

GI Special: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net

8.7.07

Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

GI SPECIAL 5H6:

We Were There:

We Say:

You Can Help The Troops End The War



FROM:

Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army, Iraq Service
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War

Lt. Fabian Bouthillette, USNR, Iraq Service
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War
U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2003

Dear Friend of GI Special –

We don't have to tell you how crucial American service members are to the success of the anti-war movement.

You have seen letters in these pages from troops in Iraq and Afghanistan condemning the unending "war on terrorism" for what it is: an all out betrayal and misuse of the military.

These troops are bravely speaking their minds despite the constant risk of harassment (or worse) from their chain of command—and they deserve all the support we can provide.

Since 2004, when just four people sat down in a small New York apartment to talk about the possibility of reaching out to GIs, the Military Project has focused completely on this task. The Military Project is a democratic membership organization that is not supported by any grants and does not have non-profit status.

To our knowledge, we are the only organization started by civilians that was specifically formed to support anti-war troops. We depend on our membership (which has continued to grow) and allies like you for our everyday expenses, which we work very hard to keep to a minimum.

Even so, expenses like printing, meeting costs, travel, Web site maintenance and postage add up. For a small under-resourced group like ours, they can become a barrier to expanding our outreach work.

If you want to show concrete support to GIs who are coming out against the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, PLEASE support the work of the Military Project! We need your help—both in reaching out to GIs and—URGENTLY—in providing the financial resources that make this work possible.

We hope that after reading this letter you will be as generous as your means allow in helping us to reach as many troops as we can. They need to know that their dissent is supported, and they won't and can't know that unless we are out there in person to communicate exactly that message.

In collaboration with Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the New York City chapter of Military Families Speak Out, the Military Project regularly conducts outreach to National Guard and Reserve troops attending drill at an uptown Manhattan armory.

Since beginning the outreach work in January 2006, we have made major strides at the armory. We have earned the trust of guard members and have

had conversations with many who have been deployed to Iraq more than once.

We distribute packets of literature to soldiers as they arrive at the armory for drill early in the morning. These packets are constantly updated to address issues relevant to guard members—and they are distributed with homemade cookies—which are received with warm smiles.

Soldiers we speak with at the armory almost always respond favorably to material we distribute—much of which comes from GI Special and it's fair to say that many, if not most, of the soldiers at that armory are more than interested in our literature. One soldier saw the words "Fight Back" on the cover of the Iraq Veterans Against the War pamphlet and said to me that he was sick of fighting. He kept reading and nodded in approval as he walked toward the armory. Another soldier, an officer, was not willing to speak out as he was in uniform, but he made it clear that he approved of the Military Project's message.

Since beginning outreach work at the Harlem armory, the Military Project has sought to expand its impact by equipping other civilians to engage in this work in places like Groton, CT, home to the Navy submarine base. We have also collaborated with a local group in New Jersey to reach out to a Marine reserve unit.

We are planning to continue to expand and broaden this work to try to reach service members at every military installation where we can connect with fellow civilian supporters and make contacts with military personnel.

We have also created a resource manual for use by folks who want to do this work but who are far away from New York and the east coast.

Please download it and put it to use—and contact us if we can help you get started! [<http://www.militaryproject.org>]

As veterans and members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, we cannot stress enough how important it is to show our troops support in their resistance against the war.

Our first priority should be to end this war immediately.

The sooner this war ends, the fewer veterans there will be that will need help with PTSD, depleted uranium poisoning, and the hundreds of other problems occurring because of this war.

Outreach of the sort conducted by the Military Project is vital to bringing this war to an end NOW. This outreach is simple, effective, and promotes

solidarity between troops and civilians who are opposed to this immoral and illegal war.

Thank you for your support—and please contact us if you would like to join us in this urgent work.

Please send checks or money orders (made out the Military Project) to: Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army, Iraq Service
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War**

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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**

GI SPECIALS BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

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

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

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