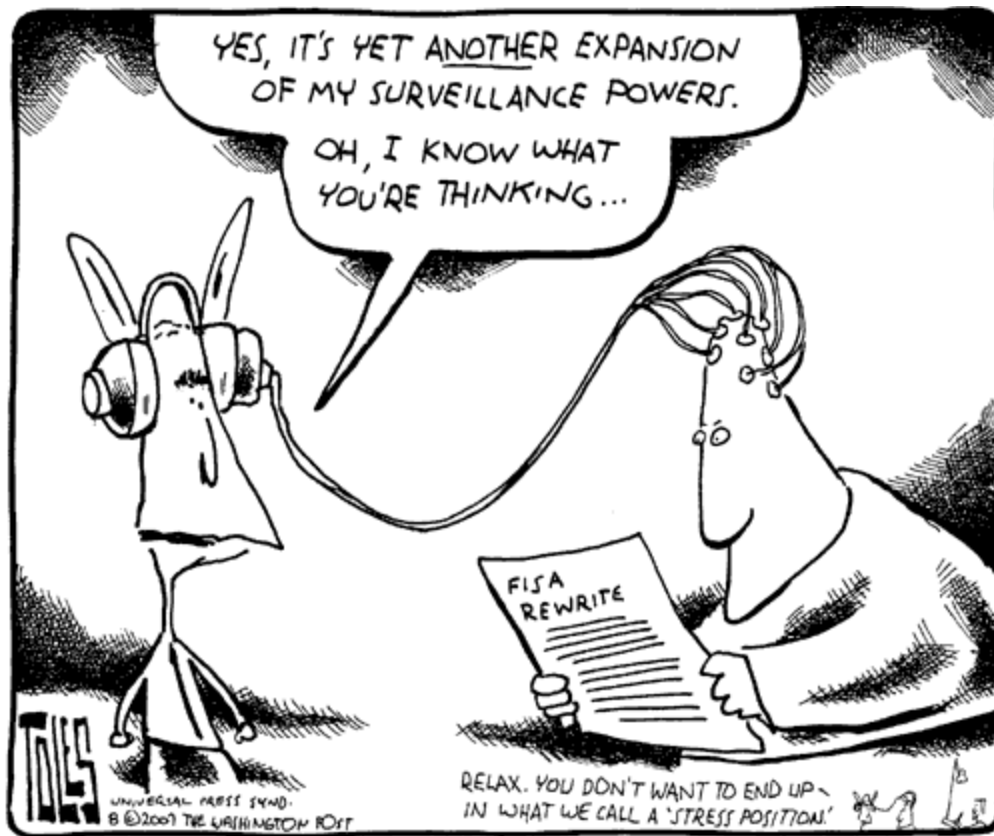
**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better**

and call it “sovereign,” and “detain” anybody who doesn’t like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

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

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

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Avoid Kent, Ohio;**

# **They Hate Our Democratic Rights There: Citizen Arrested For Posting Anti- Bush Sign, While Army Recruiters Can Post What They Please**

**However, Egler said he believes the message on the sign he posted is at issue, not the act itself.**

**He said he can show dozens of other examples of advertising on public property in the city, including U.S. Army recruitment posters, "for sale" signs and other handbills tacked to public property that have not attracted the same attention.**

[Thanks to Steve Vargo and Dar, who sent this in.]

August 2, 2007 by David O'Brien, Record-Courier

KENT, Ohio - For doing what he believes is expressing his First Amendment right to free speech, Kevin Egler has a trial date in Portage County Municipal Court in Kent.

The South Lincoln Street resident was issued a \$125 ticket July 25 by Kent police officer Jerry Schlosser for "advertising on public property," according to court records.

His advertisement?

A sign reading "Impeach," urging the impeachment of President Bush placed in a small public garden at the intersection of Main and Willow streets and Haymaker Parkway.

Egler, 45, said he has placed more than 450 anti-Bush signs in the Kent area.

Kent city ordinance 503.02 states "No person shall stick, post or attach any advertisement, poster, sign, handbill or placard of any kind or description upon any telegraph, telephone, railway or electric light pole within the city, nor upon any public building, voting booth, flagging, curbstone, walk, step stone or sidewalk, or write, print or impress or in any manner attach any notice or advertisement of any kind upon any public building, voting booth, flagging, curbstone, step, stone or sidewalk" that is the property of the city.

**However, Egler said he believes the message on the sign he posted is at issue, not the act itself.**

**He said he can show dozens of other examples of advertising on public property in the city, including U.S. Army recruitment posters, "for sale" signs and other handbills tacked to public property that have not attracted the same attention.**

If he can't place them in Kent, Egler said he will move his operations to the Akron area.

Egler, who is not affiliated with any local anti-war groups, hosted a small gathering Tuesday with Chicago activist and poet Mario Penalver, who has undertaken an 800-mile walk from Chicago to Washington D.C. to protest the Iraq War and inspire dialogues on peace.

Joining Penalver are Denver-based activists Brother Raymond Schwab and Brother Elliott Nesch of Beit Shalom Ministries, an evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to protesting the war, who left Denver March 1 on their own mission to Washington D.C.

All three men attended Egler's hearing Wednesday, picketing outside the Kent courthouse with signs saying "Honk for peace" and "Impeach Bush."

The three activists said they are disturbed by what they believe is a political motive behind the ticket.

"We need to be more vigilant in times of war to protect our liberties," Schwab said.

"We can't let fear compromise our Constitution," Penalver said.

Judge John Plough set a pretrial for Aug. 9 and a trial for Aug. 16.

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

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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/qi-special.htm>

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