

## GI SPECIAL 5K1:

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



A man carries a picture of his son, who was a Marine and died as a result of injuries that he sustained in Iraq, as he marches against the war in Iraq and the Bush administration during a rally in New York October 27, 2007. REUTERS/Jacob Silberberg

# Fighting Back

From: Monica Benderman  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 31, 2007  
Subject: fighting back

Violence against American soldiers and Iraqi citizens has lessened.

Here in the states - 138 cases of spousal abuse on one military installation in 2007.

There are people who will say "it's the soldiers' problems".

I am a soldier's wife - I am here to say it is EVERY American citizen's problem.

**The war is coming home - and the fact is - the issues we are about to face when it gets here are only in part because of combat stress.**

**Soldiers are citizens - civilians who thought military service was an honorable way to give their lives some meaning.**

**For many - the thought of finding something "positive" and giving after years of struggling to survive in a society where they felt that no one cared if they lived or died, meant everything to them - and the military became a home they never had....**

**....until a war of aggression based on misrepresentations and manipulations caused them to realize that their society let them down again.**

**I am fighting hard to see that one soldier survives - my husband.**

**But it's not just one soldier- it's every soldier who believed in what they were doing when everything else they had believed in had eaten them up and spit them out.**

**What will it take for people to hear what I am saying???**

**What will it take for people to realize that the battlefield is not the only place where soldiers die??**

**And What Will It Take for people to stop the games and fight for this life with the real actions LIFE deserves????**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?**

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

**IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**Oklahoma Soldier Killed In Iraq**

Oct 31, 2007 Associated Press

HASKELL, Okla. - Another soldier from Oklahoma has been killed in Iraq.

The parents of Private Cody Carver of the Haskell area say the military notified them Wednesday morning of their son's death.

Pamela Carver says she hopes to learn more about how Carver died when officials with the U.S. Army come to her home.

Carver attended schools in Coweta and Haskell before joining the military.

The military has not confirmed Carver's death but has said three soldiers were killed Tuesday when their patrol was hit by a bomb southeast of Baghdad.

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. army soldiers with Bravo Battery, 2-17 field artillery on patrol in the neighborhood of Zafraniyah in Baghdad October 28, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

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## **Four Local National Guardsmen Wounded By IED Attack; One Near Death**

Oct 30, 2007 WAVY

Four Local National Guardsmen are recovering after an IED attack in Iraq. It's the same type of blast that killed 39-year-old Specialist, David Lambert from Cedar Bluff, Virginia on Friday.

Sergeant James Corbett from Poquoson and Specialist Joshua Primm of Williamsburg are both in stable condition at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

Private Eric Holt of Williamsburg is stable at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Specialist Derek Banks of Newport News is in critical condition at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Ramstein, Germany.

"This is pretty much our last days together before he deployed," Sheena Banks told WAVY.com as she looked through pictures of she, her husband, and their son. "These were wonderful times," she smiled.

Those times were just before Derek Banks was called to active duty with the Virginia National Guard for the second time. He left for Iraq with more than 100 other soldiers assigned to the 237 Engineer Company located at the Armory in West Point.

Banks' loved ones took the call last week that the 24-year-old Specialist was hurt Friday by an improvised explosive device.

His mother, Renee Person said, "He has so many injuries that will probably be life injuries."

Person told WAVY.com that she can't help but think about the emails he sent to relatives last week - just before the explosion. This was his second tour in Iraq - but a new uneasiness was clear in his messages.

According to Person, "He kept saying he was scared this time. I might not come back. I may not come back."

Banks' wife said, "He wanted to be in the National Guard, but he didn't want to leave his family."

He's still in the hospital in Germany. His family waiting, hoping to be re-united with him. Relatives want to believe he'll make the trip back to the US any day.

"Every day it's touch and go. They just wait to see if he will be stable so they can move him. Hopefully I can see him by the end of the week," Person said.

His wife knows he's still not conscious, but says, "I wish there was a way for me to talk to him, so he can hear our voice."

While relatives are uncertain about what Banks' future will hold, they refuse to stop holding out hope.

His mom said, "I know I have to prepare for the worst, but at this point I just want to see my baby."

Banks graduated from Bethel High School in 2001. He played basketball and football there. Relatives say the last few days have been filled with difficult emotions, but they are grateful for an outpouring of community support.

There are still more than 18-hundred Virginia National Guardsmen serving in Iraq and Kuwait.

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## **U.S. Soldier Wounded In Baghdad**

Oct 31 (KUNA)

A US soldier was wounded during a manhunt to flush out an insurgent group leader in al-Khadraa neighborhood in western Baghdad, the US army said.

The wounded US soldier received medical treatment at a US army hospital before he returned to his military duty.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Offensive Gains Ground In Arghandab**

October 31, 2007 Haroon Siddique, Guardian Unlimited

In Arghandab, 12 miles north of Afghanistan's major southern city Kandahar, according to the provincial police chief, Sayed Agha Saqib, three police officers and one Afghan soldier have been killed in a Taliban offensive.

Hundreds of Afghans have been fleeing the battleground, their cars and tractors piled high with their possessions.

The fighters moved into Arghandab this week, about a fortnight after the death of a powerful tribal leader, Mullah Naqib, who had kept Taliban fighters out of his region.

"He was supporting the government," Mr Saqib said.

"After he died, the Taliban were thinking they would go to Arghandab and cause trouble for Kandahar city."

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, claimed insurgents had captured seven checkpoints around Arghandab and inflicted large numbers of casualties on Afghan and foreign troops.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



Hearse containing the body of Staff Sgt. Ricardo Rodriguez, during his funeral procession, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, Oct. 13, 2007. Rodriguez was killed in Baghdad on Oct. 4 in a bomb attack while his unit was on a dismounted patrol . (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

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**The Most Honorable Officer Of  
2007, So Far:**

**“As An Officer In The Marine Corps I  
Took An Oath To Support And  
Defend The Constitution Of The  
United States”**

**“And Now We Are Perpetrating  
Something That If Any Other Country In**

# The World Was Doing, We Would Likely Step In And Stop It”



Vokey said that after an Iraqi rocket hit and exploded into these pieces, roughly 30 feet from where he was standing during the Gulf War in 1991, he put on his helmet — and kept it on for the rest of the war.

October 30, 2007 All Things Considered [Excerpts]

By all accounts, Colby Vokey is a model officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, at one point helping command an artillery unit in Kuwait during the Gulf War in 1991.

For the past four years, Vokey has served as chief of all the Corps' defense lawyers in the western United States — and he's played a key role in some of the military's most sensitive legal issues, including the murder investigation in Haditha, Iraq, and in the debate about detainees at the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay.

**“Colby Vokey?” muses retired Col. Jane Siegel. “Integrity almost seems like a word too small to describe him.”**

**Says Lt. Col. Matthew Cord, “He’s just one of the best.”**

**So when Vokey announced recently that he wanted to leave the Corps, it said something troubling about the military system of justice that he’s served for almost 20 years.**

**Vokey charges that some commanders and officials in the Bush administration have abused the system of justice, and he’s going to retire from the Corps May 1, 2008.**

People who know him say that privately, Vokey has acknowledged he is “angry” and “bitter.”

Publicly, Vokey describes himself as “fed up.”

“I think changes to the system are well-overdue,” he told NPR. “And it’s a little frustrating when you see problems are highlighted time and time and again.”

So how did Vokey, who’s stationed at Camp Pendleton in California, evolve from a gung-ho warrior helping command an artillery unit in Desert Storm to a disillusioned officer?

Vokey says he can remember the exact moments that he decided to become a Marine, and then later, a Marine lawyer.

Just after he arrived as a freshman at Texas A&M, he met an officer in the Corps. “He was in his Marine uniform — the green trousers, the tan shirt, the ribbons, the rank, his hat,” Vokey said. “Every time he made a movement it was sharp, it was crisp. You knew who was in charge. And it was him. He looked like he was one of the best. And I wanted to be one of the best.”

Years later, after he had enlisted and fought in Desert Storm, Vokey got called to jury duty in a court-martial.

Vokey said it was a routine case against a Marine accused of writing bad checks. On the surface, he said, it resembled any trial in the civilian world — there was a military judge, a military prosecutor and a military defense lawyer, which the Corps always provides to defendants for free.

**But Vokey said when he and the other jurors began deliberating, he saw one of the biggest potential problems that can prevent service members from getting a fair trial: the senior officer on the jury tried to order everybody else how to decide the verdict.**

“We walked into the deliberation room, closed the door, sat down and he said, ‘All right, let’s convict this guy. Let’s get out of here,’” Vokey said.

“I said, ‘Whoa, sir, I think we’re supposed to talk about the evidence first.’ And he said, ‘Jesus Christ, you think this guy’s not guilty?’”

**Vokey said that’s when he decided to fight his battles in the courtroom — to make sure that commanders never manipulate the system of justice.**

**Commanders have the power to do just that, if they wanted: The same commander who accuses a Marine of breaking the law might also pick the members of the jury, which will decide if the commander is right.**

**And that same commander might supervise the lawyer who defends the Marine against his accusations.**

But Vokey teaches his defense lawyers that they have to fight commanders with every legal weapon they’ve got, even if it makes the commanders angry.

When he trains young Marine defense lawyers, he tells them “you have one loyalty, and that’s to the client,” Vokey said.



But Vokey says that is one reason he's feeling demoralized: he has fought cases in the past few years where officials have tried to sway the system.

Vokey has also watched thousands of Marines come back to Camp Pendleton from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some have developed post-traumatic stress disorder or other serious mental health problems, and then taken illegal drugs or refused to show up at the base.

To punish them, commanders have kicked them out of the service, with few or no benefits.

Vokey says he agrees that commanders must punish soldiers who break the rules or discipline would fall apart. But he says the system is too rigid and should blend discipline with compassion.

"What's upsetting is we've created the situation" by sending the Marines to war, Vokey said. "They fought for their country. And if we broke them, we should fix them."

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**The U.S. has imprisoned hundreds of "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo Bay in a military legal system that Vokey denounces as "horrific."**

**Vokey saw the system first-hand when he agreed two years ago to defend a teenager there who had been charged with murdering a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan.**

**Vokey said he knew the case would be difficult, but he discovered that the legal system at Guantanamo is a "sham."**

**Vokey said the military staff constantly harassed him and interfered with his defense work by making it difficult even to meet with his client or show his client the government's evidence against him. The teenager confessed to killing the soldier, but he told Vokey he confessed after being shackled for hours in excruciating positions and bombarded by screeching music and flashing lights.**

**FBI agents have reported seeing detainees treated in similar ways and investigators at human rights groups have reported evidence suggesting that detainees are routinely abused.**

**Vokey calls the system "disgraceful."**

"Anytime you want to subvert the rule of law to the power of a government, you've got a very bad thing brewing," Vokey told NPR.

**"As an officer in the Marine Corps I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. And now we are perpetrating something that if any other country in the world was doing, we would likely step in and stop it."**

When asked to identify exactly which officials in the military and the Bush administration he believes have abused the system of justice, Vokey avoids giving an answer.

When pressed, Vokey went to his bookshelf, pulled out the Manual for Courts-Martial, and read from Article 88: “Any commissioned officer who uses contemptuous words against the president, vice president, Congress” and a list of other officials, he said, “shall be punished as a court martial may direct.”

“I need to be careful,” Vokey said.

Given that he speaks out like that, Vokey said he was not completely surprised when an official at USMC headquarters called him recently to her office in Washington and fired him as chief of defense counsels in the western United States.

Officials at the Corps would not give NPR an interview despite repeated requests.

But when former Marine Corps lawyers heard about Vokey’s firing, they were incensed. Siegel said Vokey’s firing sent a chilling message that some officials don’t want military lawyers to defend the Constitution too vigorously.

“I believe that Colby Vokey was pulled out of his position because he’s doing too good a job,” Siegel said. “I think that the people in Washington, D.C., don’t like that.”

After Siegel and other well-known lawyers wrote a blistering letter of protest about Vokey’s firing and lobbied top commanders at Marine headquarters, officials backed down and reinstated him. But critics say the Corps is just doing damage control because officials know that Vokey is planning to leave on his own.

**MORE:**

***“I’m Proud To Say I Never  
Compromised My Humanity”***  
**“Elite Group Of Two Dozen World  
War II Veterans In Washington  
This Month”**  
**“We Got More Information Out Of A  
German General With A Game Of Chess**

# Or Ping-Pong Than They Do Today, With Their Torture”

October 14, 2007 The New York Times, By FRANK RICH [Excerpts]

By any legal standards except those rubber-stamped by Alberto Gonzales, we are practicing torture, and we have known we are doing so ever since photographic proof emerged from Abu Ghraib more than three years ago.

**As Andrew Sullivan, once a Bush cheerleader, observed last weekend in The Sunday Times of London, America’s “enhanced interrogation” techniques have a grotesque provenance: “Verschärfte Vernehmung, enhanced or intensified interrogation, was the exact term innovated by the Gestapo to describe what became known as the ‘third degree.’**

It left no marks. It included hypothermia, stress positions and long-time sleep deprivation.”

**Our moral trajectory over the Bush years could not be better dramatized than it was by a reunion of an elite group of two dozen World War II veterans in Washington this month.**

**They were participants in a top-secret operation to interrogate some 4,000 Nazi prisoners of war.**

**Until now, they have kept silent, but America’s recent record prompted them to talk to The Washington Post.**

**“We got more information out of a German general with a game of chess or Ping-Pong than they do today, with their torture,” said Henry Kolm, 90, an M.I.T. physicist whose interrogation of Rudolf Hess, Hitler’s deputy, took place over a chessboard.**

**George Frenkel, 87, recalled that he “never laid hands on anyone” in his many interrogations, adding, “I’m proud to say I never compromised my humanity.”**

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**While Troops Die, War Profiteers  
Rolling In Cash:  
“The Top 34 CEOs Of The Defense  
Industry Have Earned A Combined  
Billion Dollars Since 9/11”**

# “Yet Another Quarter Of Whopping Profits Made Possible By George Bush’s Pretending To Fight Terrorism”

Oct 30, 2007 By Robert Scheer, TRUTHDIG [Excerpts]

Not to stoke any of the inane conspiracy theories running wild on the Internet, but if Osama bin Laden wasn't on the payroll of Lockheed Martin or some other large defense contractor, he deserves to have been.

What a boondoggle 9/11 has been for the merchants of war, who this week announced yet another quarter of whopping profits made possible by George Bush's pretending to fight terrorism by throwing money at outdated Cold War-style weapons systems.

Lockheed Martin, the nation's top weapons manufacturer, reaped a 22 percent increase in profits, while rivals for the defense buck, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics, increased profits by 62 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Boeing's profits jumped 61 percent, spiked this quarter by its commercial division, but Boeing's military division, like the others, has been doing very well indeed since the terrorist attacks.

As Newsweek International put in August: “Since 9/11 and the U.S.-led wars that followed, shares in American defense companies have outperformed both the Nasdaq and Standard & Poor's stock indices by some 40 percent.

Not bad for an industry in serious difficulty with the sudden collapse of the Cold War at the beginning of the 1990s, when the first President Bush and his defense secretary, Dick Cheney, were severely cutting the military budget for high-ticket planes and ships designed to fight the no-longer-existent Soviet military.

**“The Pentagon currently absorbs more than half of the federal government’s discretionary budget,” writes Lawrence J. Korb, “surpassing the heights reached when I was President Reagan’s assistant secretary of defense. ... And, much like the 1980s, we are spending billions of dollars on weapons systems designed to fight the Soviet superpower.”**

Thanks to bin Laden and Bush's exploitation of “war on terror” hysteria, the taxpayers have been hoodwinked into paying for a sophisticated military arsenal to fight a Soviet enemy that no longer exists.

The Institute for Policy Studies calculated last year that the top 34 CEOs of the defense industry have earned a combined billion dollars since 9/11; they should give bin Laden his cut.

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# **Army Has Record Low Level of Recruits; “Fewer Signed Up Than In Any Year Since It Became An All-Volunteer Service In 1973”**

[Thanks to Marco F., The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Oct 31 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

**The Army began its recruiting year Oct. 1 with fewer signed up for basic training than in any year since it became an all-volunteer service in 1973, a top general said Wednesday.**

Gen. William S. Wallace, whose duties as commander of Army Training and Doctrine Command include management of recruiting, told reporters at the Pentagon that the historic dip will make it harder to achieve the full-year recruiting goal — after just barely reaching it in the year ended Sept. 30.

Making it even tougher is the decline in what the Army calls its delayed entry pool, which is the group of enlistees who have signed contracts to join the Army but want to wait before shipping off to basic training.

Normally the Army tries to start its recruiting year with a delayed entry pool equal to about 25 percent of its full-year goal, which in this case would equate to 20,000 recruits.

Instead, the Army began with 7,392 recruits, or about 9 percent of its full-year goal.

Last year at this time the Army was beginning its recruiting year with 12,062, or about 15 percent.

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## **One-Woman Show Gives Voice To Complexity, Human Cost Of War; [Tod Ensign, Citizen Soldier & GI Special Get A Mention]**

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

October 16, 2007 Sun Journal

TEMPLE - The Temple Stream Theater will present veteran New York City performer Margo Sherman in her acclaimed one-woman show "What Do I Know About War?" Friday, Oct. 19.

This 7:30 p.m. show had originally been scheduled in July but was postponed due to illness.

Sherman lives next to the 69th Regiment Armory in New York City.

**One day while buying a coffee at the deli across the street, she began talking with a soldier. Her morning conversation inspired other soldiers to join in and led to interviews and longer in-depth talks. Their stories about life in Iraq and their homecoming experiences with spouses, families and friends became the basis for her show.**

**"What Do I Know About War?" is based on excerpts from Tod Ensign's 2004 book "America's Military Today;" G.I. Special, an online digest of news and letters from active-duty soldiers; and Sherman's own conversations with soldiers.**

Characters range from two gung-ho 19-year-old girls who leave home for the first time and are killed in combat to a longtime professional soldier who re-examines his beliefs in the wake of Abu Ghraib and becomes a conscientious objector.

These stories, performed with Sherman's intensity and concentration, convey the many dimensions of this complex tragedy with power and immediacy.

"What Do I Know About War?" puts a human face on the many who have served in Iraq, and Sherman sheds new light on the human cost of the war.

The New York Times called her one-hour performance "brilliant."

The Temple Stream Theater is in the former Congregational Church on Intervale Road. For more information, call 778 2513.

"What Do I Know About War?" will also be presented at the University of New England in Biddeford at the campus center. This performance is free and open to the public.

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## **Navy Bombs Virginia Beach Warehouse**

Oct 31, 2007 by Melanie Woodrow, WAVY & AP

Virginia Beach, Virginia

The Navy says at 12:15 p.m., an F/A-18C Hornet preparing to land at NAS Oceana accidentally dropped a BDU-48 training bomb.

The bomb was a BDU-48, which carries an explosive charge that emits smoke upon impact, Maus said.

The ten pound, inactive bomb landed at Brooks Transfer and Storage located at 1378 London Bridge Road and hit a wall. No one was hurt and the Navy says the damage is minor.

A former A-6 intruder pilot familiar with these types of training missions says, "It's almost unheard of. There's various things that can happen at intervals ranging from error in the cockpit to mechanical malfunction on the airplane."

The Navy says the aircraft landed safely at NAS Oceana. A spokesperson for Brooks Transfer and Storage said they have no comment at this time.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **RESISTANCE ACTION**

31 Oct 2007 Reuters & VOI

A roadside bomb killed an off-duty soldier and a policeman and wounded one civilian when it exploded near their car on a main road near Tuz Khurmato, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Dhahir al-Bayati, chief judge of Kirkuk Appeal Court, escaped an assassination attempt when nationalists opened fire at his car, killing one of his guards and seriously wounding another in the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (150 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas wounded an intelligence officer along with his wife and son in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A member of a tribal council allied to the U.S. was killed and three others were injured when nationalists opened fire on their car on the Kirkuk-Mosul road.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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### **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**November 1, 1954:**

# **Algerians Open Their War For Liberation:**

**“The Battle Of Algiers, Like The Battles Raging In Baghdad Today, Was Characterized By Attacks On Civilian Targets”**

**“Give Us Planes And Tanks And We Will Abandon Terror,” Ben Bella Said**



French troops attack Algerian civilians

**In outraged reaction, French forces responded by taking a far larger number of Muslim lives.**

**These events served to polarize the two communities in such a way that a narrowly based insurrection became a nationwide revolution; thousands of men joined guerrilla units, while France rapidly built its own forces into the hundreds of thousands.**

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

A war of independence to end French colonial rule over the north African nation of Algeria began when 60 bombs were set off in Algiers, the capital.

**MORE:**



Answers.com & JOHN CHERIAN, Frontlineonnet.com [Excerpts]

The Algerian war of independence began in the early hours of 1 November 1954 and ended officially on 3 July 1962, when France's President Charles de Gaulle formally renounced his nation's sovereignty over Algeria and proclaimed its independence.

**The French occupation of Algeria, begun in 1830, led to a colonial situation in which a minority of European settlers and their descendants dominated the Algerian economy.**

**They maintained that domination through monopolies of political power and the means of coercion.**

During the first half of the twentieth century, a series of initiatives by various indigenous leaderships sought first to secure meaningful political participation for the Muslim majority within the colonial system and later to negotiate autonomy, confederation, or independence.

When these efforts proved fruitless, a group of radical young nationalists founded the Comité Révolutionnaire d'Unité et d'Action (CRUA; Revolutionary Committee of Unity and Action), which began, in the spring or summer of 1952, to plan an insurrection.

**Estimates of the number of militants taking part in the initial insurrection range from nine hundred to about three thousand.**

It began with attacks on French installations in several parts of the country, but the most effective actions took place in the Aurès region of the southeast.

Fifty years ago, on November 1, a series of 60 explosions rocked Algiers, killing 10 persons. The well-planned operation targeted police stations, bridges, municipal buildings and electrical facilities.

The French colonial administration had no inkling of the events that were to unfold.

Algeria was the jewel in the French crown. Many Frenchmen had taken it for granted that Algeria would be a French possession forever.

More than a million Frenchmen had settled in Algeria, since the 19th century, occupying the best agricultural land, and lording it over the local populace. The French government had started viewing Algeria as a province of France, rather than as a colony

The events of November 1, 1954, marked the birth of the National Liberation Front (FLN).

On that day the FLN issued its first official communique in French, announcing the start of the liberation struggle. It emphasised that the task of achieving the goal of independence was in the hands of the FLN.

The statement, which emanated from Cairo, claimed responsibility for the explosions and called for “the restoration of the Algerian state”.

The first communique of the FLN was aired over Egypt’s “Voice of the Arabs” radio. Not only the French authorities, but the Algerian public and the Arab world in general were taken by surprise when the announcement about the formation of the “Revolutionary Committee for Unity and Action” was made. Three of the nine original leaders of the Algerian revolution were based in Egypt. The other six operated underground in Algeria.

During the ensuing winter, the French managed to contain the insurrection, limiting its manifestations to distant and inaccessible regions.

**In August 1955, the leadership, concerned that neither the bulk of Algerians nor the European community were taking the insurrection seriously, decided to begin targeting European civilians in some twenty-six localities in the eastern part of the country.**

As many as 123 people were killed in what were called the Philippeville massacres.

**In outraged reaction, French forces responded by taking a far larger number of Muslim lives.**

**These events served to polarize the two communities in such a way that a narrowly based insurrection became a nationwide revolution; thousands of men joined guerrilla units, while France rapidly built its own forces into the hundreds of thousands.**

In order to accommodate the dramatically broadened movement, the revolutionaries organized a clandestine congress in the Soumamm valley of the Kabylia during August and September 1956. It created a broad Conseil National de la Révolution Algérienne (CNRA) to serve as a protoparliament and a Comité de Coordination et d’Exécution (CCE; Committee of Coordination and Implementation) to bear the executive functions.

**One of the first decisions of the new executive was to initiate, at the end of September 1956, the urban warfare strategy that became known as the Battle of Algiers.**

The French colonial power had constructed a “wall” in the 1950s to keep out Algerian “terrorists” coming in from neighbouring countries such as Morocco and Tunisia.

The Battle of Algiers, very much like the battles raging in Baghdad and other cities today, was characterised by attacks on civilian targets, like restaurants and buses.

The Algerian resistance had come in for criticism from the Western media for its choice of tactics.

“Give us planes and tanks and we will abandon terror”, Ben Bella said at that time.

[T]he recourse to urban warfare brought the war home in a physical way to the majority of Colons, who were urban residents, and attracted the attention of metropolitan Frenchmen and the wider world for the first time to the Algerian situation.

After several abortive attempts at negotiations, the provisional government and France finally signed the Evian Agreement on 18 March 1962, which led to unequivocal independence in July.

The Algerian war of independence is one of the bloodiest wars fought on the African continent. More than 1.5 million Algerians died in the struggle. The French lost over 27,000 soldiers, and over 4,000 civilians.

THE Algerian revolution is a landmark in the struggle against colonial rule. Its success 50 years ago in the face of overwhelming odds continues to inspire people fighting against oppression.

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## **November 1, 1970: Honorable Anniversary**

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

**Detroit's Common Council voted for immediate withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from Vietnam.**

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# **1917: How Soldiers, Sailors And Workers Overthrow A War Government And Take The Power For Themselves**

[The article below, while a good history of how troops and working class people overthrew a war government, makes a fetish out of a Russian word, "soviet," which means in English, "council."

[These were freely elected councils of soldiers, sailors, workers, and sometimes poor peasants, set up from below because the Russian government ruling at the top was a dictatorship of, by and for the wealthy. The councils were democratic revolutionary organizations.

[Accordingly, below, the word "soviet" has been replaced by [council], to make clear what these organizations were.

[The article also omits giving the name of the leading council: "The Petrograd Council Of Workers' And Soldiers' Deputies," which makes even clearer what was going on. T]

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October 26, 2007 By MICHELE BOLLINGER, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

**THE DEFEAT of the coup attempt led by the right-wing Gen. Kornilov at the end of August set the stage for the final act of the Russian Revolution.**

**The Provisional Government, led by Alexander Kerensky, was further compromised in the eyes of Russian workers. Kerensky had continued to prosecute the war and was complicit in putting Kornilov in a position of power in the first place.**

The moderate socialist parties, the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries (SR), still had the support of a large section of workers, soldiers and peasants, but their collaboration with the Provisional Government had tarnished their standing.

By contrast, the Bolsheviks--because of their members' decisive role in defeating Kornilov and their commitment to defending the [councils]--won greater influence. By September, the Bolsheviks were the majority in the Petrograd and Moscow [councils] and others across Russia. Leon Trotsky was elected president of the Petrograd [Council].

"The mass mood was not specifically Bolshevik in the sense of reflecting a desire for a Bolshevik government," wrote historian Alexander Rabinowitch.

**"As the flood of post-Kornilov political resolutions revealed, Petrograd soldiers, sailors and workers were attracted more than ever by the goal of creating a [council] government uniting all [council] elements. And in their eyes, the Bolsheviks stood for [council] power--[council] democracy."**

The inherently unstable situation of dual power--the [councils] on the one hand, and the Provisional Government on the other--was coming to a head. "It was a question," Trotsky wrote, "of one of the element of a dual power making an insurrection against the other."

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**"ALL POWER to the [councils]" was becoming the clear, if not fully formed, aspiration of Russian workers, soldiers and some peasants.**

But it wasn't the aim of Russia's socialist parties--the Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries and even some Bolsheviks, who maintained a murky vision of a broad-based, socialist coalition government to succeed Kerensky's Provisional Government.

By mid-September, the Bolsheviks were oriented around influencing the Democratic State Conference, a body organized by Menshevik and SR leaders in the Provisional Government to rival the Congress of [Councils]. The Democratic State Conference paved the way for a pre-Parliament, a national body representing all classes in Russia, whose opening ceremony was presided over by Kerensky.

To Lenin, this orientation was all wrong. He believed the Bolsheviks were missing a decisive opportunity to organize to overthrow Kerensky and claim power for the [councils]. He launched a campaign within the party--first among its leadership, and then the rank and file--to take immediate steps toward organizing an insurrection.

The reluctance to embrace Lenin's call for insurrection came from a fear that the Bolsheviks would repeat the experience of the July Days--that a premature action would backfire.

But Lenin insisted that the situation had changed. As he wrote in one mass appeal:

"Comrades!

**"Look around you, see what is happening in the countryside, see what is happening in the army, and you will realize that the peasants and soldiers cannot tolerate it any longer..."**

**"Go to the barracks, go to the Cossack units, go to the working people and explain the *truth* to them."**

**"If power is in the hands of the [councils]...there will be a *workers and peasants' government* in Russia; it will *immediately*, without losing a single day, offer a *just peace to all belligerent peoples*...if power is in the hands of the [councils], the *landowners estates will immediately be declared the inalienable property of the whole people*...No, not *one more day* are the people willing to suffer postponement."**

The Bolshevik Central Committee met on October 10, the first time Lenin debated his comrades face to face about the new situation. Lenin insisted that "the political situation is fully ripe for the transfer of power." His resolution, which made seizure of power "the order of the day," passed by a vote of 10-2.

But debates persisted with Lenin's longtime collaborators, Gregory Zinoviev and Lev Kamenev, who were steadfastly opposed to an insurrection. They were skeptical of both Bolsheviks' supposed strength and the Provisional Government's weakness.

Zinoviev and Kamenev proposed that the party maintain a "defensive posture" and continue plans to work within a Constituent Assembly, as promised by Kerensky. Their conception of working class power was that the "[councils] must be a revolver pointed at the head of the government, with the demand to convene the Constituent Assembly and stop all Kornilovite plots."

Lenin responded: "Someone has very pointedly retorted to our pessimist: 'Is it a revolver with no cartridges?'...(If) it is to be a revolver 'with cartridges,' this cannot mean anything but technical preparation for an uprising; the cartridges have to be procured, the revolver has to be loaded--and cartridges alone will not be enough."

Lenin was proved right about the need to prepare for an insurrection. But he was wrong about how it should take place--both in his argument that the Bolsheviks themselves should carry out the insurrection in the name of the [councils], and in his suggestion that it begin in Moscow.

Trotsky and other Bolshevik leaders were better placed to recognize that support for the Bolsheviks was a product of loyalty to the [councils] and [council] power. They began to develop a strategy of preparing for insurrection that utilized the strength of the [councils] themselves.

**The Petrograd [Council] established a Military Revolutionary Committee to organize for the defense of the revolution. Under Trotsky's leadership, the committee began to seize on any attempt at repression by the Provisional Government to not only defend the [councils], but expand the scope of [council] power.**

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**THE CRUCIAL moment arrived in October when the Kerensky government suddenly announced plans to move the bulk of the Petrograd garrison--now as much a center of the revolution as the city's factories--to the front.**

**"In unison," Rabinowitch wrote, "garrison troops proclaimed their lack of confidence in the Provisional Government and demanded the transfer of power to the [councils]."**

The Military Revolutionary Committee sent its own commissars to replace the government's representatives in all garrison units. The committee issued an order that "no directives to the garrison not signed by the Military Revolutionary Committee should be considered valid."

Effectively, the [council] had taken control of the armed forces in Petrograd away from Kerensky--"disarming the Provisional Government without firing a shot," Rabinowitch writes.

Meanwhile, preparations were taking place for the Second All-Russian Congress of [Councils] from throughout the country--where the Bolsheviks were certain to have the majority of delegates.

On the eve of the congress, the Provisional Government made a last attempt at a crackdown. For example, Kerensky ordered the bridges raised in the center of the capital to disrupt movement--as the Tsar had done during the February Revolution.

The Military Revolutionary Committee's countermoves were coordinated out of the Smolny Institute--formerly a woman's boarding school, which had been taken over as the central headquarters of the Petrograd [council], and where the leaders of the Bolsheviks and other revolutionary groups gathered. "Agitators, organizers, leaders of factories, regiments, districts would appear," wrote Trotsky, "to get news, to check up on their own activities and return to their posts."

In the end, the process by which armed workers and soldiers took power in Petrograd was strikingly simple.

**Trotsky writes that a company of soldiers "was given the task of seizing the nearby Nikolaevsky railroad station. In less than a quarter of an hour, the station**

**was occupied by strong guards without a blow.” Government buildings, transport stations, bridges, communications centers--all were occupied by similar detachments.**

**“With ease, a group of 40 sailors seized the State Bank building on the Ekaterininsky Canal.**

As Trotsky commented: “The job was done. It was not necessary to employ force, for there was no resistance.

“The insurrectionary masses lifted their elbows and pushed out the lords of yesterday.”

Late on October 25, detachments of armed workers seized the Winter Palace, where Kerensky had holed up with other top officials of the Provisional Government. Kerensky himself had fled hours earlier. The remaining ministers were arrested without a fight.

While being transported to his cell in Trubetskoi Bastion, Alexander Konovalov, Kerensky’s Minister of Trade and Industry, “suddenly realized he was without cigarettes. Gingerly, he asked the sailor accompanying him for one and was relieved when the sailor not only offered him shag and paper but, seeing his confusion about what to do with them, rolled him a smoke.”

The empty threats of the bourgeoisie--not to mention the moderate socialists, like the Mensheviks--who predicted chaos and anarchy were exposed with every step the Russian masses took toward their own liberation.

Even police reports from that night indicate an absence of disorder.

The next morning, the Second All-Russian Congress of [Councils] convened and adopted a decree transferring power to the [councils].

The Provisional Government had been toppled, and the demand for “All Power to the [Councils]”--the embodiment of workers’ democratic self-rule--was made a reality.

### **Troops Invited:**

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

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team 3-1 CAV order an Iraqi brick factory worker to leave his workplace at gunpoint near the city of Narhwan, about 18 miles west of Baghdad October 12, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

**[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

### **“A Tank Shell Left Its Mark On Assad”**

### **“The Boy’s Right Leg Is Amputated Above The Knee, The Left Leg Below The Knee And His Entire Left Arm, Up To The Shoulder, Is Gone”**

26/10/2007 By Gideon Levy, Haaretz

The news the day after Sukkot was delivered dryly, as usual: “12 Palestinians were killed during the holiday by Israel Defense Forces fire. More than 30 Palestinians were wounded.”

On the eve of the holiday, dozens of mortar shells and Qassam rockets had been fired at the Negev; in response, dozens of Israeli tanks entered Beit Hanun.

**Israeli journalists have been forbidden to enter Gaza for nearly a year now, under orders from the government, and the news report from the IDF spokesman was, as usual, the only information that reached readers in Israel.**

**“There was a confirmed hit of a cell of launchers of anti-tank weapons,” the IDF reported about the incident in which there were many wounded and killed.**

**It’s three weeks later and the survivors of that incident still lie in Gaza’s Shifa Hospital.**

**The “cell of launchers of anti-tank weapons” was actually a group of teenagers, who had gone out in the street after school and saw tanks approaching.**

It’s hard to believe that Assad Mahmoud, for example, was a member of this “cell”: He’s a 15-year-old ninth-grader.

**Not much is left of the scrawny youth’s body. He lost both legs and an arm as a result of the shell that soldiers fired at the teens, who were outside, near their homes; he was also badly wounded in the abdomen.**

Assad lays in bed, staring at the walls, while his father makes a plea to the world to help him acquire a pair of prosthetic legs and a prosthetic arm for his son.

Since we aren’t allowed into Gaza, we asked our colleague Catrin Ormestad, a Swedish journalist who lives in Israel, to document for us last week the aftermath of the IDF

shelling of a group of children and youths in Beit Hanun during Sukkot, the day after Israel declared Gaza “hostile territory.” Ormestad has written a book about life in Gaza and Tel Aviv, which is due to be published soon in Sweden (by Norstedts Press). Munir and Said, our regular cab drivers, waited for her on the other side of the Erez checkpoint.

Following is our account of what she told us.

Shifa, the only medical institution in the Gaza Strip that can somehow be called a hospital, was quiet last week. A deathly silence also pervaded the construction site of what is supposed to be the new surgical wing:

There are no construction materials to be had anywhere in Gaza, because of the embargo imposed on it by Israel, and work at the hospital has been frozen for several months, too. The wooden scaffolding stands abandoned. There is no shortage of medicines at the hospital, and fuel for the generators that ensure the electricity supply is provided by a donation from the European Union. The holes in the building’s walls were made by gun battles between Hamas and Fatah, which took place here as well. The elevators are not working, which is not unusual.

In the surgical ward, high up on the fourth floor, lies Assad Mahmoud. Upon entering his room, a visitor is perplexed at first: What is this lying here in the bed?

It takes a few seconds for the eye to adjust to the unbearable sight.

A boy. Half a boy.

What’s left of his upper body is exposed, a bandage covers his stomach, to which a drainage bag is attached; bandages cover his three stumps, a blue sheet covers what’s left of his body.

His expression is blank, staring, dead. His father Jabar tenderly clutches the remaining wounded hand, his eyes bleary with grief and lack of sleep. For the last three weeks, 40-year-old Jabar has not left his son’s bedside except for occasional trips home to change clothes. He sleeps on the hospital floor at night.

**The boy’s right leg is amputated above the knee, the left leg below the knee and his entire left arm, up to the shoulder, is gone. A tank shell left its mark on Assad.**

The teenager is from Beit Hanun and has five siblings. His mother Maryam, 32, doesn’t budge from his bedside either. Assad speaks in a weak monotone, simply recounting what happened to him on September 26, on the eve of our Sukkot holiday: “I got up in the morning and went to school. I came home from school and did homework, and then I heard that the army was coming in. I went outside to see what was happening. A lot of children went toward the tanks, a lot of tanks. There was shooting between the armed men and the tanks.

“I was scared but I stayed to watch. The kids moved toward the tanks and all of a sudden the tank fired a shell. The shell landed in the middle of the street. There were five people killed and 20 wounded ... I remember that the Israelis fired, I flew into the air and fell on the ground.”

Assad writhes in pain. His father tries to help him. He worked for years in Israel, but has been unemployed for some time now. When the tanks entered the street he was asleep at home. "When I woke up I heard a noise and I ran to bring the children home. I wanted them to come into the house, and then to send them to their grandparents in Gaza City, until the tanks left," he says.

He succeeded in his task: He brought all the children inside the house and then hurried to the home of his brother and nephew, both doctors, who had set up a makeshift clinic to give first aid to the wounded who had already begun to arrive.

All of a sudden, his neighbors came and told him that Assad was wounded. First they said that he had been killed, then they corrected themselves and said he was wounded. Jabar soon found out that after he had left the house, Assad had gone back out to the street. Jabar says that he went crazy when he heard the news: "I ran into the street like a maniac. I went mad. Everything fell apart for me. I ran out to the street, but I don't remember what I did."

Meanwhile, Assad's brother, 18-year-old Mohammed, carried his wounded brother to the Beit Hanun clinic, accompanied by their father. Assad was still conscious.

His lost limbs were left behind at the place where he was wounded. He was sent to the Kamal Radwan clinic and from there to Shifa Hospital.

Jabar: "Why can't the children of Palestine go out to the street to play? They're just kids. I appeal to the world to get new legs for Assad, and maybe a new arm, too."

He says that Assad liked to play soccer in the neighborhood, to dance the debka and to swim in the sea.

In the next room lies Mohammed Zakariya al-Bassiouni. The 16-year-old looks younger than his age. His forehead is studded with acne; he wears a blue undershirt and black shorts, above his stump.

His right leg was amputated above the knee. Several fingers from his right hand were also amputated. Wounds and clotted blood are visible on his remaining leg. Mohammed smiles shyly. A bouquet of plastic flowers doesn't add much cheer to the room. He tells his story: "I went to school, I came home from school, I was sitting in the street by my house with friends, and then we heard the tanks and saw them approaching from the end of the street."

**Many children were frightened and ran home, but not Mohammed. He remained standing next to his house.**

**"The tank started firing, some children were killed, some lost arms and legs, some were wounded. My cousin, who was standing next to me, was killed. Someone put me in a car and took me to the clinic and from there to Shifa where they amputated my leg."**

On the way to the hospital, Mohammed lost consciousness. He's a good friend of his neighbor in the next room, Assad, and he remembers that they were talking to each

other a few minutes before the shell hit. He says he saw Assad lying on the ground with his legs missing. Mohammed is also in pain.

Have you ever met an Israeli? "They're animals," he replies.

His mother, Hanan, 36, says that she had just made lunch for the younger children who weren't yet fasting during Ramadan, when she heard the big explosion from the street. She ran out and saw a lot of blood. Someone told her that Mohammed had been taken to the hospital.

**In a room on the first floor lies Bilal Ahmed Zaidan, 19, with one leg and one arm in an iron splint, held together with screws. Several of his fingers have been amputated, others are injured.**

A strong sourish smell wafts from the bed and it's hard to get close. Pictures of old martyrs hang on the wall behind him.

He doesn't work or go to school. He's usually at home all the time. When he heard the tanks that day, he went outside.

In the morning, Qassams and mortars had been fired, but he says the launching point was from about 60 meters away from the place on which the tanks fired. He says the tank was about 300 meters away from the youths when it fired.

He also says there were no armed militants among the dead and wounded.

In another bed in the same room lies Majdi Diab, 14. A bloodstained sheet covers the wound in Majdi's shoulder. His abdomen is also all bandaged.

The same story: school, home, out to the street to buy something for his father. But Majdi didn't make it home because of the tanks. His parents were worried, but couldn't get to him.

The tanks stood between them and the child. His aunt says that at first they were told that his leg had been amputated and that now they're happy that this wasn't the case.

Said the IDF spokesman, this week, in response to an inquiry from Haaretz: "On the date in question the IDF operated in launching areas in the northern Gaza Strip. In the course of the activity, in a number of incidents, mortar shells and anti-tank missiles were fired at the forces. In one incident, an IDF force attacked a cell of anti-tank missile launchers, who was observed preparing to fire upon the forces, and a hit of the cell was observed.

**[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."]**

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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