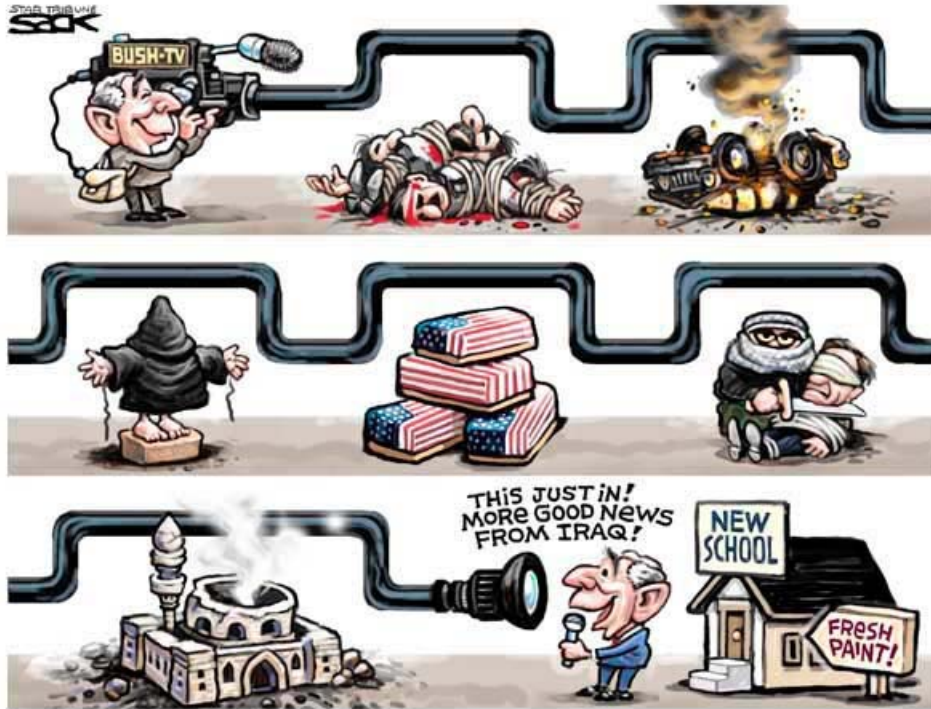


GI SPECIAL 5J17:



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

Ecuador Demands Military Base In Miami

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

Oct 22, 2007 By Phil Stewart, (Reuters)

Ecuador's leftist President Rafael Correa said Washington must let him open a military base in Miami if the United States wants to keep using an air base on Ecuador's Pacific coast.

Correa has refused to renew Washington's lease on the Manta air base, set to expire in 2009. U.S. officials say it is vital for counter-narcotics surveillance operations on Pacific drug-running routes.

“We’ll renew the base on one condition: that they let us put a base in Miami -- an Ecuadorean base,” Correa said in an interview during a trip to Italy.

“If there’s no problem having foreign soldiers on a country’s soil, surely they’ll let us have an Ecuadorean base in the United States.”

Correa, a popular leftist economist, had promised to cut off his arm before extending the lease that ends in 2009 and has called U.S. President George W. Bush a “dimwit”.

He rejected the idea that the episode reflected on U.S. ties at all.

“This is the only North American military base in South America,” he said.

“So, then the other South American countries don’t have good relations with the United States because they don’t have military bases? That doesn’t make any sense.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed By Salah Ad Din Mine; Three More Wounded

24 October 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071024-10

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Coalition Forces Soldier died of wounds as a result of injuries from a mine explosion while conducting operations in Salah ad Din Oct. 24.

Three CF Soldiers were also wounded.

Two were transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

U.S. Soldier Killed Near Bayji; Five Wounded

24 October 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071024-11

BAGHDAD – One MNC-I Soldier was killed and five Soldiers were wounded today during combat operations near the city of Bayji.

Soldier From Arkansas Dies After Just 2 Weeks In Iraq

Oct 15, 2007 By Brad Belote

GREENBRIER, Ark. (AP) - The father of an 18-year-old Army private from Greenbrier says his son was killed in Iraq after being in the country for only two weeks.

The Defense Department says Private Nathan Z. Thacker was killed by a roadside bomb near Kirkuk. Three other soldiers were hurt, one critically.

Thacker's father said his son felt a duty to enlist and that he saw duty in Iraq as simply being his job.

Thacker had attended Guy-Perkins High School in Guy. His father says Nathan Thacker earned his General Educational Development diploma last year. Thacker enlisted in the Army in April and completed his training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He arrived at Fort Drum in August.

Thacker's sister, Sabrina Black, says her brother was an excellent man -- and that she'd do anything to have him back.

The Army says Thacker is survived by his parents and grandfather. He was the third-youngest of seven children.

Thacker is the 54th soldier from Arkansas to be killed in the Iraq war.

A Family's Pride In Fallen Soldier

October 17, 2007 By JIM DOUGLAS, WFAA-TV

DENTON — Justin Monschke's mom was looking forward to his birthday when news came of his death.

A roadside bomb killed Sgt. 1st Class Monschke in Arab Jabour, Iraq, one week before he would have turned 29.

"I don't know how families get through this," said Patty Jett, Monschke's mother. She and other family members had been expecting him to return home by Christmas.

"He excelled at everything," said Larry Monschke, the soldier's father. "I'm just proud. That's all I can say."

The news came to Justin's father and stepmother on Sunday. Justin's brother Jarett raced ahead to his mother so she wouldn't hear it from strangers.

“Jarett came to tell me, and he couldn’t get it out,” Jett recalled. “I knew from his face. And I just started screaming—a mother is not supposed to bury her son.”

Jett said she’s known since Justin was a boy that he wanted to be a soldier. You can see it in his senior picture from Krum High School.

A week after graduation, he was gone to join the Army. Soon after that he was married, with a stepson and two young children of his own.

The Monschkes lived near Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His family said he never talked about life as an elite special forces soldier at war in Afghanistan and then in Iraq.

The last time Justin Monschke came home to Texas, it was to bury a fellow Green Beret.

Now it’s his family, planning a funeral and rebuilding a life from boxes of photos.

The parrot he got as a boy still squawks something that sounds like his name. “Justin, be good,” his mother interprets.

The final e-mail from Sgt. 1st Class Monschke contained a clue to his courage in a message to his grandfather:

“Tell Papa I got put in for a Bronze Star with Valor, and it was upgraded to a Silver Star,” the message said.

Wife And Mom Dies A Hero In Iraq

Oct. 14, 2007 BY CURTIS MORGAN, Miami Herald

They met as soldiers, married as soldiers, raised a family as soldiers. And on Saturday, Raymond Clamens dealt with his wife Lillian’s death in Iraq like a soldier.

Lillian Clamens, 35, a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, was killed during a rocket attack on the military’s main base in Baghdad on Wednesday, just two days before she was supposed to end a yearlong tour and begin the journey back to her husband and three children in Homestead.

Raymond Clamens, 33, expressed no anger, no bitterness. He didn’t ask why.

He called his wife of 10 years a hero, praising her commitment and sacrifice and talking about the pride she took, as a personnel clerk, in managing the massive administrative demands of the modern military.

Lillian Clamens spent nearly half her life in the Army, but her deployment to Iraq last year was her first duty in a war zone.

“She was ready to go. She never shied away from it,” he said. “She really loved taking care of soldiers and their families.”

The Clamenses moved to South Florida in 2005, where, after long active-duty careers, both were still working in civilian roles with the Army.

Raymond, who was born in New York but grew up in Trinidad, is logistics manager for the Army ROTC at Florida International University.

Until her reserve call-up to join a Miami unit, Lillian, who grew up near Omaha, Neb., worked as an administrative clerk at the U.S. Southern Command in Doral.

On Monday, the couple had exchanged text messages that she had arrived safely from Talil, where she had been stationed with the 1st Postal Platoon, 834th Adjutant General Company, to Camp Victory in Baghdad. The huge and heavily fortified base near the airport serves as U.S. military headquarters in Iraq.

At home, her family -- daughters Victoria, 7, Lana, 8, and Ayinde, 14, Lillian's son from a previous marriage -- were preparing for a Halloween-themed homecoming party. "My daughters had already bought their costumes," Raymond Clamens said.

In Baghdad, Lillian Clamens was preparing for a flight to Fort McCoy in Wisconsin -- a first stop stateside before a planned return this week to South Florida.

But on Wednesday, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, insurgents fired rockets from a nearby abandoned school, killing Clamens and Army Spc. Samuel Pearson, 28, of Westerville, Ohio.

Raymond Clamens' two cellphones have not stopped ringing since with calls from family members and friends they've made in Korea, Germany, Missouri and now South Florida.

He got the first news his wife would not be coming while he was at the American Airlines Arena watching the Miami Heat play the Atlanta Hawks. The baby-sitter called to tell him two Army officials were at the door.

"I knew what it was," he said. "You don't get a visit from the Army at 10:30 at night for anything else."

Clamens said his life and training in the Army probably prepared him better than most to deal with the worst that war can bring. On the drive home from the arena, he said, he was able to "mentally prepare" himself to accept what had happened. But, he added, "that doesn't make it any easier as far as the grieving goes."

His wife, he said, was blessed with an infectious smile and a love for dancing, music, performing arts and people. "She would meet you on the street and you'd be best friends in five minutes."

They didn't exactly fall in love at first sight -- but it was close. He met her in 1996, he said, when she handed him some paperwork at an Army base in Vilseck, Germany, where he'd been sent for leadership training. Later that evening, they spotted each other in the base watering hole.

"I raised my eyebrows and she raised her eyebrows and that was it," he said. They were married a year later.

Lillian Clamens joined the Army reserves straight out of high school, and then enlisted. She returned to the reserves, her husband said, when they decided to have children.

She stayed at home to care for them when he was dispatched to Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti, he said. This time, parenting was his duty.

Relatives, including Raymond Clamens' mother, who flew down from Orlando, and a cousin from Tamarac, Marsha Seow and her husband, Raymond, drove down to help care for the children. Raymond Seow said it had been particularly tough on the kids.

"We were all looking forward to getting together for the party, not this," Seow said.

Raymond Clamens said funeral arrangements remain uncertain because the Army has not yet said when his wife's body will be shipped home.

U.S. Maj. Gen. Unleashes Stunning New Counter-Insurgency Tactic: Hypnosis



(Photo: AP & Capt. Allie Weiskopf Chase, U.S. Army, HO)

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the U.S. army's Third Infantry Division, second left, gestures hypnotically at Sunni Sheik Emad Ghurtani, right, as he repeats "You love being Occupied. You will betray your country. You will crawl like a dog and lick my hand. I will give you U.S. money and all the young boys you desire."

At that point Sheik Ghutani awoke suddenly from the induced hypnosis, complaining to Maj. Gen. Lynch that U.S. dollars weren't worth shit anymore, thank you very much, and telling him to keep the young boys for himself.

The failed meeting took place in Haswah, Iraq Oct. 18, 2007.

Sheik Ghutani later denied there had been any discussion of young boys, claiming that the U.S. army translator misunderstood what was being said, and that the General had in fact offered him U.S. money and young girls.

He also denied that money was an issue.

He told reporters that the meeting failed because it was not possible to come to an agreement with U.S. sectarian cannibal religious fanatics who believe they eat the body and drink the blood of one of their three Gods.

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; COME HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers with Cobra Company 1-3 Infantry walk in a cloud of dust as a Blackhawk helicopter takes off during a mission in the neighbourhood of Arab Jabour in southern Baghdad October 18, 2007. (Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters)

Occupation Command Admits It “Can’t Trust Anyone Below The Rank Of Prime Minister”

October 24, 2007 By Juan Cole, juancole.com [Excerpt]

Evidence that US troops are being extremely careful also comes from the new policy on checkpoints.

All vehicles are going to be stopped from now on except those of a high-ranking Iraqi politician such as the prime minister.

One reader observed to me in an email of this story, that apparently the US in Iraq has fallen on such hard times that it can't trust anyone below the rank of prime minister.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

S.C. Guard Member Killed In Afghanistan

Oct 26, 2007 By CHUCK CRUMBO, The State

KABUL, Afghanistan – A S.C. National Guard soldier, who was just two months away from heading home, died in a humvee accident near Kandahar.

Killed was Sgt. Edward Philpot, 38, of Latta. He was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 263rd Armored Regiment at Mullins.

Philpot, who's survived by his wife and three daughters, is the first member of the S.C. Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team to die in Afghanistan.

He's also the 14th member of the Kabul-headquartered Task Force Phoenix to die since June.

The S.C. Guard brigade heads the task force, responsible for training the Afghan army and police.

The fatal accident happened about 7 a.m. Tuesday when a humvee Philpot was in went off a road and rolled over. A second service member, whose identity is being withheld, was injured.

The humvee was part of a convoy that was moving soldiers and gear to a new base in the southern part of Afghanistan. The accident happened about 21 miles northwest of Kandahar Airfield. Kandahar is about 400 miles from Kabul.

Philpot was one of 200 troops of the Mullins unit, which arrived here in January. The unit is scheduled to return home in December.

"It's tough, it's really tough," said Spc. Robert Berry, who lived just a block away from Philpot in Latta.

“We spent three months together at Camp Shelby. We were together the first six to seven months here at (Camp) Phoenix,” said Berry, who attended Thursday’s twilight service. “It’s really hard to have to be right here again.”

The Mullins’ troops initially provided base security and patrolled the area surrounding Camp Phoenix, the task force’s headquarters on Kabul’s eastern outskirts.

After the remainder of the brigade arrived in mid-May, most of the troops in the Mullins’ unit – including Philpot – were reassigned to the country’s southern and eastern provinces.

Philpot joined the Guard in 2001 and was promoted to sergeant while in Afghanistan. A scout in the armor unit, Philpot handled a number of jobs from gunner, driver and humvee commander, to mentoring Afghan forces, his friends said.

Philpot’s buddies said he was a quiet, devout man who never swore, kept a cool head, and always had a smile. And he loved being a soldier, said Sgt. Kenneth Page, of Dillon.

“He was one of the most dedicated men you’d ever see,” Page said. “He always liked to hang around at the armory even when it wasn’t drill weekend. He just liked to be there.”

Spc. Kyle Kimbro, of Florence, recalled that Philpot was the first soldier to welcome him to the scout platoon. What he remembers most about Philpot, Kimbro said, was the soldier’s devotion to his wife and family.

“I remember when we deployed to Camp Shelby and seeing him with his wife and three little girls,” Kimbro said. “He was holding the baby, who was probably no more than two months old at the time. He talked about his family all the time.”

Philpot was one of several dozen S.C. soldiers who made a video greeting to his family, which is posted here.

During the 12-second segment, Philpot introduced himself and said: “I’d like to say hello to my wife, Stephanie, and my three beautiful daughters. Thank you.”

He finished with a quick smile, stepped forward slightly and walked off camera.

Australian Soldier Killed In Uruzgan: Rats Running For Prime Minister Only Disagree About Where To Kill More Australian Troops

Oct 25, 2007 By Rob Taylor, CANBERRA (Reuters) & October 27, 2007 Ian McPhedran and Mark Dunn, Herald and Weekly Times

An Australian special forces soldier has been killed fighting Taliban insurgents in southern Afghanistan, Australian defence officials said on Thursday.

The soldier was shot and killed while taking part in Coalition military operations against Taliban bases in a valley in Uruzgan province, the Australian Defence Force commander told reporters in Canberra.

The soldier was the second Australian killed in a fortnight in the restive province.

His death comes amidst campaigning for a November 24 national election marked by popular opposition to Canberra's military role in both the Iraq war and Afghanistan.

[Prime Minister] Howard's Labor opponent, Kevin Rudd, has pledged to withdraw combat troops from Iraq *but keep soldiers in Afghanistan.*

Opinion polls show Australians are widely opposed to both wars and have begun to lose faith in Howard's tough security stance, which has won him previous elections.

The SAS soldier had been on patrol when he was severely wounded by small-arms fire. A Coalition medical team flown in by helicopter evacuated him to hospital but was unable to save him.

TALIBAN insurgents say they are on the hunt to kill Australians in Afghanistan, prompting warnings of a rising body count.

A day after SAS hero Sgt Matthew Locke was shot dead in an ambush, militants said they were stepping up their campaign to claim more Australian targets.

2 Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed In Korangal Valley Ambush, Three Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

Oct 26 By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer

Insurgents ambushed NATO-led forces in eastern Afghanistan, leaving two alliance troops dead and three others wounded.

The eastern clash occurred in the mountainous Korangal Valley in Kunar province late Thursday, after insurgents using rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons ambushed a joint NATO-Afghan foot patrol, a NATO statement said.

The wounded troops were transported to a military medical facility and were in stable condition.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Kunar; Nationality Not Announced

10/24/07 (ANTARA News)

A NATO soldier was killed and two wounded in a battle on Tuesday with extremist insurgents in mountainous northeastern Afghanistan, the alliance's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

ISAF, made up of 40,000 soldiers from 37 countries, did not release the nationalities of the soldiers, leaving this up to their home nations. Most of the foreign troops working in the east are US nationals.

The Afghan and international soldiers were engaged in an operation in the rugged Kunar province to "disrupt extremist activities," ISAF was quoted by AFP as saying in a statement.

They came into conflict with militants spotted preparing to attack, sparking a battle to which war planes were called in against the insurgents, it said.

"The rough terrain in this mountainous region of Afghanistan has made it difficult to confirm insurgent casualties from the engagement at this time," it said. [Not if you won the fight.]

“Acute Shortages Of Helicopters And Airlift As Well As Combat Troops” [The War On Afghanistan Has A Couple Minor Problems]

October 24, 2007 By Mark John and Kristin Roberts, Reuters

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands (Reuters) - The United States urged its European allies to supply more troops to fight Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan at NATO talks on Wednesday, but Alliance sources said Washington could come away frustrated.

Yet NATO commanders complain that ISAF is running at about 10 percent below strength, with particularly acute shortages of helicopters and airlift as well as combat troops.

Resistance Action

October 21, 2007 (AP) & Oct 23 (AFP) & Oct. 25 (Xinhua) & 10/26/07 (AP)

An Afghan interpreter was killed after a bomb hit a coalition convoy in volatile Ghazni province south of Kabul. A second bomb struck soldiers who came to secure the scene of the first attack and some soldiers were slightly wounded, the coalition's Master Sergeant Chris Fletcher told AFP.

A remote-control bomb exploded next to a police vehicle in eastern Paktia province, killing two officers, said Din Mohammad Dirwesh, the governor's spokesman. Four officers were wounded in the blast.

Meanwhile, guerrillas in Paktia killed a tribal elder close to the government, Dirwesh said. The elder had been threatened several times to sever his ties with the government, he said.

Firefight between insurgents and police in Jalai district of the neighboring Kandahar province left four policemen dead on Oct. 25, Niaz Mohammad Sarhadi, district chief of Jalai, told Xinhua.

Four Afghan soldiers were wounded in an attack staged Wednesday evening in the Daychopan district of Zabul province, said district chief Fazel Bari.

Earlier Wednesday, a car bomb exploded near a convoy carrying a provincial governor in eastern Afghanistan, leaving nine people wounded.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said that Arsallah Jamal, the governor of Khost province, was unhurt in the blast in Khost city, but five of his bodyguards and four civilians were wounded.

It was at least the third attempt to kill Jamal, who was returning from a visit to districts near the border with Pakistan when he was targeted on Wednesday.

TROOP NEWS

Veteran Who Lost Hand In Iraq Combat Suing Army For Treating Him Like Shit; “He Was Called A Cripple” And “Put In Isolation From Other Workers” “They Told Him If He Didn’t Like The Way He Was Being Treated, He Could Get Another Job”

October 24, 2007 George Hunter and Mike Martindale, The Detroit News

SOUTHFIELD -- A wounded Iraq War veteran filed a lawsuit in federal court Wednesday, alleging the U.S. Army discriminated against him while he worked at a civilian job at the Tank Automotive Command in Warren.

Former U.S. Army Sgt. James McKelvey was forced out of his job in part because he used a handicapped parking space in front of the Tank Automotive Command (TACOM) building in Warren and because his employers would not otherwise accommodate his handicap, his attorneys said. TACOM officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

“Today we filed against the U.S. Army in a civil lawsuit alleging they systematically harassed a disabled Iraqi War veteran,” said attorney Geoffrey Fieger, a co-counsel in the lawsuit, during a Wednesday press conference.

“He was called a cripple by co-workers and after he made complaints was assigned into a cubicle, essentially put in isolation from other workers.”

Fieger said when McKelvey sought to correct “intolerable” conditions, he was rebuffed and eventually left his job. Fieger said efforts to resolve the situation for more than six months were unsuccessful prompting the lawsuit against Pete Geren, Secretary of the United States Army.

“We feel this is only one of several cases out there in which decorated heroes have been treated poorly,” said Fieger.

McKelvey lost his right hand and suffered a mangled left hand and burns on his body while trying to disarm a homemade bomb near Baghdad in February 2004.

He was flown to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., where President George W. Bush personally awarded him with the Purple Heart, another of his attorneys, Joseph Golden, said.

McKelvey of Sterling Heights was discharged from the Army in December 2005. He took a civilian administrative job at TACOM in February, 2006, and, according to Golden, he was harassed by his employers.

“This is an individual who served his country, came back to work for the Army as civilian employee, and then got harassed as a result of his disability,” Golden said.

“They didn’t think he should have been allowed to park in a handicapped parking spot or accommodated because of his disability. They told him if he didn’t like the way he was being treated, he could get another job.

“The Army treated this wounded war veteran almost to the point of disdain,” Golden said. “Instead of treating him with any semblance of respect, they didn’t like him being there, and they treated him accordingly.”

McKelvey quit his job at TACOM in March, 2007. “No reasonable person would have tolerated what he had to go through, so he quit,” Golden said.

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ricardo Rodriguez, a paratrooper of the 82nd Airborne Division, in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Oct. 11, 2007. Rodriguez was killed on Oct. 4 when an improvised explosive device detonated while his unit was on a dismounted patrol in Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo/Andres Leighton)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Get The Message?



Iraqi men chant anti-Occupation slogans during a demonstration against recent raids by U.S. troops in the Hurriyah neighborhood in Baghdad, Oct. 21, 2007. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

Resistance Action

Reuters 22 Oct 2007 & 24 Oct 2007 Reuters & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers

Two roadside bombs wounded four policemen. The bombs exploded in quick succession in Zaafaraniya, southern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol killed one soldier and wounded two others in the Jamiea district of western Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded one policeman, in the northern city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police commando patrol, wounding three people, including two policemen, near the Islamic Party Center in the Qadissiya district of southwestern Baghdad around 8,00 am, police said.

Clashes erupted between insurgents and the police, leaving two policemen dead on Tuesday, police said.

A policeman was wounded when mortar shell hit Zayuna neighborhood east Baghdad around 4,00 pm.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

UNITED WE STAND



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 23, 2007
Subject: United We Stand

UNITED WE STAND

Home of The Brave.
Land of The Free.
Never Surrender.
America salutes our poor and working
class troops throughout the world,
while most Americans still have condoms
over their brains.
U-Haul hearses return the dead to dead
flag-waving communities across America.
Countless American soldiers who don't
die on the streets of Iraq, will die on
the streets of America from the torture of
betrayal.
Emotional sucking chest wounds everywhere.
Gasping for breath, trying to bear witness,
so the truth won't die.
America,
you are being embalmed by your
mentally ill government...
Day after day after day.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
October 22, 2007

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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“Don't Be Fooled By That Stupid
Line “WE SUPPORT THE
TROOPS!”**

“Don’t Go Down Without A Fight!”

No one but those who know the troops support them. Not only are they getting torn apart overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan by the same creeps who are chickenhawks, but they get shot at back home by the same crew of flag-waving idiots.

From: Elaine Brower
To: GI Special
Sent: October 22, 2007
Subject: Beating the NYPD

Wanted to share the saga of how we beat the NYPD from firing my son, a 2x USMC veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq!

By Elaine Brower, Mother of USMC Sgt. James Brower, also IVAW member

It was a long, hard battle for us, but we finally beat the crap out of the New York City Police Department.

You see, my son was active duty for 4 years in the Marine Corps. 15th MEU, and was the first group into Tora Bora, where he was trained in demolitions.

Of course, we all know that Osama was a kept man by this government, but that’s another story.

He returned, joined the NYPD in 2004, but still had 4 years reserve time to do. Being in the Marine Corps. since he was 17, James was completely indoctrinated into the Corps. values, and their ways. Rough around the edges, tough and a go-getter. He thought the NYPD was where he would flourish, since they “Support the Troops.”

No sooner then he got into the streets in Brooklyn, and was working hard to learn the job, he was called in by his Sergeant. That was June, 2005.

The Sergeant, who we later discovered was IAD (Internal Affairs Division), asked James why he was in a “bad mood.”

James said “I’m not in a bad mood.” The Sgt. kept pushing him and James got mad. He told the Sgt. he was having a bad morning, he just broke up with his girlfriend, but he didn’t think that was any of his business. Turns out the Sgt. calls the duty Capt. in and took his gun and shield right there on the spot. No kidding! God’s honest truth! They said he had an “attitude problem.”

From there it was all downhill. We begged and pleaded with every single Commanding officer, including the Police Commissioner, who we thought would be sympathetic because he was a Marine combat veteran from Viet Nam. James did ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG! And PC Kelly, the shithead, did absolutely nothing to help.

That Fall, 2005, James received orders to deploy to Iraq. He left while he was still on restricted duty sitting behind a desk, waiting to be told he could get his gun and shield back. That was 4 months later. He went to Falluja, knowing he was being taunted by the NYPD, and called me many times saying he didn't want to come back. He didn't want to sit behind a desk, that's not what he joined the NYPD for. He could not understand what had happened to him, or why they singled him out.

Of course, I knew why. He was a Marine, with combat experience, and the pussies at the NYPD had never seen that! They all had college degrees, and this country has not had any veterans since Viet Nam, so James was an enigma, someone they could not understand. He was a man.

Thankfully, he returned from Iraq in one piece, mentally and physically. He was eager to go back to work, so he could be exonerated. He thought he served his Country twice, just came back from protecting our freedom, saw the American flag wherever he went, so why shouldn't they put him back to full duty.

They didn't. As a matter of fact, the chief of the Department called him into his office the week after he got back and told him that the NYPD was moving to fire him.

He was devastated. He said on what grounds? This "Chief" came up with some bullshit excuse that he lied to the NYPD when he filled out the application. After asking what this lie was, they couldn't respond. So the chickenshits, after having him sit at a desk for another 2 months, moved to retire him on a disability pension, without ANY EVALUATIONS AT ALL!

Time to get lawyered up, as they say. Well, we did, and did we ever.

Cost: \$25,000.00; Battle: 8 months; Winning: Priceless!

He sat at the back desk for 8 freaking months, being taunted by cops every single day. They would come up to him and tell him outright to quit! The CO of the precinct would tell him to clean up the trash because that was all he could do! Guys would leave him bumper stickers on his desk saying "The NYPD SUPPORTS THE TROOPS!"

To his credit, James stuck it out, which is extremely difficult for a battle-hardened Marine. Every day he would call me and vent and then get more determined by declaring "I'm not going down without a fight!"

So we fought those bastards, and last Monday presented his case to the NYPD Review Board. He went in straight and tall, handsome too, if I may say so, and told them flat out that he is a Marine, loves his Country, and wants to use his expertise to be a cop. He is a certified EMT and wanted to go on the ESU.

The funniest part of the story is he said the "main guy" on the Board asked him if he carried weapons as a Marine? James responded, "Yeah, machine guns, rocket launchers, hand grenades, and lots of bullets for all!" He said they all kept repeating it to each other as if they were in disbelief that the Marine Corps. would allow him to not only carry weapons, but be promoted to Platoon Leader in the interim while the NYPD said he couldn't be a cop.

Within 15 minutes the Board unanimously agreed to return James to full duty! All the cops working in the unit cheered, because they knew all along he was getting the dirty end of the deal.

That Sgt. wanted to make his IAD quota, and stuck it to James because he had no idea what a real man was all about.

So, a lesson learned.

The bottom line is don't be fooled by that stupid line "WE SUPPORT THE TROOPS!"

No one but those who know the troops support them.

Not only are they getting torn apart overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan by the same creeps who are chickenhawks, but they get shot at back home by the same crew of flag-waving idiots.

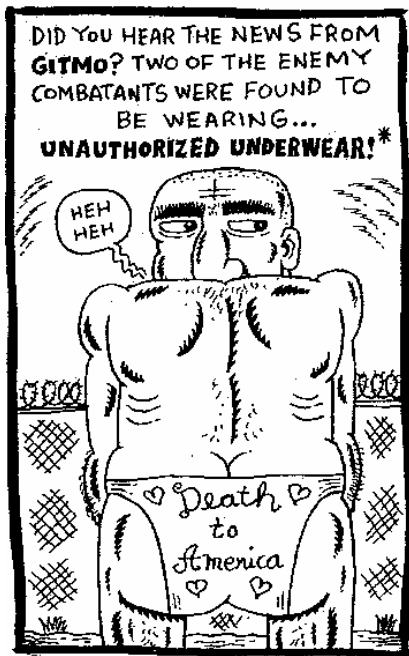
So the motto is: "Don't Go Down Without A Fight!"

Troops Invited:

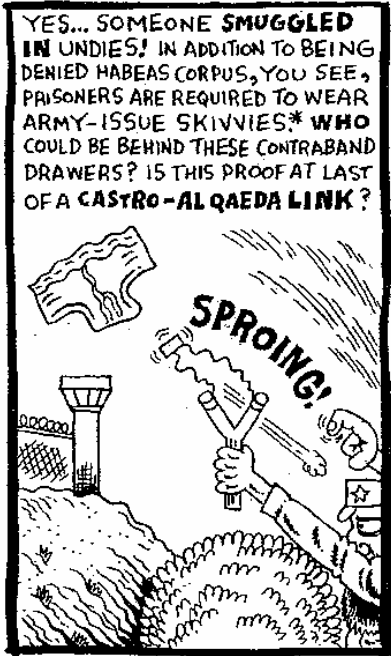
What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

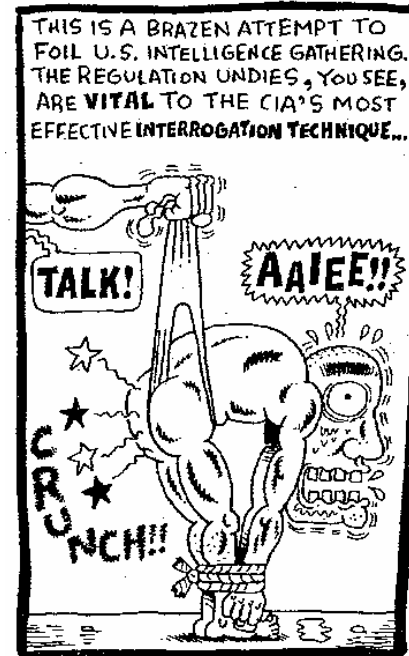
Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at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



* NOT MAKING THIS UP!



* REALLY! NOT MAKING ANY OF THIS UP!



OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



The body of Ali Hamed, who was killed in a raid in Baghdad by U.S. troops, is prepared to be washed for burial in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, south of Baghdad Oct. 21, 2007. Iraqi officials said at least 13 people were killed, including women and children. (AP Photo/Alaa al-Marjani)

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]

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

**THE MILITARY HAS BEEN
REDUCED TO NEGOTIATING
OVER A FLOOR TILE
[A Classic Tale Of Infantile
Imperial Arrogance And Stupidity]
Iraqi Lt. Col. Tells American Politician
To Get Rid Of Anti-Iraqi Symbol
Inside Brooklyn Catholic Church;
He Says U.S. City Council Members Must
Learn To “Publicly Back Iraqi Interests”**



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: THE MILITARY HAS BEEN REDUCED TO NEGOTIATING OVER A TILE IN A MOSQUE.]

STUPID OCCUPATION RAT PHOTO GOES HERE

October 23, 2007 By Gordon Lubold, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor
[Excerpts]

Musayib, Iraq - The American flag was barely discernible. But to US Army Lt. Col. Beau Balcavage, the mere depiction of it on a stairway tile in a Shiite mosque here in Babil Province meant that worshippers committed an act of anti-Americanism every time they stepped foot on the faded Stars and Stripes.

The colonel wanted it gone. But getting the flag removed meant negotiating with local leaders aligned with militias – groups that possibly have American blood on their hands.

But while Colonel Balcavage, commander of the 1st Battalion of the 501st Infantry Regiment, saw that floor tile as an affront to American efforts here that could only worsen US-Iraqi relations, his effort is part of the broader military plan to begin working with Iraq's sectarian militias.

In a meeting of Iraqi political leaders, sheikhs, and others here last month, Balcavage demanded that the flag be removed: It is an insult to the Americans who have died trying to help Iraq, he said. [The insult to honorable members of the armed forces was and is being betrayed by orders to invade and occupy Iraq. Every death is murder by the scum who own and operate the government in DC: the traitors Balcavage serves.]

As part of the deal to remove it, he offered reconstruction money and other aid for Musayib, a city south of Baghdad that is a mix of Sunni and Shiite where the security situation has seen improvement.

“I’ve left the blood of more soldiers than I care to mention ... on this soil, so it’s important to me that this is not something that I pass on to the next commander,” he said. **[Typical; all about him.]**

But the district council member, Theban Thamer, who the US suspects is tied to local militias, was reluctant to move too quickly to support the US for fear of losing credibility. “I need more time,” he said.

Soon after the meeting, Mr. Thamer and another official apparently began dumping acid on the flag to remove it, but this was done at night and out of public view.

Balcavage said later it’s not just about the flag, but the courage of officials to publicly back US interests.

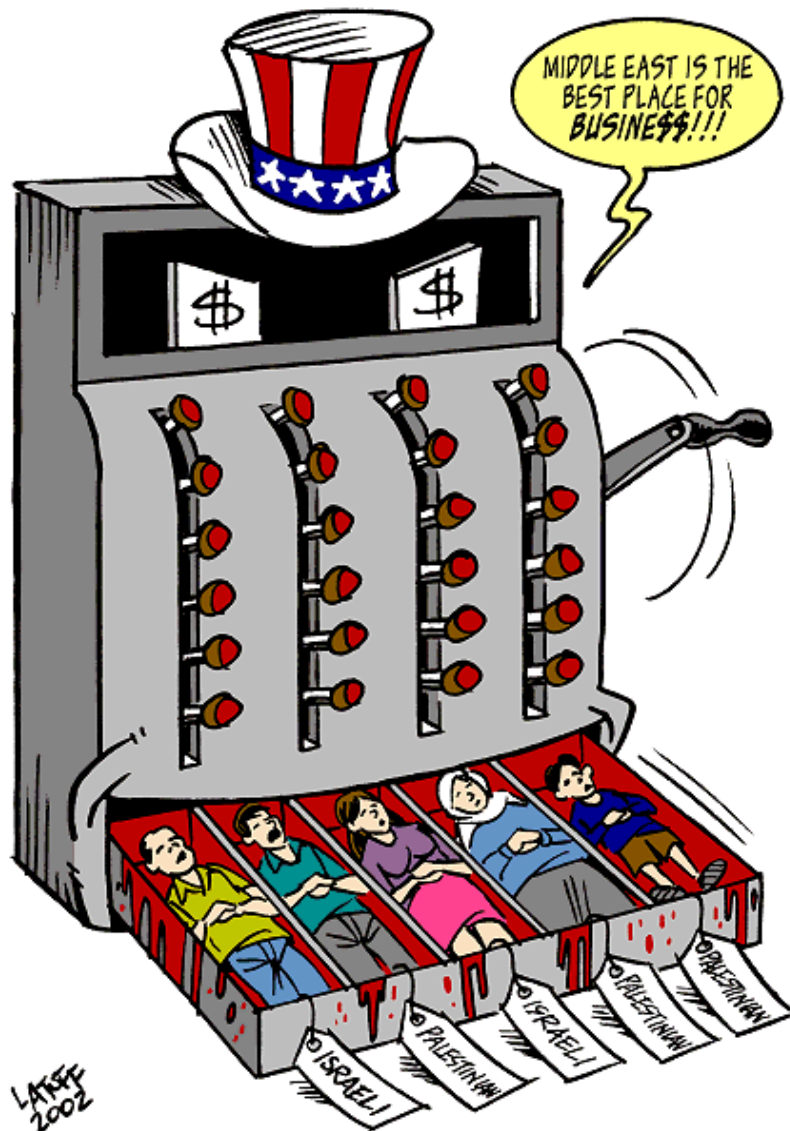
[Right. Serving the traitors in DC, Balcavage expects the Iraqis to be traitors and serve him. The job of Iraqi officials is to betray their country to back “U.S. interests,” he says. Too bad Benedict Arnold isn’t still around. They’d get along perfectly. Real battle buddies. T]

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/)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

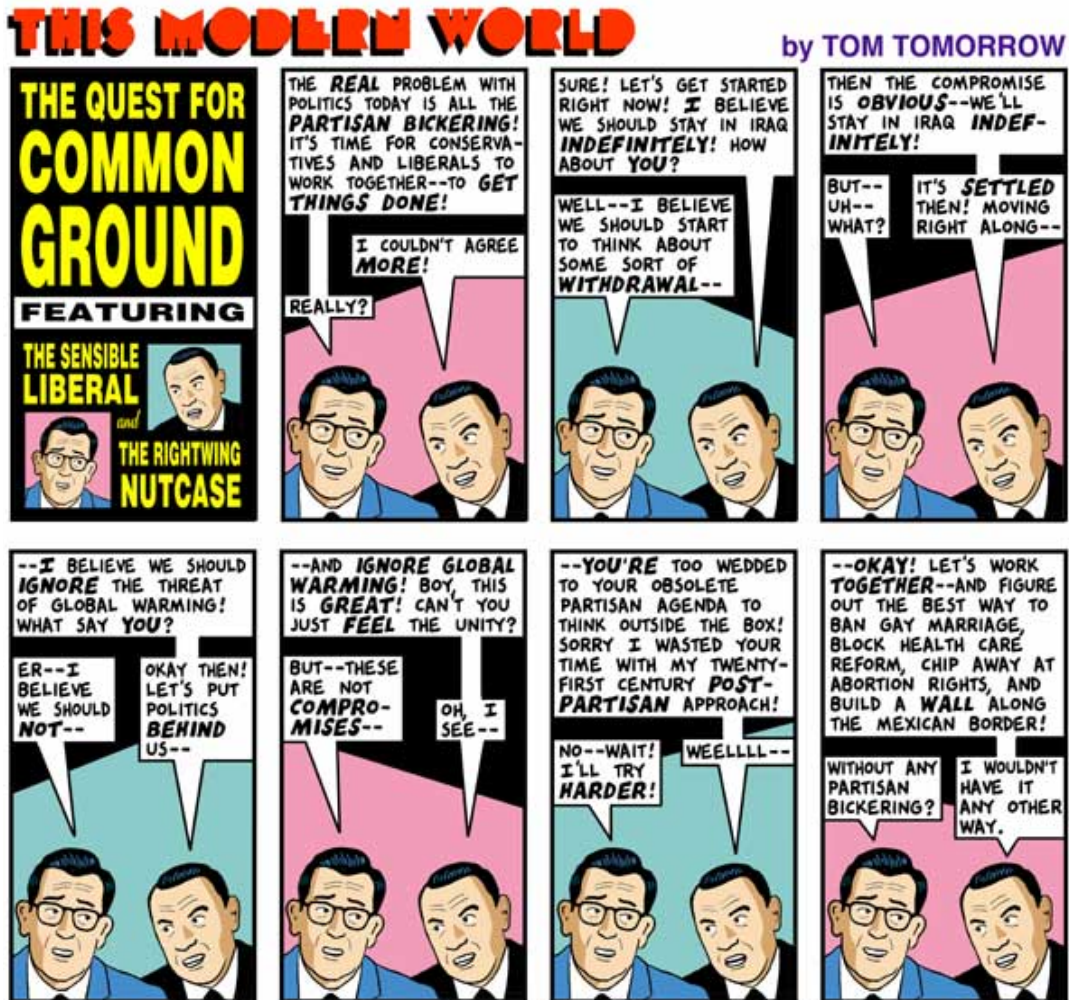


[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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 to

contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request.
Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Nothing New About U.S. Empire
Using Torture:
It's "An American Ruling-Class Pastime"**

October 19, 2007 By Paul D'Amato, Socialist Worker

THE NEW York Times wants us to believe that the Bush administration's use of torture is an historical aberration, editorializing that torture is "abhorrent both to American law and values and international norms," and that former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' authorizing of torture constitutes an "expansive endorsement of the harshest interrogation techniques ever used by the Central Intelligence Agency" ("The American way of torture," October 12).

All this is self-serving rubbish.

Declassified School of the America training manuals reveal that the very same torture techniques--use of extreme temperatures, sensory and sleep deprivation, sensory overload, humiliation, and "stress positions"--were all taught to prospective police and military personnel from Latin America.

It is widely documented that systematic torture was used by U.S. forces both in the conquest of the Philippines (including "waterboarding") at the turn of the last century and in the invasion of Vietnam.

According to historian Alfred McCoy, the CIA's notorious Phoenix program in Vietnam had "agents...operating 40 interrogation centers in South Vietnam that killed more than 20,000 suspects and tortured thousands more."

And then there is the long history of police and prison torture in the United States.

What makes this administration's approach a departure is less the practice of torture and more the brazenness of its support for it. What used to be denied is now almost proudly admitted--with the caveat that it isn't really torture.

September 11 did not "cause" a turn toward torture any more than it "caused" the United States to invade Iraq.

It merely provided a pretext for the United States to pursue more openly and aggressively its imperial aims, of which torture plays a component part.

In our legitimate zeal to reveal the particular depravity of this administration, let us not overlook the fact that torture is an American ruling-class pastime.

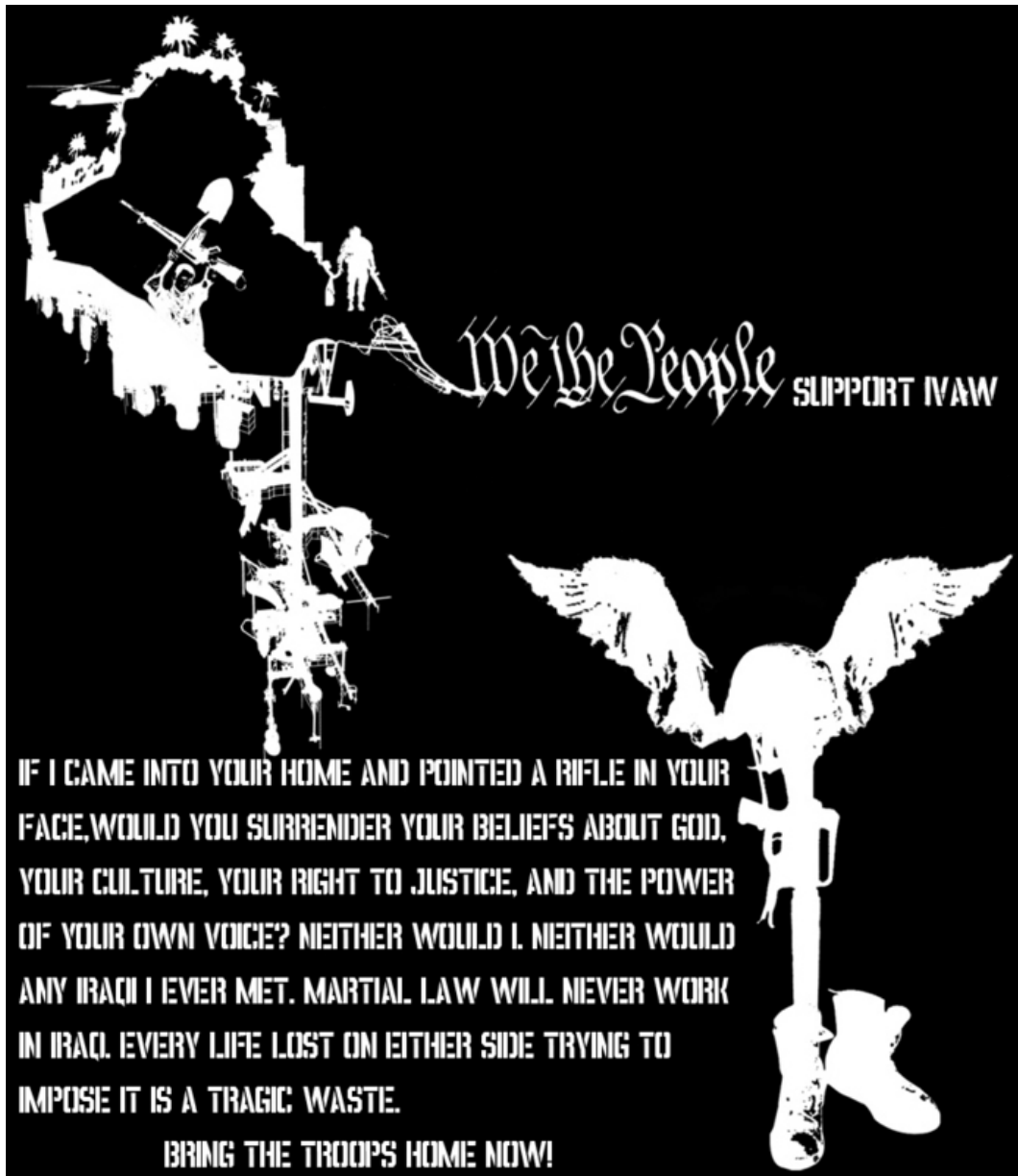
GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.



Iraq Veterans Against The War: Los Angeles

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.