

## GI SPECIAL 5112:



**“America Needs To See  
What We See Through  
The Eyes Of The  
Soldier”**

**“If You Are In A Leadership Position  
From Senator To President, You  
Should Have To Come Here And Live  
With The Soldiers On The Ground”**

09/11/07 CNN [Excerpts]

As you can see, we don't have palaces as some of our national leadership likes to make out that we have," says Army Staff Sgt. David Julian as he scans a room crammed wall-to-wall with cots where some soldiers try and catch sleep and others joke with each other.

Staff Sgt. Harry Thomas Morgan, on his third tour of duty, says, "It is my personal belief that if you are in a leadership position from senator to president, you should have to come here and live with the soldiers on the ground, not necessarily in the 'Green Zone' where we have the most luxuries.

"America needs to see what we see through the eyes of the soldier."

Morgan and Julian are part of Delta Company, 1-64 Armor, the last of the surge battalions to arrive in the capital.

There are those who are so war weary they just want to forget Iraq, and others who fear that failure in Iraq will mean all the lives lost were for naught.

It's also hard for them to describe what they do, even when trying to explain it to family.

"My mother sent me an e-mail the other day asking me, 'What's it like? What's your job like day in and day out?'

"And I started writing back and I didn't know what to say," says Pfc. Tyler Norton, a fresh-faced medic in his early 20s and on his first tour of duty with Delta Company.

Norton and the others with Delta Company live in a two-story home converted two weeks ago into the Washash Joint Security Station.

#### **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.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **Kentucky National Guardsman Killed In Iraq**



Private First Class Sammie E. Phillips of Vine Grove was killed Monday when his vehicle overturned during a traffic-control mission in Iraq. AP/Kentucky National Guard

9.11.07 The Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. --Kentucky National Guard officials have announced the death of a third soldier in less than a month. Adj. Gen. Donald C. Storm says 19-year-old Pvc. Sammie E. Phillips of Vine Grove was killed Monday when his vehicle overturned while conducting a traffic control mission in Iraq.

Two other soldiers have been killed in just over two weeks - Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carnes died Aug. 26 during a fire fight in Afghanistan and Staff Sgt. Delmar White died Sept. 1 when a roadside bomb exploded while he and other soldiers were escorting a convoy in Iraq.

Phillips was assigned to Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, based in Carlisle.

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## **Camp Victory Attacked; 11 U.S. Soldiers Wounded, “Third Country National Killed**

9.11.07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070911- 14

BAGHDAD – One third-country national was killed and eleven Coalition Forces members were wounded Sept. 12 in an indirect fire attack on Camp Victory.

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# The Next Time You Hear That “Sectarian Civil War” Bullshit From Some Lame Fool, Cram This Up Their Ass

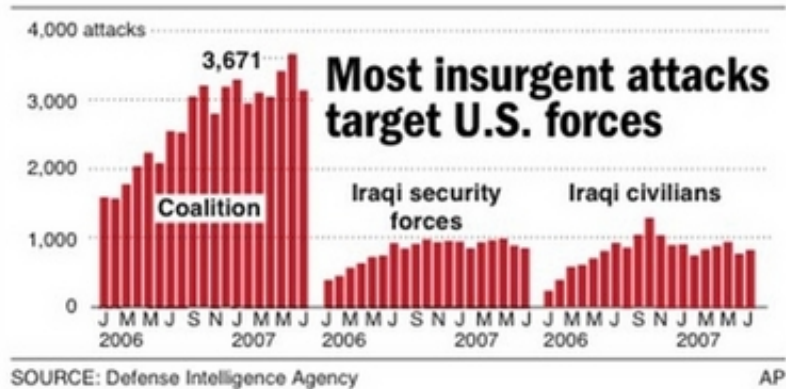


Chart shows number of insurgent attacks against, Iraqi civilians, Iraqi security forces and U.S. troops

[Gee, it looks like the overwhelming majority of attacks are against Occupation and Collaborator “security forces,” doesn’t it? How amazing. What a surprise.

[Of course, the pompous idiot windbags who babble endlessly about the “civil war” in Iraq don’t give a shit about reality. Never did, never will: it doesn’t fit their opportunistic little political agenda. T]

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## TROOP NEWS

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



Funeral services for Army Sgt. 1st Class David A. Heringes at Arlington National Cemetery, Sept. 10, 2007. Heringes, 36, of Tampa, Fla., was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. Heringes died of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations in Bayji, Iraq. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

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## **IRAQ VETERAN ARRESTED FOR ANTI-WAR POSTERS**

### **[Thanks For Your Service]**

### **[Welcome Home To Occupied America]**



A Park Police officer, left, arrests Adam Kokesh, second from left, of the Iraq Veterans Against the War group, and Tina Richards, third from left, of the Grassroots America, Mother of Marine, in Lafayette Park across from the White House in Washington, Sept. 6, 2007, as they were putting up anti-war posters. (AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)

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## **“Morale Has Never Been So Low In The Military”**



# “This Is Even Coming From The Top Echelons Of The Military Leadership”



Matt Howard

[Thanks to Katherine G, Military Project & Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

10 September 2007 By Patrick O'Connor, World Socialist Web Site [Excerpts]

**Former US Marine Matt Howard, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, toured Australia last week, speaking at a number of antiwar meetings as well as demonstrations in Sydney held during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Howard, 26, was a 7-tonne driver in the Marine Corps' 1st Tank Battalion during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. He served a second tour of duty in 2004.**

Before speaking with the World Socialist Web Site, he addressed last Saturday's protest in Sydney:

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“George Bush, my commander in chief, arrives this week from the Green Zone in Iraq to the Green Zone in Sydney for APEC,” he told the demonstrators. “He comes with an

entourage of over 800 personnel, this city has been shut down, barricades have been thrown up everywhere.

**“Everywhere Bush travels he has to erect a fortress to protect himself. What the hell is this man so afraid of? I’ll tell you what he’s afraid of—he’s afraid of the people.**

“He’s afraid of the 75 percent of Americans who disapprove of his leadership and the 90 percent of the world that disagrees with his brutal foreign policy.

“He’s afraid that the people also know that there would never be boots on the ground in Iraq if there wasn’t oil under the ground in Iraq.

**“He knows that we ultimately have the power to stop the war...**

“So here we are once again, a new generation fighting the same old war. Once again the guys on the ground, the ones that have seen the atrocities, the ones that are being told to kill, veterans and active duty service members—we’re done. We’re done being told with the threat of court martial to run over children that get in the way of our speeding convoys. We’re done abusing and torturing prisoners. We’re done raiding and destroying the homes of innocent Iraqi people on a nightly basis. We’re done being hired thugs for the 160,000 contractors representing US corporate interests. We’re done being exposed to depleted uranium, the Agent Orange of this war. We’re done coming home broken from one, two, three, four tours of duty, only to find out that the commander-in-chief, George Bush, has actually cut funding to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, that he told our doctors to diagnose us with pre-existing personality disorders, instead of post-traumatic stress. We’re done killing for lies...

“Since I’ve been here all I’ve heard from the media is the supposed threat of violence from the protestors, but nobody is talking about the issues behind these protests. No-one is talking about the real violence, the real violence that only those of us that have been in Iraq can truly understand. It’s the slaughter of 600,000 Iraqis, it’s the complete disregard for human life that us soldiers are conditioned to have when we’re in Iraq. When we invaded in 2003 we killed men, we killed women, and, yes, we killed children. I saw buses filled with women and children blown wide open by tank rounds, I saw our command legalise murder when we changed the rules of engagement—the same thing they did in Vietnam but then they called it free fire zones. If it moves it dies, and it did. We were never there to help those people. I was ordered to bury the humanitarian food I was given because we were told, ‘We’re the United States Marine Corps we are not the United States Peace Corps, we have one mission and that is to fight’. And that’s what we did.

“Four and a half years later this man’s lies are known throughout the world and yet he continues to act with impunity... George Bush, you have violated international law and are a war criminal by all Nuremberg legal standards. Your surge has failed and you won’t fool us with this little numbers game you’re trying to play.

I don’t care if attacks have gone down by 80 percent, it doesn’t matter.

**Your benchmarks are a farce. The only real target in Iraq is for all foreign troops to leave.”**

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*WSWS: What was the impact within the rank and file when no weapons of mass destruction were found?*

MH: We were questioning things way before then, you know, the guys on the ground know what's up. There I was going to Baghdad and we're being told about WMDs, we're wearing full-on chemical suits because supposedly it was a very real threat. Then we got outside of Baghdad and here we are, about to enter the lion's den where the fierce Republican Guard is waiting with supposed anthrax and VX and god knows what else and the intelligence command said 'OK, everyone can now take off their chemical suits'.

Don't get me wrong, these things are incredibly uncomfortable, we were glad to have them off, but we're like, wait a minute we're about to enter Baghdad, the epicenter of this supposed weapons of mass destruction threat, and we're being told to take off our chemical suits?

So of course they knew there was no threat, they knew it from the beginning.

The fact of the matter was that it was getting hot, and they were having heat casualties with these suits being donned on top of all their gear, so they just said take them off. So you know, we saw through those lies from the very beginning.

We got to Kuwait in January 2003, before the invasion. We were being told, the world was being told, we might not go, this is going to be the option of last resort. Meanwhile bombers are screaming over our heads, softening up Iraq. Meanwhile there are thousands of contractors already there before us waiting for us, waiting for our arrival, all these KBR guys, Halliburton guys. So yeah, we saw through it from the very beginning.

*WSWS: You still know many people who are still serving in Iraq. How is morale?*

**MH: Morale has never been so low in the military, and this is even coming from the top echelons of the military leadership.**

**The military is on the verge of being broken.**

**In Vietnam you did one tour of duty for one year, now we're looking at guys, two, three, four, five tours of duty with no end in sight.**

**Guys are being sent to do 15 months in Iraq.**

Even from a tactical, strategic, military standpoint they cannot keep this tempo going and soldiers are just being exhausted, mentally and physically. Post-traumatic stress is a very real consequence of war and right now we're just seeing soldiers being broken.

*WSWS: With soldiers now overwhelmingly drawn from working class and poor rural backgrounds, the present situation has been described as economic conscription. Why did you join the military?*



MH: Well, I'm not going to be a poster boy for economic conscription, I was middle class. I was looking for an education. But at the same time, yeah, you look at everything that is lacking in our society and that is what's being used as recruitment tools—education, healthcare, things like this.

You know, I look back on it, and see there could have been other ways to go about funding my education. It speaks to our lack of knowledge.

I went in before 9/11 kind of knowing that the United States government has seen pretty atrocious mistakes, I knew about Vietnam. But there was kind of a sense that Vietnam would never be repeated, that as a country we'd recognised that that was a mistake.

**I never knew that it would be repeated. I never knew that it actually never stopped, that history went on. We were never taught in high school about what happened, for example, in Central America through the 1980s.**

**American imperialism has never stopped. Unfortunately I found out about that after it was too late.**

*WSWS: How did you get involved in the antiwar GI movement?*

MH: I got involved when I got out. I had tried to forget about the whole military experience as most veterans do, but unfortunately the reality is that try as you may you really can't forget this stuff, and the more you put it out of your mind the more it becomes the central theme to your life.

And I finally woke up to the fact that it's not only the right thing to do, but I have a responsibility to speak as a veteran, as somebody who has been there. I need to lend my credibility to the movement and speak openly and honestly about what I have seen.

*WSWS: Since winning last November's congressional elections the Democrats have continued to fund and support the occupation of Iraq.*

**MH: The Democrats have absolutely betrayed us.**

**We voted them into power on an antiwar mandate and they have refused to confront Bush and to listen to the constituency that put them into power. They have given Bush all the funding he's asked for.**

**They've wasted our time with these non-binding resolutions. They actually seem to be making this sick political calculation that if they just let Bush hang himself for another year that will just shore up their victory even more come next election.**

**This is disgusting, you know, we're talking about the lives of American and Iraqi people on the line here.**

**We need to really read through the subtext of all the plans for withdrawal that the Democrats are talking about because none of them are talking about full, immediate withdrawal.**

**It's all window dressing on a continued occupation.**

All the plans carry in them stipulations, to keep the permanent bases that we've built and are continuing to build in Iraq, to keep the world's largest embassy that's bigger than the Vatican City in Iraq, to keep thousands of special operations troops in Iraq. So we need to be very wary of what's coming out of the Democratic Party.

**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**

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



[Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO. He writes: Here's a Buffalo Minesweeper, that I suppose was either defective or met its match.]

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## **Cleveland Ohio:**

# New Iraq Veterans Against The War Chapter



From: Yvette Coil  
Sent: September 09, 2007

IVAW has a new chapter in Cleveland, Ohio.

Leonard Shelton [Iraq Veterans Against The War], the Ohio coordinator, and I (as an organizer in a voluntary capacity) are reaching out to Ohio Iraq veterans against the war.

If you know of any, please have them email [ivaw@ivaw.org](mailto:ivaw@ivaw.org) or [ivawclevelandohio@gmail.com](mailto:ivawclevelandohio@gmail.com) or go to the Cleveland IVAW myspace at <http://www.myspace.com/ivawclevelandohio> or the Cleveland IVAW facebook <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=711586129> or IVAW website <http://www.ivaw.org>.

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## Americans Agree; Don't Trust Petraeus

September 10, 2007 Huffington Post. [Excerpt]

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, only 40 percent of Americans expect General Petraeus to give an accurate picture of Iraq.

Fifty-three percent believe he'll give an overly optimistic presentation. [That's polite for lie in his teeth.]

And a whopping two-thirds say it doesn't matter what Petraeus says because Bush will hold to his Iraq policy no matter what.

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# More Fraud At The V.A.: Faking Waiting Times

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

9.11.07 By HOPE YEN (AP)

The Department of Veterans Affairs repeatedly understated wait times for injured veterans seeking medical care and in many serious cases forced them to wait more than 30 days, counter to department policy, an internal investigation shows.

The review by the VA inspector general's office, released Monday, examined 700 outpatient appointments for primary and specialty care scheduled in October 2006 at 10 VA medical centers.

It found that the Veterans Health Administration in recent months falsely reported to Congress that nearly all of its appointments — about 95 percent — were scheduled within 30 days of a patient's requested date. In fact, only three in four veterans — 75 percent — received such timely appointments.

Of the veterans kept waiting more than 30 days, 27 percent of them had more serious service-connected disabilities, such as amputees and those with chronic problems including frequent panic attacks. Under VHA policy, such veterans must be scheduled for care within 30 days of their desired appointment date.

In addition, despite warnings by the IG in 2005 to more accurately report wait times, department officials last year also may have understated the number of veterans on their electronic waiting lists by more than 53,000.

“While waiting time inaccuracies and omissions from electronic waiting lists can be caused by a lack of training and data entry errors, we also found that schedulers at some facilities were interpreting the guidance from their managers to reduce waiting times as instruction to never put patients on the electronic waiting list,” VA investigators wrote.

In recent weeks, injured Iraq war veterans have filed a lawsuit against the VA alleging undue delays in health care. The department also is struggling to reduce a severe backlog of disability payments, with delays of up to 177 days to process an initial claim,

In one case, a veteran with eye problems visited a VA clinic in December 2005 and was told by his doctor to return in six weeks. However, it wasn't until many months later, in September 2006, that the VA scheduler set an appointment — for October of that year.

The scheduler then reported the veteran had requested an October date, when in fact he had waited 259 days from the six-week target date appointment in January, the report said.

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# IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

## **Resistance Action**

11 Sep 2007 Reuters

Six Iraqi policemen were killed in an attack by gunmen on their checkpoint in a village near the town of Qaiyara, 60 km (40 miles) south of Mosul.

Guerrillas killed an Iraqi army officer while he was on his way to join his unit in the northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

An Iraqi army lieutenant and his father were killed when armed men attacked their home in the eastern part of Mosul 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

Insurgents killed a security officer in Riyadh, 60 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk.

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### **Attica's**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 10, 2007  
Subject: Attica's by Dennis Attica's

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

written by Dennis Serdel VFP 50

if this looks all scrambled, that's the way i wrote it

messed up spelling and everything

you don't have to use it, it's just something i  
had to get

out again after reading your Attica article in  
GI Special

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### Attica's

Mick pushes the button with 5 minutes to go, in a little while the nurse comes flying through the door, Mick acts hurting and the nurse with the needle asks which cheek to poke, he says it doesn't matter anymore, she pulls up the gown, your butt looks like a pin cushion she says, I know just give me the shot. Here comes the poke, Thank you he says, see you in 4 hours she says, The morphine starts to give him that warm feeling again and good about life again. The nurse pops back in again, you feeling alright now, yes, he says. Thought I'd tell you, we have another vietnam vet down the hall away, suffering from old war wounds too. really ? want me to help you in a wheelchair and push you down to see him ? just help me in the wheelchair and tell me the room # ok now that she is gone mick opens the window and grabs 2 beers off the ledge that the beginning of winter keeps cold. Mick hides them in a towel and heads down the hallway he soon finds the room where a dark black man with a black ponytail of natty dreds lay in a white bed you in vietnam yes wounded yes my name is mick john here



mick pops open both beers and gives john one and then took a big slug hey man  
what cha doing just drinking beer mick beams we ain't supposed do  
that here why not look man I had to do a whole lot of talking to get them to  
give me demerol demerol's alright but I like morphine better they see me  
drinking this they cut off my shots blame it on me besides one beer ain't nothing  
I really don't have any pain I don't either I just need to feel good  
about life again me too words echoed as the drugs bounce their  
words back and forth  
the relief lasts well after the hospital they gotta along and when mick  
was released he knocked on the apartment door # john gave him a tall white woman  
stood in the black doorway says it's mick letm in they do the dap  
smoke one john say what you doin now back working as a factory rat mick say what yu doin  
john I'm a chef at the country club chef ? yeah like cookin for all the rich people I make  
alot of money wow yu have to go to school and stuff ? no I learned it  
I like it everybody always nees a chef who can cook a fancy meal I stay  
for awhile and when I get tired of it I move on down the road it's nice so  
you learned it yourself ? No, they taught me man John says  
Some school mick asks politely ? I learned it in a school they had at  
Attica John answers looking Mick straight in the eyes. You mean you  
went through all that combat shit in Nam and then you did something and they put you  
in Attica ? Mick says confused and angered. Well, it was thi bad part  
of New York City and I was trying to get away they shot out the rear window  
of my car and I fired back and barely got away with my life and John

hesitated and then just looks down at the floor.

After the world stopped for a lifetime, Hey !! Mick interrupted in the stale air of the old apartment it doesn't matter, all that matters is that we're Nam

brothers man and we'll be brothers until we die.

The truth was closing the door again.

written by Dennis Serdel VFP 50

if this looks all scrambled, that's the way i wrote it

messed up spelling and everything

you don't have to use it, it's just something i had to get

out again after reading your Attica article in GI Special

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## **Six Years Of Terror: “No People Can Live Under The Control Or Authority Of A Foreign Military And Consider Themselves Free”**

### **“As A Veteran Who Walked Away From Fifteen Years Of Service, I Can Honestly Say That Is Not What I Signed Up For”**

The more homes we invade; husbands, sons, and brothers we whisk away and torture; the more women we disrespect the more disgruntled Iraqis we create.

Staying the course or even “shifting course” in Iraq will not solve anything.

Nothing short of withdrawal--the complete return of our troops--will bring about stability in Iraq.

September 09, 2007, By Ted Goodnight [Excerpts]

Two days will mark the sixth anniversary of September 11th, a day on which all our lives, our country, were changed forever. How is it that our President can publicly blame a philosophical affiliation and its pundit for the attacks, rush off to war against a governing regime that supported this philosophy & teacher, and initiate another front that effectively fuels the spread of this philosophy, yet will not press any formal charges against this teacher/pundit for the attacks that originated it all?

This begs to question the integrity of an administration that has turned the world upside down.

**In one fail swoop, we have become the greatest threat to, and violator of, world peace on the face of the planet.**

**We have conducted operations on almost every continent, in as many nations, killing and kidnapping more civilians than the collective efforts of all the “terrorists” we are supposedly doing the world a favor by “fighting”.**

Now, I know I probably lost some of you in the first paragraph when I mentioned a “philosophical affiliation” and its teacher/pundit.

Well, that's how I see the so-called, “Al Qaeda”.

Al Qaeda has become the rallying and identifying cry of all those who oppose Imperialism and the oppression of innocents by military and economic measures. The fact that this “organization” operates as a series of independent cells indicates a decentralized structure that implies that these cells are more a collection of individual “cults” subscribing to a unifying cause than a global “network of terror”. Without any direct contact with Bin Laden, anyone who believes in the cause can declare themselves “Al Qaeda” followers.

If freedom of speech and religion are keystones of Democracy, then how can we justify the suppression by force of those who follow any particular philosophy that we may find appalling or inconvenient and then condemn their retaliation?

**How can we continue to force our will, our beliefs, and our economic benefit on the citizenry of other countries and have the audacity to call it “spreading Democracy”?**

**Now, for the militant among you, I understand your position too. Yes, there are terrorist training camps that provide the mental, physical, and tactical training for Al Qaeda followers to use against imperialist factions such as the US, Britain, and other “coalition” members.**

**However, if our military is being used to rein terror on and strong-arm other nations into complying with the economic ambitions of our private corporations--the purveyors of Capitalism -- can we really consider our Basic Training sites any differently?**

As our administration speaks out against Al Qaeda and promotes the “Global War on Terror”, Bin Laden (if he's still alive) speaks out against Capitalism, its economic exploitation of third-world countries, and it's militant oppression of civilians.

I know this is a very jagged pill to swallow, but in matters of war and humanity, we must know ourselves as well as our enemies. We must be able to understand our enemies enough to know why they are fighting. If their cause is as or more just than ours, and they are more committed to it, then no amount of military might will win our fight. This is not only sound advice from Sun Tzu's The Art of War, but also a matter of logic/reason.

**While there are admittedly religious aspects to both sides, they are only superfluous and used as means to manipulate & recruit people to each side.**

**Like it or not, militant Christianity is just as real today as militant Islam. Both use fear to instill hate and consider themselves to be “right”.**

**Still, the root of this conflict has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with humanity.**

Be honest with yourself now, did you just automatically assume that the US was on the side of humanity in this situation? If so, you should reconsider.

In the United States, we have been conditioned, from as early as we can rationalize, that Capitalism is the only (or at least the greatest) economic system in the world. We are taught that it is in our best interest to compete against each other for our (economic) survival and to elevate our status.

**We are taught to accept that some must fall by the wayside that others may rise to the top. How is this in any way demonstrative of humanity? If humanity is illustrated by a sense of community, compassion, and rational behavior, we must cede that Capitalism is devoid of humanity.**

**Any system that insists that more must suffer so that a few can live extravagantly does not embody the defining traits of humanity.**

This is directly contrary to the “Lifeboat Theory” of Ethics that suggests it is morally acceptable to sacrifice a few so that the majority can survive. Thereby,

when our corporations exploit the resources of third-world countries and empower cooperative regimes that oppress the populations of those countries; when our government sends our troops to secure access to those resources and oppress populations we are absolutely working against the cause of humanity.

On the other side of the equation are those who lack the resources, the equipment, or other means to defend their “unalienable rights”--their “Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness”. They seek relief from their governments and ours, but to no avail. When they are reduced to Despotism, “it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such a government.”

When they suffer “injuries and usurpations” designed to oppress them in Tyranny, when their “petitions for redress” remain unanswered, they must take action against the tyrannical, oppressive regime over them. (For those who don't recognize the quotes in this paragraph, they are taken directly from our Declaration of Independence.)

**Having much less military capability than a powerful oppressive regime, the people must seek alternative methods of fighting the oppressors. Guerrilla tactics and bombings of economic infrastructures and military patrols are the only means by which the underdogs can fight for their liberties, rights, and the sanctity of their homes.**

**Underdogs throughout history have referred to this as “Revolutionary Warfare”.**

**Tyrants call it terrorism. Remember, King George III labeled our very own revolutionaries as terrorists!**

I recently met a veteran fresh from Iraq. Towards the end of his tour, he had a change in conscience, an awakening, that inspired him to courageously refuse to further participate in combat operations in Iraq. He came to the realization that the US military was conducting operations and treating the Iraqi population in ways that we absolutely would not accept on our own soil. In one precipitous moment, he saw the fear and hatred with which an Iraqi boy, a civilian, came at him. In that instant, he realized that the very people whom he was helping, and those who he had been told wanted to kill him and his military brethren, were all merely acting in fear for their lives from our soldiers.

In short, the people he was fighting did not want to kill Americans. They thought all Americans wanted to kill Iraqis. Afterwards, he realized, as many veterans now have, that all the fear induced hate forced on our military and population has been manifested artificially by our own government to facilitate the military's participation in and the public's support of an illegal and unprovoked military invasion/occupation of Iraq.

There is nothing humane about war. Consequently, many who go to war end up losing their humanity. The act of taking another life by order--sanctioned murder--is something that cannot be accepted without shutting down one's conscience first, or else constantly struggling therewith. Those who go, fight, come home, then want to go back to fight and kill some more are devoid of conscience. Those who come home changed, distant, detached, angry or depressed, possibly even suicidal, are the ones who will forever struggle with their conscience over what they have seen and/or done in war.

How do you reconcile within your heart the fact that you have directly or indirectly taken another life, an innocent life, and done so without punishment, without retribution to the family of the person you killed?

Then how do you reconcile the fact that you took that life under false pretenses, that that person's blood meant more profits for some war-profiteering corporation? This struggle is likely the basis of much war-time Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Is there any wonder why the government doesn't want to effectively acknowledge or address the issue of PTSD?

**I know that my own awakening brought about feelings of shame regarding my service in Afghanistan. I am ashamed that I allowed my heart to fill with rage and hate for a people that I had never met, knew nothing about, and had done nothing to hurt me.**

How could I have allowed that change within me and still remain a good person?

How could I feel that way towards others and deserve to walk this world freely?

How could I have allowed my service--that I had been so proud of and that I had based so much of my life and my identity on--to be marred in such a way?

I was so ashamed, so embarrassed, that I even became sick at times. Like my fellow veterans, I will always deal with that shame.

**Now it serves as inspiration for my efforts to end our militant foreign policy--US Imperialism.**

**The bottom line is all the People want peace; want an end to the violence and the US occupation of Iraq -- both the Iraqis and Americans.**

However, we cannot bring a halt to the violence with more violence and a greater, more dispersed, more invasive US military presence there.

**Our continued military presence cannot bring about stability in Iraq because it is the sole catalyst maintaining the instability.**



**When the very same Iraqis we are training to fight “insurgents” and members of the local population end up participating in the “insurgency”, we have worn out our welcome.**

**The more troops we have in Iraq, the greater our abuses of the Iraqi population and our infringement of their rights and liberties.**

**The more homes we invade; husbands, sons, and brothers we whisk away and torture; the more women we disrespect the more disgruntled Iraqis we create.**

**Our abuses anger and enrage their population until they turn to violent acts against us.**

**Staying the course or even “shifting course” in Iraq will not solve anything.**

**Nothing short of withdrawal--the complete return of our troops--will bring about stability in Iraq.**

**That stability will come on their terms, on their time table, not ours.**

**Who are we to impose goals and time tables on them?**

**Is this how we formed our nation after winning our independence from England? Would we have accepted a foreign military presence from France after defeating the English?**

**Absolutely not!**

Did we form our government and ratify our Constitution quickly after the war ended, under external pressure from another country?

Again, no. The British Army surrendered at Yorktown in 1781. The Treaty of Paris, granting the US independence from Britain was signed in 1783, and the US Constitution was ratified in 1787.

Therefore, from the end of fighting to the ratification of our Constitution was six years without any additional fighting, instability, or insurrection. So, if we couldn't accomplish it in less than six years under ideal conditions, how can we honestly expect the Iraqis to do so under chaotic conditions, external pressures, and foreign meddling in the process?

**There is much to consider when analyzing the US occupation of Iraq. But we must first acknowledge, and admit, that it is an occupation and no longer a war.**

**Regardless of intentions, no People can live under the control or authority of a foreign military and consider themselves free.**

**If the Iraqi people are not free while under our control, then how can we consider our operations there as “bringing them Democracy”?**

**By our own standard, enunciated in our Constitution and Declaration of Independence, Democracy means government of the people, for the people, and by the people.**

**In this case, that means the Iraqi people.**

**Anything short of what the Iraqi people want their government to be will not be a Democracy for them.**

**Any government over which we express undue influence will be nothing more than neo-colonial.**

**Is this what America is all about?**

**Is this what our troops should be dying for?**

**I can't speak for all, but as a veteran who walked away from fifteen years of service, I can honestly say that is not what I signed up for.**

**I know I'm not alone.**

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## **The Petraeus Principle: “In The US Army Some Generals Rise Beyond Their Levels Of Incompetence”**

From: Don Bacon  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 09, 2007  
Subject: The Petraeus Principle

**The Peter Principle: In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence.**

**The Petraeus Principle: In the US Army some generals rise beyond their levels of incompetence.**

General Petraeus was responsible for the training of Iraqi army battalions, Jun 2004–Sep 2005

Sep 2004–Petraeus: “Six battalions of the Iraqi regular army and the Iraqi Intervention Force are now conducting operations. . . Within the next 60 days, six more regular army and six additional Intervention Force battalions will become operational. . . Nine more regular army battalions will complete training in January”

Sep 2005–Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who oversees U.S. forces in Iraq, said there are fewer Iraqi battalions at “Level 1” readiness than there were a few months ago. . . The number of Iraqi army battalions that can fight insurgents without U.S. and coalition help has dropped from three to one, top U.S. generals told Congress yesterday.

Feb 2007- Gen. David Petraeus officially takes control of U.S. forces in Iraq at a ceremony in Baghdad.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. arrest a man during a night armed home invasion at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



The father of a man who was arrested in tears, as U.S. soldiers take away his son to prison, at the Zafraniya neighborhood, southeast of Baghdad, September 5, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

**[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!**

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Attack By Palestinian Resistance Wounds 66 Zionist Soldiers**

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

September 11, 2007 By Mijal Grinberg and Amos Harel, Haaretz Correspondents, and Agencies

At least 66 Israel Defense Forces soldiers were wounded in the early hours of Tuesday morning when a Qassam rocket fired from the Gaza Strip struck an IDF basic training base near Kibbutz Zikkim, about 1 kilometer inside Israeli territory.

While the rocket hit an empty tent used only in the daytime for administrative purposes, many soldiers were hit by shrapnel while sleeping in adjacent tents.

A warning alarm did sound moments before the rocket hit the tent, however many of the soldiers were sleeping and did not reach a bomb shelter in time.

Many of the troops were lightly injured, suffering from minor injuries or shock.

In the wake of the attack, at least 24 Magen David Adom ambulances rushed to the base in the northern Negev.

Preliminary reports indicate that Tuesday's early morning attack would mark the largest number of injuries sustained in a single Qassam attack against Israel. The Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees claimed responsibility for the attack.

Army Radio reported that a total of two rockets were fired towards the base from Beit Hanun in northern Gaza.

Most of the wounded were evacuated to Barzilai Medical Center in Ashkelon, however some soldiers were evacuated to Soroka Hospital in Be'er Sheva, Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv and Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva.

Two years ago, when Qassam rockets first began to land near the Zikkim base, a protest was organized by the parents of some of the soldiers and the IDF took some steps to protect the troops against rocket fire.

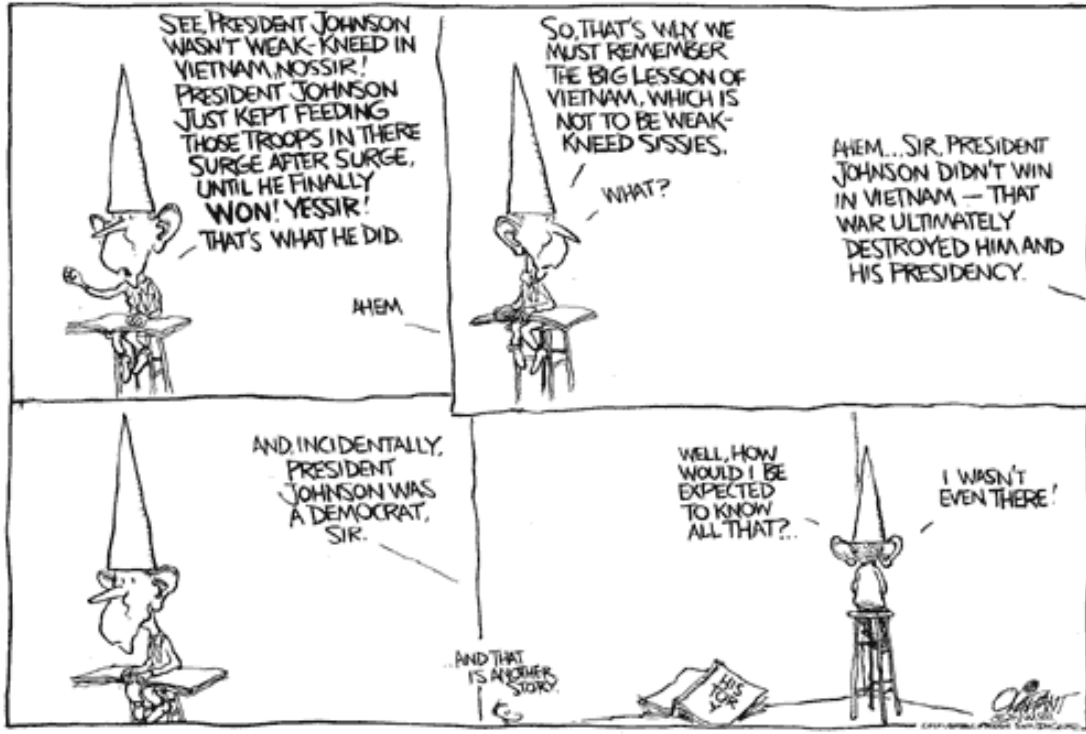
**[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]**

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

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

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

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



8/28



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



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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Hedge Fund Managers March on Washington**

September 8, 2007 The Borowitz Report

Demanding further intervention from the Federal Reserve to protect their endangered fortunes, thousands of the nation's leading hedge fund managers marched on Washington today.

Dubbed "The Million Mercedes March," the protest was said to be the largest chauffeur-driven demonstration in the capital's history.

Limousines started jamming the streets of Washington at approximately ten in the morning as irate hedge fund owners converged in front of the Federal Reserve building to demand stronger action to protect their imperiled riches.

Chanting "No Rate Cut, No Peace," the furious money managers were pepper-sprayed by police as their protest threatened to take a violent turn.

Tracy Klujian, a hedge fund manager from Greenwich, Connecticut, said that simmering anger in the hedge fund community was "a powder keg" waiting to explode.

"We have yet to see the ripple effects of this crisis," Mr. Klujian said. "When these guys have to freeze their trophy wives' shopping allowances, there's going to be hell to pay."

Mr. Klujian's words seemed almost prophetic as a mob of angry trophy wives looted a Ralph Lauren boutique in East Hampton, New York later in the day, stripping the establishment of its entire fall collection.

If the Fed fails to intervene, Mr. Klujian warned, an ugly situation among the nation's wealthiest money managers will only get uglier.

"A lot of these guys are mad as hell right now," he said. "But wait until they're down to their last billion."

Elsewhere, FEMA announced that it would commemorate the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina by returning phone calls from 2005.

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

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