

## GI SPECIAL 5K10:



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

**“More People In The  
Military And More  
Veterans Actually  
Coming Out And  
Speaking Out Against  
The War”**



Kelly Dougherty [Philadelphia City Paper]

Nov 7, 2007 by Will Dean, Philadelphia City Paper

As Veterans Day approaches next week, and the war in Iraq shambles bloodily along, we sat down with Kelly Dougherty, founding member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, a national group headquartered here in Philadelphia.

Its membership is made up entirely of retired and active duty veterans who have served in the military since Sept. 11, 2001. The group has grown from seven members in 2004 to 625 today and supports immediate withdrawal, reparations for Iraqis and full benefits and health care for returning veterans.

\*\*\*\*\*

*City Paper: Do you think IVAW's growing ranks has anything to do with the failure of the new Democratic Congress to bring about any change in the war?*

Kelly Dougherty: Once the election brought the Democrats into more power than they had been in before, (some of our members) thought, "Now something's going to happen, things are going to get better and the war's going to start coming to an end."

But at the same time, a lot of people in the military (and) veterans didn't necessarily have a huge amount of faith that just by electing a few more people, it was going to drastically change the course of the war.

*CP: There have been cases of soldiers refusing to be shipped out. Have any in Iraq been refusing to go on missions?*

**KD: Most of the resistance that happens in Iraq, we would never hear about.**

Recently ... independent journalist Dahr Jamail interviewed active duty and retired veterans about "search and avoid" missions, which basically means instead of going out and doing a patrol, you go out and set up an over-watch position on a bridge or park under some shade and call in radio reports that you are patrolling a route when really you're just sitting there hoping nothing happens to you.

*CP: So, is there any good news for Veterans Day?*

**KD: People are really getting fed up and there's a lot of movement to do more organizing.**

**I think that it's encouraging to see more people in the military and more veterans actually coming out and speaking out against the war in whatever way they are able to do.**

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

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, Four Wounded In Diyala**

13 November 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071114-02

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Multi-National Division – North Soldiers died as a result of an explosion while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Nov. 13.

Additionally, four MND-N Soldiers were wounded and evacuated to a coalition hospital.

---

### **Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier, Five Wounded**

13 November 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071114-06

BAGHDAD – An explosively formed penetrator detonated in central Baghdad Nov. 14, killing a Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier and wounding five others.

---

## Illinois Sgt. Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army, Sgt. Joseph M. Vaneck, 22, Elmhurst, Ill., died Nov. 12, 2007, in Baghdad of wounds from small-arms fire; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

---

## U.S. Soldier Killed Near Mosul

13 November 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071114-02

A Multi-National Corps - Iraq Soldier was killed today during military operations near the city of Mosul. The Soldier was mortally wounded by gunfire while providing security to a Police Transitional Team training mission near an Iraqi Police Station.

---

## Stryker Blown Up Near Entrance To Green Zone;

# Casualties Not Announced



11-14-2007: A damaged Stryker vehicle targeted by a roadside bomb in central Baghdad. (AFP/Ali Yussef)

11-14-2007 (AFP)

One heavily armoured Stryker vehicle of the US military was badly damaged in the blast near the Green Zone, an AFP correspondent at the site reported.

US military spokesman Major Winfield Danielson said the blast had been caused by a roadside bomb.

"I can confirm that coalition forces were attacked with an improvised explosive device this morning near an entrance to the International Zone," Danielson told AFP.

"Two entry control points were temporarily closed as a result of the incident, but have subsequently reopened."

The blast, which sent a thick plume of smoke in the sky, occurred around 8:10 am (0510 GMT) at a time when hundreds of Iraqis queue up to enter the Green Zone, which houses the US and British embassies and the Iraqi parliament.

The bomb had been planted at the foot of a watchtower at the end of a long row of concrete blast walls protecting a nearby police station.

The last Stryker in the three-vehicle convoy bore the full brunt of the explosion, which scattered fragments of metal across the street.

Soon after the blast, a US soldier, clearly shocked, sat with his head in his hands, his weapon at his feet.

His colleagues inspected the damage while two of them unloaded rucksacks and ammunition from the back of the 17-tonne armoured troop transport vehicle.

Other soldiers took up positions around the Strykers to keep back the crowds, scanning passersby through the sights of their automatic weapons.

The long, narrow heavily-armoured vehicles which are fitted with side shields capable of deflecting a rocket and most roadside bombs, are built to get as many troops to a combat zone as quickly as possible.

Police from the nearby post and Iraqi troops at the site appeared unconcerned by the blast, some smiling as they tried to keep away curious onlookers.

---

## Pace Grad Killed In Iraq



Special to the News Journal

November, 2, 2007 Troy Moon, The Pensacola News Journal

Daniel McCall will stay in the Pace High School record books until someone runs faster.

But even then, his accomplishments will never fade.

McCall, a 24-year-old soldier and 2001 Pace High graduate, was killed Tuesday in Iraq, according to family members and friends.

"He still has our 400-meter record," said Kent Smith, a track and football coach at Pace High School. "He had good speed and ran well. He was a happy-go-lucky kid. And the thing I remember about him is that he could run forever and run fast."

The Martinsville (Va.) Bulletin on Thursday reported that a Bradley fighting vehicle ran over a deeply embedded IED, according to Jenkins' brother, Army Sgt. George Jenkins.

McCall also played soccer throughout his life and football during his senior year. He was chosen to the News Journal All-Area Track second team in 2001 after finishing second at the Class 3A state championships in the 400-meters.

He was raised by his grandparents, Marvin and Liane McCall, who moved from Pace to Mississippi after the young man graduated and joined the Army, said his aunt, Betty McCall of Pace. His mother, Petra McCall, lives in Georgia, she said.

Friends said McCall was an all-around athlete who brightened their world. "He was a great-looking guy who was excellent at soccer," said Jeanna Kay Woodhall, 24, who graduated from Pace in 2002 and who had known McCall since both were preschoolers.

"He did all the church functions with us and was a great all-around person. He wasn't just good at sports. He was good at everything. And he always thought the Army was the best thing that ever happened to him."

Woodhall's mother, Kay Donaldson of Pace, taught Sunday School to McCall at West Milton Church of Christ. "I remember Daniel as being a highly intelligent young man," Donaldson said. "I knew he was a good soccer player and a good-looking young man. He stood out."

McCall is the second Pace High graduate killed in Iraq. Army Pfc. Kevin Ellenburg, 20, killed Nov. 1, 2006, in Iraq, graduated in 2004.

"It hits close to home when one of your own loses his life," Smith said. "We talked to our players today about appreciating what they've got, because there are young people over there giving their lives."

Woodhall also said knowing someone killed in Iraq brings the war closer to home.

"I'm glad they're over their fighting for our country," she said. "But we're losing people left and right over there. It's just devastating."

Funeral and burial arrangements have not been announced.

---

## **U.S. Troops Assist Resistance; Wipe Out "Dozens" Of Collaborators**

November 14, 2007 Associated Press

The leader of an anti-al-Qaida Sunni group is accusing U.S. troops of mistakenly killing dozens of his fighters during a battle north of Baghdad.

U.S. military officials confirm troops killed 24 fighters in a battle in the same area. The military says the clash began as soldiers searched for al-Qaida extremists believed hiding there.

U.S. officials say initial reports indicate soldiers looking for al-Qaida operatives found armed men in the area, determined they were hostile and began firing. As troops pursued the gunmen, they came under fire from several directions and called in airstrikes.

U.S. spokesmen in Baghdad say they are still gathering details of the fighting.

“The raids continued for more than 12 hours ... despite the fact that, right from the first attack last night, we have continuously been contacting American commanders that they are hitting us, their friends,” said Mansour Abid Salim of the Taji Awakening Council.

“The scene was horrible with corpses dotting the area, bodies cut into pieces by shelling,” he said.

---

## “As Soon As Money Goes Away, This Will All End,” Said One Soldier Who Has Worked In Jurf Al Sakhr

November 13, 2007 By Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

JURF AL SAKHR, Iraq — In this desolate tiny town in what was once called the Triangle of Death, signs of the violent past mix oddly with evidence of today’s more tranquil life.

Large plots of land emptied by car bombs sit next to refurbished buildings. A new water treatment plant looks out to blast walls that haven’t been necessary for months. A newly opened clothes shop is next to one that’s been shut for ages.

The town is run by deals among its anointed leaders, nearly all of them former Sunni Muslim insurgents.

None was elected. No one pays any mind to what might be happening in Iraq’s Shiite-dominated parliament in Baghdad. In fact, residents assume that the elected central government will never help them.

Instead, the insurgents-turned-leaders depend on an influx of money from the U.S. or from the provincial government to keep Islamic extremists from dominating the town again.

So far, the U.S. military has spent \$1 million, the cost of one of the military’s newest armored vehicles, on reconstruction projects and salaries for residents to secure the town and its surrounding area — 30,000 people in all.

If the U.S. plan works, the next million will come from the Shiite-led provincial government. **[Right. Sure it will.]**

**But not all the troops are happy. They see their leadership conceding too much to a group that can be bought too easily. They describe going to the homes of people who were launching attacks against them a few months ago.**



**“Personally, I think we gave up too much. As soon as money goes away, this will all end,” said one soldier who has worked in Jurf al Sakhr.**

**And while residents might not attack U.S. soldiers anymore, their disdain remains.**

**As U.S. troops walked up to Sheik Sabah’s office last week, his young son, Ahmad, sneered “Go away” in Arabic.**

---

## ***Reading Between The Lines In Iraq;* Or, How King George Won The War In 1783 And Reoccupied The USA**

Nov 13, 2007 By Paul Tait and Missy Ryan, (Reuters) [Excerpts]

**The military said up to 45 al Qaeda fighters launched a mortar attack and then assaulted two checkpoints manned by local security guards on Monday using a mix of small arms and heavy- calibre machineguns mounted on trucks in a day-long fight.**

Colonel Terry Ferrell, commander of U.S. troops in the Adwaniya area, said U.S. and Iraqi ground forces and U.S. helicopters and warplanes were used to repel the attack.

Two members of the 100-strong Adwaniya "concerned citizens" unit, set up only a week ago, were killed.

"The attack was focused specifically on the concerned citizens and on their checkpoints," Ferrell told Reuters, using the U.S. military name for the neighbourhood patrols.

**"The concerned citizens fought back valiantly as long as they had ammunition. It was very impressive." [Translation: they ran for their lives.]**

Ferrell said Iraqi army troops quickly responded when checkpoints north and south of Adwaniya were attacked after the initial mortar bombing.

"They went back in late evening yesterday and reoccupied the checkpoints as the attack waned. They are rebuilding the checkpoints," Ferrell said. **[Translation: they responded so quickly the resistance overran the checkpoints, and destroyed them. Finally, when the resistance soldiers pulled out, after the “day-long” event, the collaborator troops decided it was safe to go “reoccupy” the checkpoints.]**

---

**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:**

## **BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Task Force Iron, pass a burning vehicle in Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29, 2007. (AP Photo/SSG Russell Bassett, US Army)

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Ralston Soldier Dies In Afghanistan, Family Says**

November 14, 2007 KCCI-TV

DES MOINES Iowa - Family members say a Ralston soldier has been killed in Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. Adrian Hike, 26, was killed Monday while on patrol, his mother said. The Department of Defense has not confirmed his death.

Hike's family says he was serving as a paratrooper for the 173rd Airborne based in Germany.

His family says Hike was injured in 2005 while serving in Iraq and received a Purple Heart.

Hike is survived by his mother, father and four brothers.

Ralston is a town of about 80 people in Carroll County.

---

## **Michigan Soldier Killed In Action; “Lancour’s Family Says They Want The Other Troops Brought Home”**



[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

November 12, 2007, By Rob Preston, TV7-4.com

According to his family and friends, Army Specialist Joe Lancour had a big heart. He was determined to do great things with his life.

"As much as this has been a devastating blow, I think that when I see my son in the casket, that will be probably the hardest day of my life," says Robert Lancour, Joe Lancour's father.

Specialist Joe Lancour's family is struggling with the news that their son and brother was killed in action while serving his country in Afghanistan.

"I will never forget the last day I spent out with him out on the golf course. And then we had a cookout at home right afterwards. That was the last day," says Robert Lancour.

Specialist Lancour's death is also hitting faculty hard at his alma mater, Ludington High School. "It hits home to a whole new level. It kind of wakes us up to what our soldiers are doing, where they're at. Where they're stationed and that they're putting their life on the line for us," says Dan Mesyar.

Mesyar coaches the Ludington varsity baseball team. He says Lancour didn't make the team at first but kept trying until he finally made it during his senior year. "He came out

his senior year. Said coach I'll do whatever it takes just to be a part of this, and I think that was the kind of young man he was. He was willing to sacrifice for the team," says Mesyar.

"Joe is the kind of person who will do everything he can for you. When he bonds with someone, he's always there for them," says Robert Lancour.

Lancour's family says they want the other troops brought home.

"As long as there are other soldiers over there fighting and losing their lives, my heart will never heal," says Strala Owens, Joe's Mother.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been made because the army has not released Specialist Lancour's body to his family.

---

## Former Truckee Student Dies In Afghanistan



Phillip Allen Bocks attended schools in Truckee before joining the U.S. Marine Corps. He was killed on Friday while stationed in Afghanistan. Courtesy photo/Sierra Sun

November 12, 2007 By Patrick McCartney, Sierra Sun

Former Truckee High student Phillip Allen Bocks died Friday in Afghanistan, when he was killed in an ambush after meeting with town elders, his family said Monday.

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Bocks was born March 1, 1979, and moved with his family from Michigan to Truckee when he was in seventh grade. He attended Truckee schools through the 11th grade.

At Truckee High, Bocks acted in school plays and was a member of the swim club. "He loved to act, especially in the play, 'Li'l Abner,'" said Monica Bocks of Truckee, Phillip's stepmother.

While living in Truckee, Bocks spent weekends skiing and snowboarding. He returned to Michigan to complete high school, and developed a flair for cooking. He then worked for several Detroit restaurants before joining the U.S. Marine Corps in 2000.

After training at Parris Island, S.C., Bocks was stationed at bases around the world, including Hawaii, Japan and Bahrain before his recent assignment to Afghanistan.

For three years, Bocks was stationed at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, Calif., where his family says he honed his leadership skills while sneaking out to ski whenever possible.

“He trained people how to survive a winter experience,” Monica Bocks said. “He thrived in the Corps.”

Bocks also learned to shoe horses and mules, training to be a farrier. According to a 2005 article in the Marine Corps News Room, Bocks was a “mule pack master,” training Marines how to use pack mules when fighting in rugged, inaccessible landscapes.

“Our job is to get the Marines comfortable around the animals, to be confident in packing them, in caring for them, and for the Marines to be proficient at leading them on resupply missions by the end of the training,” he told an interviewer.

Bocks was training Marines at the Mountain Warfare center in February, when he was interviewed for another Marine Corps News Room article.

“Establishing a solid base of knowledge is crucial for these Marines going out to live on a mountain,” Bocks said. “The main focus is utilizing the same type of training applied in warm weather and using it in the different elements.”

According to his stepmother, Bocks did not have to return to Afghanistan, “but he was dedicated to his mission.”

According to the Associated Press, the attack that killed Bocks and five others in eastern Afghanistan Friday brought the number of deaths of American servicemen to 101 for the year, making it the deadliest year for American troops in that theater.

The Marines were killed while returning from a meeting with village elders in Nuristan province, attacked by militants wielding rocket-propelled grenades, the AP reported.

Eight other Americans were wounded and three Afghan soldiers killed in the ambush.

Family survivors include Bocks’ father, Ken Bocks of Truckee; his stepmother, Monica Bocks of Truckee; his mother, Peggy Bocks of Troy, Mich.; an uncle, Spence Bocks of Reno; cousins Mike Bocks, Gretchen Bocks, Arlo Bocks, Meagan Bocks, Ryan Bocks and Jenna Bocks, all of Reno; and other relatives living in California, Nevada, Michigan, North Carolina and Georgia.

A military service will be held at a later date in Bridgeport.

---

# British Soldier Killed In Afghanistan On Wednesday 14 November

14 Nov 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a soldier serving with 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment has been killed today, Wednesday 14th November, in southern Afghanistan.

Shortly before 11:00hrs local time a joint Afghan National Army and ISAF patrol was caught in an explosion south of the district centre of Sangin in Helmand Province.

Immediate medical assistance was provided, but sadly the soldier was declared dead at the scene.

An interpreter was also injured and is currently receiving treatment at the field hospital at Camp Bastion.

---

## Beeville Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan



November 14, 2007 The Bee Picayune

A 24-year-old Beeville man serving with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan has been wounded in action, his mother reported Monday.

Beeville resident Zenaida Muñoz confirmed that one of her sons, Joe Henry Garcia, was wounded in late October. "He told me that if he was ever killed in combat, that he would

die serving his country,” Muñoz said. “He was very proud of defending his country and wanted to his part in helping bring an end to the war.”

She does not know how the extent of her son’s injuries other than to say he was critically wounded. She also said she didn’t know how her son came by his injuries, whether they were sustained in combat, or the date of his injury.

Muñoz said she spoke with her son Monday afternoon from a hospital in Germany and he assured her he was all right.

“He told me to be brave, Mom,” Muñoz told the Bee-Picayune.

Garcia was flown from Afghanistan to a U.S. medical hospital in Germany, Muñoz said. “The Army called me and told me they had to stabilize him first before they could transport him,” she explained. She said she was contacted by the U.S. Army on Oct. 30.

“I usually stay home all day to take care of my mother but that day I decided to go shopping with a friend and the Army called me on my cell phone when I was in the store,” she recalled.

“They told me my baby had been wounded and was in Stage 3 condition — the most serious condition — and was on a ventilator. I don’t remember what they said after that. After I heard that my baby was on life support I couldn’t even talk anymore. I gave the phone to a friend. She had to drive me home.”

**Neither the Army nor the Defense Department has contacted her since that initial phone call, she said.**

“I don’t know anything. I still haven’t found out what happened to my little baby.”

Joe Garcia, the second youngest of Muñoz’s six children, joined the Army after graduating A.C. Jones High School, his mother said.

After serving a four-year tour of duty, he left the Army and gave civilian life a try as a prison guard at a Bee County prison, Muñoz said. “He didn’t like it,” she said. “He said, ‘Civilian life is not for me. I’ve got to get back (into uniform).’”

Besides, Muñoz added, her son wanted to help defend his country from terrorists. “He told me he wanted to go, that his country needed him,” she said. “I asked him, ‘but why you?’ and he said, ‘if not me, then who?’ He wanted to help his country.”

She said her son applied for and was accepted into the elite 82nd Airborne Division. “He called me and said, ‘I made it! I made it!’ He was so proud,” she said.

“During his graduation from boot camp, he told me he had good news and bad news: the good news was he was one of the 40 out of 350 applicants accepted into the 82nd Airborne training. The bad news was that he would not be returning to Beeville with me after all.”

She said her son called her once after he completed his training.

Garcia was crestfallen when he and one other soldier in the company were left behind while the rest of the soldiers were flown to Afghanistan in January.

Later he called her and told her he and the other soldier had been selected to serve as part of a security task force for a high-ranking official. "He was so proud," Muñoz said.

Garcia joined the rest of his company in Afghanistan a short while later, his mother said.

Garcia's older brother, Eddy Sanchez, who is Muñoz's second oldest child, is also serving in a war zone. Sanchez, 32, is serving as a staff sergeant in an intelligence division with the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq, said Muñoz, whose husband, Juan Muñoz, is a Vietnam veteran.

Only two weeks before he was wounded, Garcia told his mom that his squad was actively patrolling the rugged mountains of Afghanistan in search of the Taliban and Al-Qaida.

**She said he told her that his squad was being attacked by terrorists eight to ten times every time they ventured out on a mission.**

"They told me not to be scared and that I should be proud of them because they are just like me," Muñoz said. "I asked them what they meant by that and they said, we are strong just like you are. We are determined just like you are. We stand on our own two feet and do what is right, just like you."

---

## TROOP NEWS

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



U.S. army medics with Charlie Company, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, lift a U.S. soldier on a stretcher into a MEDEVAC Blackhawk helicopter to evacuate him from the



Troop Medical Clinic in the forward operating base Falcon in Baghdad October 24, 2007.  
REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

---

# **The New Issue Of *Traveling Soldier* Is Out!**

This issue features:

1. "After four and a half years ... Iraq is still just keeping your fingers crossed and praying that you don't die or end up permanently disabled from an IED" says a soldier stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.ivaw.php>

2. "We risked our lives so the Army ... could throw a rose colored lens onto a news camera" says recent Iraq vet Alex Horton:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.horton.php>

3. "The Army is worn out" says an army public affairs officer in Baghdad:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.worn.php>

4. National Guardsmen Like Impeach Bush/Cheney T-Shirts!

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/9.06.choice.php>

5. Download the new *Traveling Soldier* to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at a nearby base:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS15.pdf>

---

## **Fort Drum Soldier Who Went AWOL Seeking Treatment For Stress Disorder Arrested**

November 14, 2007, WILLIAM KATES, Associated Press Writer & Citizen Soldier Press Release

SYRACUSE, N.Y.: A soldier who served two combat tours in Iraq was arrested Wednesday for leaving the Army without permission more than a year ago to seek treatment for post traumatic stress disorder.

**At a news conference hours before his arrest, Sgt. Brad Gaskins said he left the base in August 2006 because the Army wasn't providing effective treatment after he was diagnosed with PTSD and severe depression.**

**"They just don't have the resources to handle it, but that's not my fault," Gaskins said.**

Tod Ensign, an attorney with Citizen Soldier, a GI rights group that is representing Gaskins, said the case is part of a "coming tsunami" of mental health problems involving Iraq and Afghanistan vets.

Last month, the Veterans Administration said more than 100,000 soldiers were being treated for mental health problems, and half of those specifically for PTSD.

Gaskins, 25, of East Orange, N.J., was taken into custody at a Watertown cafe by civilian police officers from Fort Drum and two local police officers, Ensign said.

**The lawyer said he had been on the phone with military prosecutors working out the details of Gaskins' surrender when the soldier was arrested.**

Fort Drum spokesman Ben Abel said after a soldier is AWOL for more than 30 days he becomes classified as a deserter and a federal arrest warrant is issued. He said he was unaware of the specifics of Gaskins' case and declined to comment on it.

An eight-year Army veteran, Gaskins served two tours in Iraq and a peacekeeping tour in Kosovo. He said his mental health began deteriorating during his second tour in Iraq, which began in June 2005, when his job was to conduct road searches and locate improvised explosive devices.

He said after returning to Fort Drum in February 2006, he began suffering flashbacks and nightmares, headaches, sleeplessness, weight loss and mood swings that took him from depression to irrational rages. Military doctors sent him to the Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, where he spent two weeks and was diagnosed with PTSD.

**When he later asked his commanders about returning to Samaritan, they told him it would delay any chance he had at obtaining a medical release, Gaskins said.**

**At the time, the Fort Drum mental health facility had a staff of a dozen caring for approximately 17,000 troops, Ensign said.**

**Gaskins said that because he had been unable to get proper help, he requested a two-week leave and went home to New Jersey, where he has been living since.**

Gaskins said he hasn't been able to get a job because of his PTSD, and that he and his wife have separated. He said he has only supervised visitation rights with his two children.

Citizen Soldier previously represented Spc. Eugene Cherry, another Fort Drum soldier who had faced a court-martial and a bad conduct discharge after going AWOL to get treatment. The Army softened its stance and gave Cherry a general discharge in July.

Addtl. info: Tod Ensign (212) 679-2250 or (917) 647-5676

Sgt. Gaskins was recently evaluated by NYC trauma expert, Rosemary Masters, LCSW, who concluded that the trauma he suffered as a soldier in Iraq has brought on both PTSD and Major Depression.

**MORE:**

**Mentally Ill Soldiers Being Sent  
Back To Battle:  
Criminal Rats In Command Defy DoD  
Orders To Deploy Troops “Only If  
They Are Stable For At Least Three  
Months”  
“One Day After He Was Released From  
An Army Hospital In Kentucky For Acute  
Stress Disorder, He Got The  
Redeployment Order”**

Department of Defense policy states that soldiers with serious psychiatric problems such as PTSD can be sent back to war only if they are stable for at least three months.

November 12, 2007 Boston Now

Some mentally ill veterans are sent back to the front lines too soon - in some cases while they are still being treated for PTSD, Team 5 Investigates revealed.

Damian Fernandez, 25, is one such soldier.

"Every day, for 365 days, they were under attack there," his mother, Mary Jane Fernandez, said. "He saw his fellow soldiers killed."

**When Fernandez came back from Iraq, doctors classified him as 70 percent disabled from post-traumatic stress disorder. Still, the order came to redeploy.**

Russell Anderson was 50 percent disabled by PTSD. He chose to go back to the front lines, and the Army allowed it.

"I don't believe in another circumstance with the war, that Russell would be redeployed with his PTSD," girlfriend Catherine Colone said.

"But in this war, there just aren't enough soldiers."

Team 5 Investigates uncovered a third case, that of Michael DeVlieger.

**One day after he was released from an Army hospital in Kentucky for acute stress disorder, he got the redeployment order. He's currently on the front lines in Iraq.**

"The closer that it got, he kept saying 'Mom I'm going to die, I'm not coming back this time,'" Sue DeVlieger said.

**Department of Defense policy states that soldiers with serious psychiatric problems such as PTSD can be sent back to war only if they are stable for at least three months.**

"They should be given the time to heal, make sure that they can handle themselves over there so that we are sending an able Army," DeVlieger said.

**"I am extremely disappointed in the Army because they don't care about our men and women that they are sending over.**

**"They are just worrying about the numbers. And to me, that's just atrocious."**

Psychiatrist Judith Herman specializes in PTSD. "Personally I'm appalled by the practice. I don't think it's safe for the individual soldier. I don't think it's safe for his unit either to send someone who is so impaired back into a situation of danger."

DeVlieger's mother couldn't keep her son home from war, but she's determined that this not happen to another family.

"I think if America knew what was happening," DeVlieger said. "I think there would be enough people saying, 'No.' "

---

## **Regional Coordinator Of Iraq Veterans Against The War Reports "There Is Strong Sentiment Against The War In The Military" Fathers Of 2 Troops KIA Protest Iraq War In Oklahoma City**



Warren Henthorn, at center with microphone, of Choctaw, Okla., speaks at a Veterans Day protest of the war at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City, Nov. 12, 2007. Henthorn's son, 25-year-old Jeffrey Henthorn, was an Army specialist killed during his second tour of Iraq in 2005. (AP Photo)

Nov 12, 2007 By Ron Jenkins, The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two Oklahoma men whose sons were killed in Iraq criticized U.S. involvement in the war during a small protest Monday at the state Capitol.

Warren Henthorn of Choctaw and John Scripsick of Wayne praised veterans of all wars for their service. But they said the Iraq war should never have happened and it is past time to end the United States' participation.

"This thing has lasted longer than World War II, and there doesn't seem to be any end in sight," Henthorn said.

Henthorn's son, 25-year-old Jeffrey Henthorn, was an Army specialist killed during his second tour of Iraq in 2005.

Scripsick's 22-year-old son, Bryan Scripsick, was a Marine corporal who died in September while engaged in combat in Anbar Province.

Over the years, Scripsick said, veterans' efforts to defend freedom have led to the United States winning respect around the globe, but that has ebbed because of the war in Iraq.

Both men said they were opposed to the invasion of Iraq.

**Also speaking out against the war was Dr. Katherine Scheirman of Oklahoma City, who retired as an Air Force colonel in 2006. She was chief of medical operations**

**at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, which has treated most of the soldiers injured in Iraq.**

She said veterans who served in Iraq have shown courage, as have those who are speaking out against the war.

“It doesn’t take courage to be like Rush Limbaugh or Bill O’Reilly or Richard Cheney and talk tough and warmonger when you haven’t put yourself or a member of your family on the line,” Scheirman said, referring to radio and television personalities and the vice president.

Monday’s protest involved 18 sign-carrying opponents of the war.

Jeri Reed of Norman said her son, Cody Comancho, and other veterans have shown bravery and done their duty in Iraq, but were not being treated with honor by their country. She called the war illegal.

Justin C. Cliburn, a Cameron University student and regional coordinator of Iraq Veterans Against the War, said he told leaders at a national conference of the organization that their efforts will not succeed “until you win the heartland.”

Cliburn said he knows there is strong sentiment against the war in the military, but many are reluctant to speak out. “I’m here to bring the veterans out of the woodwork,” he said.

Nathaniel Batchelder, a Vietnam veteran and director of the Peace House in Oklahoma City, said leaders are being disingenuous when they say the war is not open-ended. He said the United States is building the largest embassy in the world and a dozen bases in Iraq.



---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# GET THE MESSAGE?



Iraqi marchers step on U.S. and British flags printed on the ground during a parade commemorating the anniversary of the assassination of cleric Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr in Basra November 14, 2007. Mohammed Sadeq, the father of Moqtada al-Sadr was assassinated during the regime of executed Saddam Hussein in 1999.  
REUTERS/Atef Hassan

---

## RESISTANCE ACTION

Nov. 13 (Xinhua) & Reuters & 14 Nov 2007 Reuters

A car bomb targeting a police patrol wounded three policemen, in northeastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near a police patrol in southern Baghdad on Tuesday, wounding three policemen, a police source said. The blast took place in the afternoon when a police patrol was passing the al-Masbah intersection in Karradah district, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The blast also damaged a police vehicle and several other nearby civilian cars, the source said.

A roadside bomb killed four Iraqi soldiers and wounded seven others in an attack on their patrol west of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, the Iraqi army said.

Two policemen were killed and two others were wounded by a roadside bomb on Monday in Mussayab, 60 km (35 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a police captain and wounded his wife in their car in the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed Colonel Samir Atrous, head of the 4th Brigade of the Iraqi army in Samarra, while he was travelling in a convoy south of the city on Monday, the army said. Two of his bodyguards were wounded. Samarra is 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb wounded six policemen, five of them seriously, southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

Insurgents killed a policeman and an Iraqi soldier when they opened fire on their car in central Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of the northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

At least two people were killed and six wounded when a bomber wearing a vest packed with explosives infiltrated a meeting of Arab tribal sheikhs allied with the U.S. Military in Iskandariya, a town 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police sources said. One source said a car bomb also exploded outside the meeting but no other details were available.

Guerrillas killed two employees of the Oil Ministry in Baghdad on Tuesday, relatives of the victims said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **New Currency**



From: Richard Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 13, 2007 8:07 AM  
Subject: New Currency



## **New Currency**

**The World Bank  
The New World Order  
Like the drug trade,  
there's plenty to be had  
all the way around.  
For soldiers,  
they just get had.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
November 13, 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](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

## **November, 1933: American Working-Class Heroes**



Carl Bunin, Peace History November 12-18

The first recorded "sit-down" strike in the U.S. was staged by workers at the Hormel Packing Company in Austin, Minnesota. The tactic worked: Hormel agreed to submit wage demands to binding arbitration.

The success of this strike reinvigorated the labor movement, which had been in decline through the 1920s.

---

## OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. 2nd Platoon Alpha Company 1-64 Armor Brigade use the threat of death to stop a car containing Iraqi citizens during a patrol in the Al-Adil neighbourhood in Baghdad November 8, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

**[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!**

## Washington Think Tank Describes “Class Struggle” Between Rich

# Pro-Iranians Who Collaborate With The U.S. Occupation, And Nationalists Who Don't

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in. He writes: EVEN THE BOURGEOIS THINK TANKS GET IT: "It described SIIC's rivalry with Sadr as a class struggle between a Shi'ite merchant elite represented by SIIC and the far more numerous Shi'ite urban underclass devoted to Sadr."]

\*\*\*\*\*

Nov 14 By David Morgan, (Reuters) [Excerpts]

The Bush administration's courtship of the biggest Shi'ite party in Iraq could worsen a dangerous rift between rival Shi'ite groups and ultimately give Iran a greater political role, a think tank [the International Crisis Group] said on Wednesday.

The Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, or SIIC, a cornerstone of the political alliance behind Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, has enjoyed close relations with Washington since the U.S.-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003, unlike the rival Shi'ite movement led by anti-American [translation from lying bullshit: pro-American citizens, anti Bush-traitors occupation] cleric Moqtada al Sadr.

"The U.S. has fully backed (SIIC) in this rivalry. This is a risky gambit," the Belgium-based think tank said.

**It described SIIC's rivalry with Sadr as a class struggle between a Shi'ite merchant elite represented by SIIC and the far more numerous Shi'ite urban underclass [translation: working class] devoted to Sadr [translation: devoted to nationalist resistance to foreign occupation].**

SIIC members are believed to make up a sizable segment of Iraq's security forces, and the party holds about one-quarter of the parliament seats occupied by Maliki's ruling Shi'ite Alliance.

**"SIIC's empowerment through U.S. protection and support may open the door to greater Iranian involvement, especially once U.S. forces begin to withdraw," it said.**

**"SIIC's control over government security forces is far from complete and is challenged by many. As a result, it may seek even greater Iranian support in its battle for power."**

SIIC was founded in Iran in 1982 by Iraqi Shi'ite exiles who returned to Iraq after the 2003 invasion toppled Saddam.

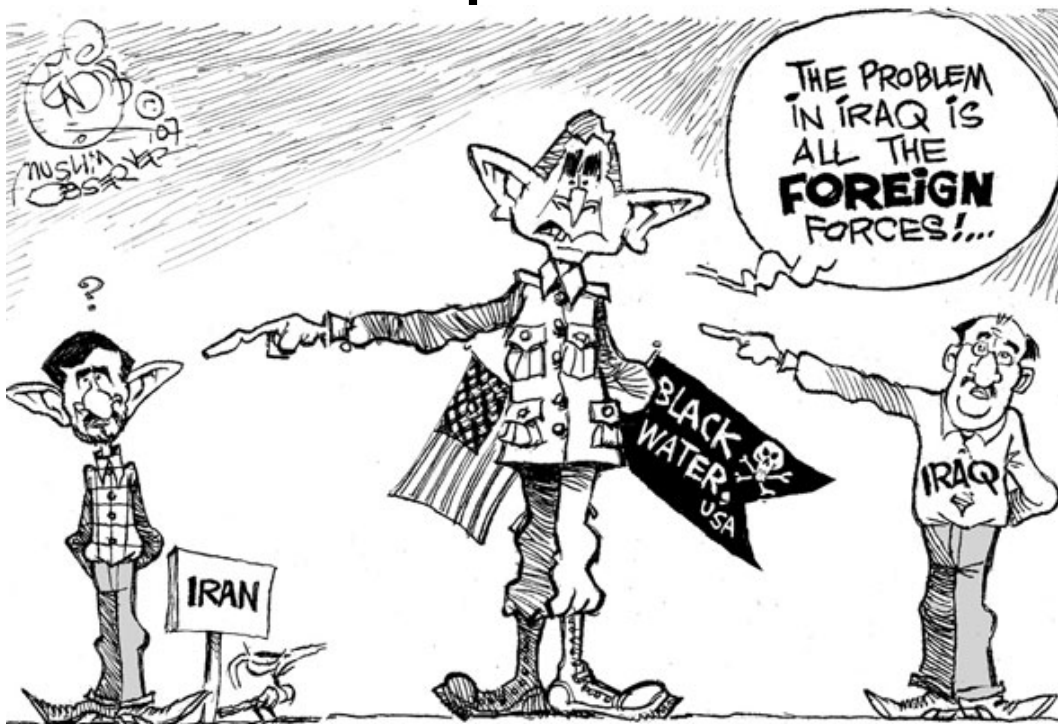
Although the party has tried to bolster its Iraqi credentials, the International Crisis Group said SIIC has not quite managed to shake off its past as an Iran-bred group of exiles with a sectarian agenda.

It said the United States should force SIIC to undergo fundamental change, including a purge of members involved in sectarian killings, torture and divisive rhetoric.

The think tank also urged the Bush administration to help move SIIC away from demands for a Shi'ite super region spanning Iraq's nine southern governates, an idea that has stirred widespread opposition, notably from Sadr [and millions of Iraqis], a nationalist.

---

## Amazing News: F.B.I. Says Blackwater Mercenaries Killed 14 Iraqis Without Cause



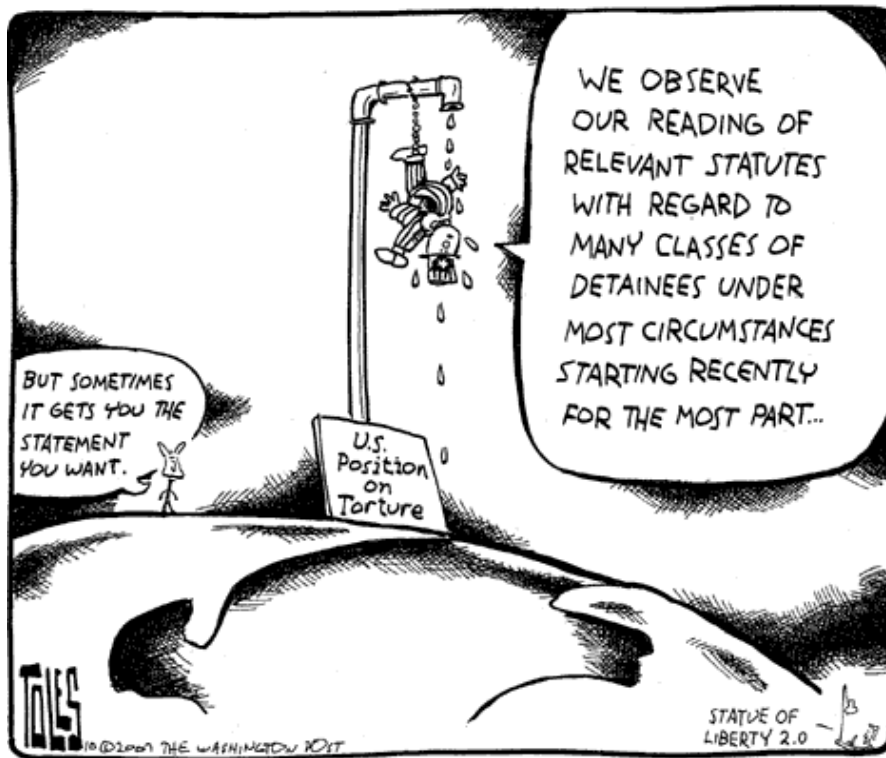
November 14, 2007 By DAVID JOHNSTON and JOHN M. BRODER, New York Times  
[Excerpt]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 — Federal agents investigating the Sept. 16 episode in which Blackwater security personnel shot and killed 17 Iraqi civilians have found that at least 14 of the shootings were unjustified and violated deadly-force rules in effect for security contractors in Iraq, according to civilian and military officials briefed on the case.

### 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.

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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](http://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.

**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.**

