

GI Special: [thomasbarton@earthlink.net](mailto:thomasbarton@earthlink.net)

11.18.07

Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

## GI SPECIAL 5K14:



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier]

# Soldier Says “Why Would Anyone Support This War?”

From: Alan Stolzer, Military Project  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 15, 2007  
Subject: “why would anyone support this war?”

I approached a soldier standing near a van on 6th Ave. New York City (near 34th St.) day before yesterday.

I introduced myself and he was agreeable to any material I could provide. I gave him the “Sir, No Sir” DVD, GI Special, plus my name and phone.

I told him I was a member of a group that supported anti-war troops.

He'd been to Iraq and as we briefly discussed the war he said "why would anyone support this war?"

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Canadians Killed In Sangisar; Three More Wounded**

11.17.07 By Kelly Cryderman, CanWest News Service

Two Canadian soldiers and an Afghan interpreter were killed when their light armoured vehicle hit an explosive early Saturday morning, about 40 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

The Canadian dead are Cpl. Nicolas Raymond Beauchamp, 28, of the 5th Field Ambulance in Valcartier, and Pte. Michel Levesque, 25, of the 3rd battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment, also in Valcartier.

The attack came in the Sangisar region, where Canadian and Afghan forces battled the Taliban in heavy fighting Friday and Saturday.

Three other soldiers were injured in the same improvised explosive device (IED) blast that killed Beauchamp, Levesque and the interpreter. Saturday the three were treated for non life-threatening injuries and were able to call their families. They are in stable condition.

Sangisar, a cluster of mud huts in Zhari district, has a long record as a site of rebellion.

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### **Foreign Occupation Soldier Wounded In Chaparhar; Nationality Not Announced**

11.17.07 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press Writer

A bomber on a motorbike attacked a NATO convoy in Nangarhar province's Chaparhar district on Saturday, killing an Afghan civilian and wounding a NATO soldier, officials said.

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# The Massacare In Baghlani-Jadid; “A Possible Government Cover-Up”

Nov 17 By ALISA TANG JASON STRAZIUSO and FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer

**BAGHLANI-JADID, Afghanistan - Up to two-thirds of the 77 people killed and 100 wounded in a bombing last week were hit by bullets from visiting lawmakers' panicked bodyguards, who fired on a crowd of mostly schoolchildren for up to five minutes, a preliminary U.N. report says.**

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry says only a “small number” of the victims were hit by gunfire, but an Afghan official in Baghlan province told The Associated Press that bodyguards were “raining bullets” on the crowd.

**An Afghan doctor who treated patients after the Nov. 6 blast, meanwhile, told the AP that a high-ranking government official told him not to publicly reveal the number of gunfire victims, suggesting a possible government cover-up.**

Separate teams of U.N. investigators have uncovered conflicting information about the number of people hit by gunfire and are trying to reconcile the differences, according to two Western officials who have seen the internal reports. The two spoke to the AP on condition they not be identified talking about preliminary findings.

But at least one of those reports — based on interviews with witnesses and medical authorities and a reconstruction of the bomb scene — says that of the roughly 77 people killed and 100 wounded, up to two-thirds were hit by the three to five minutes of gunfire the bodyguards fired into the crowd, one official said.

Among the dead were 61 students and five teachers, said Education Ministry adviser Hamid Almi. Six members of parliament and five bodyguards also died.

**Among the parliamentarians killed was Sayed Mustafa Kazimi, the chief spokesman of Afghanistan's only opposition group, the National Front. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, and Afghan officials say they don't know who was behind the bombing. The Taliban has denied it was responsible. A government investigation is also under way.**

**Sayed Mohammad Bakir Hashimi, a Shiite cleric who performed a religious ceremony on Kazimi after the blast, told the AP the lawmaker had three bullet wounds.**

**Witnesses and survivors describe bodyguards firing into the thick black smoke for up to five minutes after the attack.**

“One guy pointed his gun at me, but I put my hands up and said, ‘Don't shoot!’” 13-year-old Nezamuddin said this week from his hospital bed. He said a bullet had passed through his ankle, which was bandaged with gauze. “A lot of bullets were fired. ... My friends were hit by bullets.”

Dr. Khalil Narmgui, director of the Baghlani-jadid hospital, said his staff treated 11 gunfire victims — five killed and six wounded.

**One doctor who helped treat patients said he was pressured to hide the truth. “One of the deputies of the ministry — I won’t say which ministry — said please don’t reveal the high number of casualties by the bullets,” the doctor said. He asked not to be named out of fear of reprisals.**

The head of Baghlan’s elected provincial council said he found it hard to believe that so few people admitted to the hospital were gunfire victims. “The people said it was raining bullets from the gunmen and security guards,” said Sarajuddin, who goes by one name. “It is surprising a mine or suicide bomb could hurt 200 people,” he said.

At the Baghlani-jadid hospital this week, six boys and one man lay in a room, recovering from wounds. Ahmad Fareed pulled up his left pant leg to show where surgeons removed a bullet lodged in his left knee. A doctor held up the silver-colored, inch-long bullet.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The group burial at Arlington National Cemetery October 12, 2007, for 12 U.S. soldiers killed when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq on January 20, 2007. The single casket holds the remains of all 12 soldiers. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

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# ***Iraq Veterans Against The War:*** **“The Sentiment Is There; The Passion Is There. I’ve Seen And Heard It”**

**“At This Time Last Year, Eight  
Chapters Existed Nationally; Today,  
There Are Over Thirty”**



11/13/2007 By Justin C. Cliburn [Iraq Veterans Against The War: [www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/)]

Branch of service: Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)

Unit: 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG

Rank: SPC

Home: Lawton, Oklahoma

Served in: LSA Anaconda: MSR Patrol, one month. Camp Liberty, Baghdad: PSD/IP Training, ten and a half months.

My name is Justin C. Cliburn, and I am a specialist in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

I served in Balad and Baghdad in 2005 and 2006, returning in December of last year. I have been a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War since April 2007.

I attended the IVAW national convention in St. Louis in August. There, I told members that they can have all the success they want in DC, Philly, New York, LA, and Seattle; it's not going to mean anything until they win the "heartland." They told me to put my money where my mouth is, and I am now the South Central Regional Coordinator for Iraq Veterans Against the War.

**Since September, we have started chapters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Austin, Texas. We'll have a Lawton/Fort Sill chapter by the end of the month and will set our sights on Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas after that.**

**At this time last year, eight chapters existed nationally; today, there are over thirty. IVAW is growing, nationally and in the region and we're coming to a hometown near you.**

I'm not here to change minds, though; I don't have nearly enough time for that. Instead, I appeal to the veterans to come out of the woodwork because the best way to honor the veterans is to listen to what they have to say and to encourage them to say how they feel. The best way you as a veteran can honor those who came before and those who will come after you is to speak out against what you feel to be wrong.

The sentiment is there; the passion is there. I've seen and heard it; we're only missing the will to organize and speak out.

**So, in closing, I say this to the veterans: I have participated in IVAW activities in St. Louis, Washington DC, New Orleans, and Lawton, Oklahoma.**

**I have been quoted in newspapers all across the world. I am still alive and well.**

**My rank is safe; my honor is intact.**

**You CAN speak out legally; you CAN be an engaged American citizen.**

**Utilize the freedoms you protect.**

**Even so, IVAW membership is completely confidential; no one in your chain of command will ever know you are a member. I urge you to log on to [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org) for more information.**

**All it takes for evil to flourish in the world is for good men to sit around and do nothing; let's do something.**



[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

## **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

**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier with 2nd Platoon, G Company, 3rd Squadron 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment during a patrol in Baghdad November 10, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

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***Marine Corps Command Covers  
Up For Stupid Liar In Command:  
A Captain Tells Marines To Lie About  
Firefight That Might Have Left Iraqi  
Women And Children Dead And Lie  
About Lost Gear:***

# **Big Surprise: “As A Civilian, Cote Was An Officer At The Port Orange Police Department”**

## **A Sergeant’s Secret Recording Sparks An Investigation**

“A lot of good Marines like myself got in trouble when we tried to say Captain Cote screwed up,” said former Gunnery Sgt. Robert Germano, who was stationed in Hadithah with Bravo Company.

Before the Aug. 23 event, Germano said, he had filed several complaints requesting Cote be investigated for orders that the gunny called “inappropriate and a danger to Marines.” He said his requests were denied.

Nov 12, 2007 By Kimberly Johnson, Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

**A Marine captain, in what he described as the “C-Y-A part” of his briefing, ordered dozens of men in his company to get their story straight in case investigators asked questions about a 2006 firefight that might have left Iraqi women and children dead in the crossfire.**

“Earlier up on the roof, there was like five women and little girls, OK? We fucked that area up,” Capt. Shane Cote, 35, told his Marines, after a day that included at least nine firefights in 14 hours. “If we did any collateral damage, there will be people here asking. Your answer, for the sake of yourselves — and me — better be you were fucking shooting at muzzle flashes.”

They got it.

One of them even got it on tape.

A secret recording of the briefing obtained by Marine Corps Times, was made by a sergeant who believes the captain was ordering his men to lie about the shooting.

The recording, made on the sergeant’s MP3 player, was turned in to unit officials weeks after the day in question. A criminal investigation followed.

**Now, more than a year later, the Marine Corps still refuses to discuss the details of the shootout near Ramadi.**

Repeated attempts to reach Cote directly and through the Marine Corps failed.

Cpl. Matthew Kreisler says he will never forget the day he went into the river.



That day, the now 26-year-old Marine reservist was riding a Small Unit Riverine Craft, patrolling the Euphrates River in Ramadi. As part of the Jacksonville, Fla.-based Bravo Company, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, the early morning fire-support mission seemed like a typical mission, another day on the river.

Then shots rang out.

The small boats began taking fire, sometimes randomly, sometimes in coordinated attacks. Rounds came whizzing by Kreisler and the other Marines from both banks, and the unit was exposed.

So they returned fire, and in the fog of war, encrypted communications gear that wasn't properly lashed to the boat's deck was kicked into the river.

**It was gear that Kreisler had been told he was responsible for minding, despite the fact that he had not signed for it and did not have the appropriate security clearance for it.**

**But the gear was vital and his commanders said it needed to be found.**

**Kreisler was ordered to strip off his flak vest, Kevlar helmet, boots and uniform. Just minutes after the lead stopped flying, the young corporal, on his first combat deployment, stood on the deck of the boat in only a pair of green gym shorts and flippers, as his fellow Marines tied a rope to his waist.**

Kreisler can be seen on a video of the event, also obtained by Marine Corps Times, slipping into more than 25 feet of brackish water where he found a strong current and could go down only two feet below the surface. A call came over the boat radio reporting precise sniper fire in the area. After 30 minutes of trying, Kreisler pulled himself into the boat empty handed.

The corporal got dressed and returned to his weapon. He would need it, as the river patrol slugged it out over and over again that day. At least two of his fellow Marines were wounded in the mix — one shot in the knee, the other clean through his thigh.

**Although taking fire from insurgents was no surprise to Kreisler, or any of the others Marines on that boat patrol, what came next was.**

**Their commander told them to lie about the details, Kreisler said.**

"At the time I had no problem," he said, remembering the order and the failed attempt to fish out the gear from the river. "I tried to do anything to remedy the situation. Now, as I sit here, it's something I couldn't believe that I did."

**Cote lied to battalion command about how the gear was lost, and looked to his men to back him up, Kreisler said. He falsified the location of where, how and when it went overboard.**

"He told us how to word our statements," he said, conceding that as a two-year Marine, he looked at his commander "as God."

Cote called it “Marines taking care of Marines,” Kreisler said.

“I hold nothing against Captain Cote. He just made some bad decisions,” said Kreisler, who is a communication technician with Bravo Company.

**He now realizes he could have refused many of his commander’s orders.**

**“I could have refused to have taken my gear off, from writing false statements.”**

Later that day, Cote, the company commander, corralled all of his leathernecks in Ramadi into a tent for a briefing.

The meeting was smaller than a typical full company muster, because the unit was pulling double duty and had previously been split in two, with the others stationed upriver in Hadithah to provide security for the hydroelectric dam.

**Cote went over the chain of events for his Marines, and in what he called “the C-Y-A part” of the briefing, made it clear what he expected from them.**

**The commander’s intent to put them all on the same page comes through on the recording loud and clear.**

**“Yeah, we took some fire from an area,” Cote said. “Earlier up on the roof, there was like five women and little girls, OK? We fucked that area up. I think I saw one of you kill a fucking cow,” he said, as his Marines snickered.**

**“I know, I know, I understand, I understand, but here’s my point though,” Cote said, attempting to regain their attention. “If we did any collateral damage, there will be people here asking. Your answer, for the sake of yourselves — and me — better be you were fucking shooting at muzzle flashes.”**

The Marines rogered up.

Sgt. Henry Butts, 38, admits he had conflict with Cote, almost from the very beginning. The platoon sergeant knew the captain for only about three months, when Cote transferred to the Reserve unit before they deployed.

The pair began to bump heads almost immediately. Butts said it might have started when the local newspaper wrote more about him than Cote in an article about the duo’s impending deployment before they left the U.S.

**Maybe it was his request for mast because of harsh treatment that set Cote off, or that the NCO was black; he didn’t quite know why, but still Butts felt marked.**

**So much so, the sergeant felt compelled to secretly document every exchange with Cote.**

In Butts’ pocket was a small Samsung MP3 audio player, a Christmas gift from his wife before his deployment. It had a voice recorder feature and could hold up to 10 hours of audio.

“It never came to me that I needed something like that,” he said. “My thing was just trying to clear my reputation and who I am as a Marine.”

**Cote’s instructions that September day were the kind that wind up destroying young Marines, Butts said.**

**“He told them it’s OK to lie,” said Butts, who was not on the river during the firefights. “He didn’t know if they did shoot anybody. If (Kreisler) had died, would you have known the truth?”**

**Butts points out that, as a civilian, Cote was an officer at the Port Orange Police Department.**

**“You don’t get your story straight, you tell investigators what happened,” Butts said. “That’s witness tampering.”**

**The Corps has attempted to keep it quiet ever since, he said.**

**“If you’ve got a bad apple, you don’t protect them and cover it up,” Butts said. “The question is, then, why was there no court-martial?”**

Butts admitted he did not immediately hand the recording over to Corps officials, and did so weeks later after learning that Cote was attempting to take administrative action against him. He handed the recording over to his first sergeant, who pushed it up higher.

Fallout was swift. Butt’s recording triggered a criminal misconduct investigation as soon as the unit returned to the U.S.

Kreisler — along with Butts, Cote and 14 other Marines — was held at Camp Lejeune, while the rest of the unit returned to Florida. The corporal, like the others detained for questioning, missed the homecoming with his family, who had made the six-hour drive to come pick him up and were already sitting in a Jacksonville hotel room waiting.

Several weeks later, the 17 Marines were returned to Jacksonville, some placed on legal hold for months, which prevented them from immediately returning to civilian life.

Kreisler was placed on legal hold until March, but was eventually allowed to live at home so he could attend college.

**The outcome of that criminal misconduct investigation, however, is still unknown, even to those investigated.**

“We were investigating allegations of misconduct that were raised against the members of the unit,” said Capt. Erin Wiener, spokesperson for Marine Forces Reserve in New Orleans, La.

While Wiener confirmed the investigation has since ended, she refused to give any details about its conclusion or whether any punishment was issued.

She confirmed that Cote is no longer the Bravo Company commander, and is now listed on the roll of the Individual Ready Reserve.

However, she stopped short of confirming he was stripped of command.

Marine officials deemed the investigation administrative, which keeps the matter a personnel issue, she explained.

“When there’s an administrative action, they don’t go through criminal proceedings,” Wiener said. “That basically tells you that nothing went to court-martial.”

“An incident occurred in Iraq on Aug. 23, 2006, involving Bravo Company, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, Dam Security Unit-2,” said Al Foucha, a Marine Forces Reserve spokesman, in a follow-up to Weiner’s comments. “The Naval Criminal Investigative Service conducted an investigation, and found no evidence of noncombatant deaths as a result of the incident. Appropriate administrative actions were taken by the commanding general, 4th Marine Division, regarding leadership issues pertaining to the incident. Specifics of these actions are not releasable due to Privacy Act restrictions.”

**Despite multiple attempts by phone and mail, Marine Corps Times was unable to reach Cote for comment. Additional attempts to reach him through Marine officials also went unanswered.**

**He wasn’t always shy of the press. “I am responsible for these men,” Cote told the Daytona Beach News-Journal in a Nov 28, 2005, article on his then-impending Iraq deployment. “I am going to do my best to take care of the Marines and make sure they all come home to their families and friends.”**

The order that sent Kreisler over the side of the boat for the seemingly ill-timed swim to retrieve the encrypted communication gear was not necessarily illegal, one military legal analyst says. If the gear was highly sensitive, it would not be out of line for the command to order its immediate retrieval, said Matthew Freedus, a military lawyer and adviser to the National Institute of Military Justice.

The audio clip urging a unified story in the event innocents had been killed in the crossfire, however, is another matter and reveals a commander trying to make the day’s events go away, he said.

“It certainly suggests people were told to lie,” said Freedus, who listened to the audio recording.

**While the only one wielding a recorder, Butts was not the only Bravo Company leatherneck who attempted to drop the dime on Cote.**

**“A lot of good Marines like myself got in trouble when we tried to say Captain Cote screwed up,” said former Gunnery Sgt. Robert Germano, who was stationed in Hadithah with Bravo Company.**

**Before the Aug. 23 event, Germano said, he had filed several complaints requesting Cote be investigated for orders that the gunny called “inappropriate and a danger to Marines.” He said his requests were denied.**

**Germano was later fired from his position as operations chief, an action he said was punishment for filing an Article 138 complaint, the Defense Department's formal process for filing a complaint against a commanding officer.**

**"I had a perfect (Service Record Book) with four combat tours," he said. "And after May 21 (2006), I was the biggest dirt bag in the Marine Corps."**

**"A lot of (4th AAV) Marines ended up getting out," he said, estimating that about 20 Marines from the company dropped within a month of the return.**

**"I didn't want to get out," said Germano, who is now out of the Corps but still fighting to have his military record cleared.**

**"They tried to make it as miserable as possible for me."**

**"I was told he was still in the IRR so he can retire, which I think is horrible," Germano said.**

He said the Corps' handling of the November 2006 investigation of Bravo Company could have been colored by timing, coming on the heels of the intense international media storm sparked earlier that year when Marines were accused of killing 24 civilians in Hadithah after a roadside bomb killed one of their own.

The Hadithah allegations prompted immediate action from defense officials, who, in June 2006, mandated that all U.S. personnel in Iraq attend "Warrior Values" refresher classes. The courses largely focused on identifying non-combatants and rules of engagement.

**"We were hearing a lot about it," Germano said of the Hadithah case. "I think that maybe (Corps officials) were hoping to avoid another situation. Maybe if somebody had gotten killed," he said, "it would have blown up like Hadithah.**

**"I don't like to hear bad things about the Marine Corps, but you can still charge somebody and hold people accountable for their actions."**

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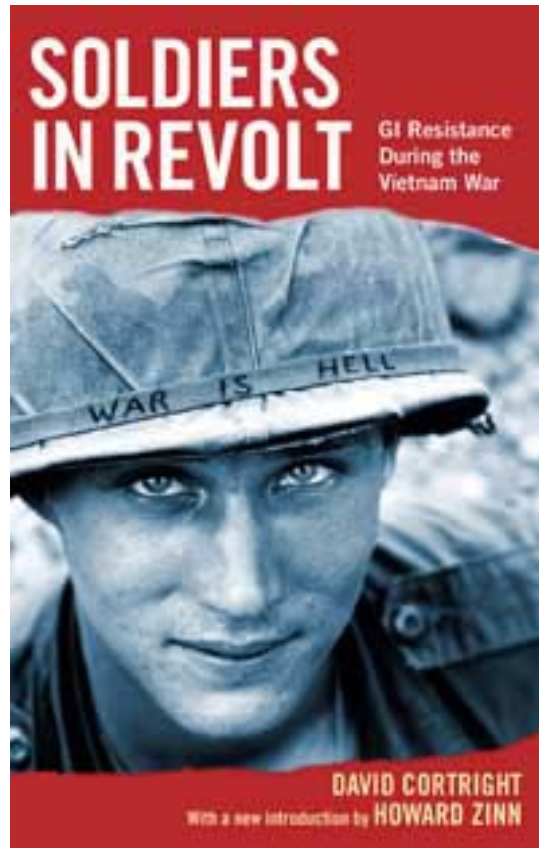
## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”  
--Camille Desmoulins**

## **Marines Ranks Elect Councils “To Defend Themselves Against Command Reprisals And Continued Racial Abuse”**



From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.

Perhaps the most tragic uprising of recent years took place on July 2.0, 1969, at Camp Lejeune.

Occurring a few days prior to a scheduled embarkation of the 2nd Marine Division to the Mediterranean, the fighting left fourteen injured and resulted in the death of one white Marine, Corporal Ed Bankston of Picayune, Mississippi.

Arising out of a dispute over discrimination at a base enlisted men's club, the brawl soon turned into a black-versus-white melee near the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, barracks area. Black and Puerto Rican GIs involved, most of them Vietnam veterans, later laid the blame for the incident not on anyone particular act but on the accumulated frustrations of months of command harassment.

Their interpretation was corroborated by the division's "Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Treatment and Opportunity," which had issued its findings months before the July 20 outburst. Obtained by the New York Times several weeks after the riot, the report contained the warning, apparently unheeded, that "an explosive situation of major proportions" existed on post.

Although the committee was composed of seven officers and had been appointed by the base commanding officer, it found that "many white officers and NCOs retain prejudices and deliberately practice them"; the report verified that many off-base facilities were segregated and that black recruits were subjected to excessive harassment from MPs.

The differing responses to the Camp Lejeune riot, by the Marine Corps on the one hand and the black enlisted men on the other, is instructive of the gap separating the two groups in a supposedly homogeneous military organization, and helps explain why black GIs and white commanders remained at odds -- despite official claims of improved relations.

In a frantic law-and-order crackdown, the Camp Lejeune command installed huge bright lights and armed sentries along troop paths between barracks; three reaction forces were also created -- equipped with tear gas, walkie-talkies, and loaded guns.

Twenty-six Marines involved in the July 20 incident were flown back to the States from the Atlantic cruise for criminal action -- twenty-four black and two Spanish-speaking men, but no whites.

**The blacks, meanwhile, apparently assuming that little if any satisfaction would come from official quarters, set up their own organization, the "Council of Concerned Marines," to defend themselves against command reprisals and continued racial abuse.**

**Among the Council's activities were a petition campaign to free those arrested for the riot and an effort to form a network of elected representatives from the black minority within each company.**

**At the same time, Marines aboard the U.S.S. LaSalle on cruise off the coast of Spain also organized to defend themselves. An organization was formed to work as an independent shore patrol for blacks (as protection from abuse by white MPs) and to press for more black representation in shipboard affairs.**

In the 2nd Marine Division, as in so many military units, a virtual state of war raged between minority servicemen and their white superiors. ‘

### **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.**

## **November 18, 1989: Honorable Anniversary**



Carl Bunin, Peace History November 12-18

**More than 50,000 people have taken to the streets of Sofia in Bulgaria demanding political reform.**

**In the biggest demonstration in the country's post-war history, protesters held up banners and chanted: "We want democracy now."**

Other demands included free elections, a new constitution and the dismissal of the remaining hard-line members of the Politburo.

The gathering, in the city's Aleksandr Nevsky Square, comes just eight days after the country's Communist leader, Todor Zhivkov, 78, was ousted from power following a 35-year regime.

He was replaced by the more moderate former foreign minister Petar Mladenov, 53, who has promised reform.



Most of Zhivkov's loyal supporters have already been dismissed and the newly-formed Parliament moved quickly to repeal a repressive law against freedom of speech which had previously led to the imprisonment of thousands.

Today's protest, organised by dissident political groups, included many of the country's academics and literary personalities who had been banished under the Zhivkov regime.

Radoi Ralin, a once-imprisoned poet, said: "We want democracy and pluralism.

"We want freedom of people's opinion, freedom of people's speech, freedom of people's will.

But he also signalled a note of caution warning that the new leader may not be as good as his word: "For years we have been promised radical changes in our society, but it always turned out to be a carnival in which masks were changed but policy remained the same.

"That is why we should not be too enthusiastic about the latest changes. We have to see what the new leaders have to offer us soon."

Numerous similar demonstrations have taken place across Eastern Europe since the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria has been one of the countries most resistant to change. Just two weeks ago Mr Zhivkov issued a statement stressing that the Bulgarian Communist Party was still in total control.

But as the ideals of "perestroika" and glasnost" swept through countries including Poland, Eastern Germany and Hungary, Mr Zhivkov's grip on power became increasingly weakened.

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

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

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

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



11.10.07: US soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division interrogate an Iraqi citizen south of Baghdad.

Iraqi citizens are often forced to kneel in the dirt while questioned by foreign occupation troops from the USA. (AFP Photo/Patrick Baz)

[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

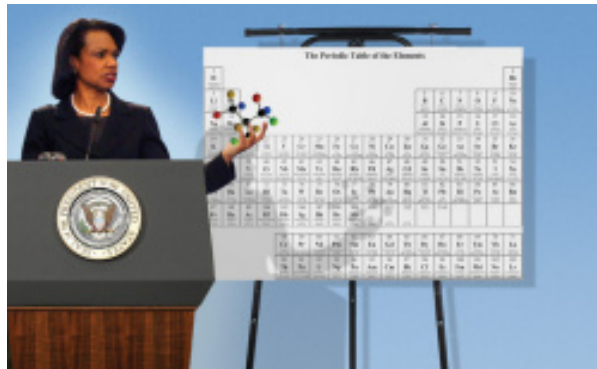
[Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]

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

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **U.S. Intelligence: Iran Possesses Trillions Of Potentially Dangerous Atoms “The Iranians Maintain The Atoms Are Only Being Used To Form The Building Blocks Of All Existence, But We Cannot Afford To Take That Risk”**



Condoleezza Rice displays for reporters one of the many varieties of atoms Iran is believed to already possess.

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

November 12, 2007 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Barely two months after U.N. inspectors in Iran failed to find evidence of an active nuclear weapons program, the Department of Homeland Security uncovered new information Monday proving the Middle Eastern nation has obtained literally trillions of atoms — the same particles sometimes used to make atomic bombs — for unknown purposes.

“We have no doubt that Iran now possesses an alarming number of atoms within its borders, despite countless warnings from the international community,” Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff said at a press conference Monday afternoon, as he pointed to a satellite image marked with dozens of locations where his office claims the unauthorized atoms are being held.

“The Iranians maintain the atoms are only being used to form the building blocks of all existence, but we cannot afford to take that risk.”

The atoms, which DHS officials believe to be “the smallest indivisible units of any element,” were first discovered in aerial photographs taken of a laboratory in central Isfahan.

When the photographs were enlarged several hundred thousand times, additional clusters of atoms — known in intelligence circles as “matter” — were spotted in large cargo trucks parked nearby the facility, in storage units on the grounds, and in the pockets, shoes, clothing, hair, and skin of several nuclear physicists in the parking lot.

More alarming, officials said, is the “very likely” possibility that there are more atoms inside the laboratory.

“The threat of atoms in Iran is real,” said Chertoff, showing reporters an empty vial to illustrate his point. “Even as we speak, Iranians are turning millions of carbon atoms into a powerful energy source they can use to strengthen their armies, pilots, president, and someday perhaps, a team of nuclear physicists.”

Earlier this month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a visit to the region, where she reportedly observed atoms being smuggled across the border from neighboring countries Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as daily shipments of atoms from as far away as Russia, China, and the troposphere. Secretary Rice also witnessed atoms being strategically used to deliver televised press conferences regarding the nonproliferation of Iranian atoms.

“Security checkpoints have been unable to stop the flow of atoms into Iran,” Rice said.

“Even with the best equipment available, it is nearly impossible to distinguish dangerous atoms that could be used in fission for the purposes of massive destruction from the kind of atoms that are functioning primarily as mechanical pencils.”

Added Rice: “We cannot afford to let these atoms fall into, or be a part of, the wrong hands.”

Vice President Dick Cheney and his staff were briefed on the atomic situation in Iran Tuesday with the aid of colorful interlocking plastic models and a short film.

“The United States will not stand idly by while Iran gains the protons, neutrons, and whatever else they need to threaten the free world,” Cheney said at a press conference that afternoon.

“Iran has demonstrated time and time again its ability to combine atoms of hydrogen and oxygen right out in the open, and we cannot allow that to go on any longer.”

Iranian officials claim the atoms are being used only for peaceful, life-sustaining purposes, and that it is physically impossible for Iran or any government to create or destroy matter in order to comply with U.S. regulations.

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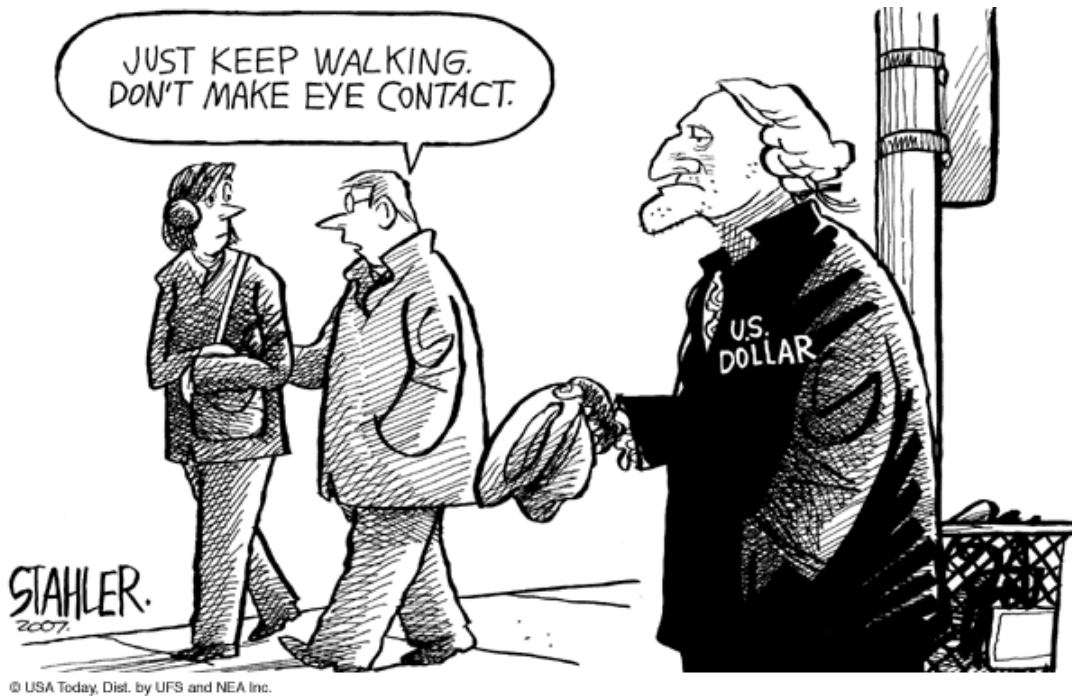
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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# Treasury International Capital Flows Data Shows Net Outflow For Second Month In A Row



November 16, 2007 By Dan Norcini, CIGA

It is amusing to read the various analysts being quoted by the wire service commentary writers this morning in regards to the Treasury International Capital Flows data for the month of September.

Some were spinning the report as being a “positive” since it showed a net inflow.

The problem for the spinmeisters who are doing nothing but talking their book anyway, is that while the long term flows were indeed positive, they were still insufficient to fund the negative trade balance for the second consecutive month.

**If one takes the even broader measure that Treasury releases, which includes the short term securities as well as the long term ones, the capital flows data showed a NET OUTFLOW for the second month in a row.**

That is hardly “positive” as some of these mad dreamers are spouting.

Keep in mind that foreigners are observing the dollar falling through the floor and are not going to be in any huge haste to send their money over here as a result.

Next month's data had better show numbers sufficient to cover the trade imbalance or the dollar is going to get whacked with an ugly stick.

It is also interesting to note in a memo that the Treasury published this morning that out of the -\$14.7 billion in net capital outflows (this is the number we get when using the broader measure which includes short term securities), net foreign private flows were negative \$27.8 billion, and net foreign official flows were positive \$13.1 billion.

In other words, it was only official sector buying which kept the number from being far worse.

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### **Capitalism At Work:**

## **City Governments Attack Citizens Sharing Food With The Homeless; “The Laws Are Not Going To Make Us Stop’ Edwards Said Thursday”**

**The cities continue to criminalize homelessness, but they have a new tactic — targeting residents and church groups who share food with them, according to the report released Thursday by two homeless advocacy groups.**

Nov. 15, 2007 AP

DALLAS - Homeless advocate Will Edwards estimates he has received at least 35 warnings from the city of Dallas to stop feeding people living on the streets.

Dallas authorities prohibit charities from distributing free food to homeless people except at city-approved locations and only after volunteers undergo food safety training, provided for free by the city.

Violation of the law, enforced by city food inspectors, is punishable by a fine up to \$2,000.

Edwards, 53, who runs Rip Parker's Memorial Ministry, contends an ordinance regulating homeless feeding to approved locations is illegal. He and another ministry have a pending federal lawsuit targeting the regulation, which went into effect last year.

“The laws are not going to make us stop,” Edwards said Thursday. “What the law has done is gotten rid of a lot of volunteers, a lot of help and lot of the resources that people have supplied.”

Dallas is among U.S. cities criticized in a new report for its approach to homelessness.

**The cities continue to criminalize homelessness, but they have a new tactic — targeting residents and church groups who share food with them, according to the report released Thursday by two homeless advocacy groups.**

Cities use a wide variety of tactics to discourage residents from giving food to the homeless and other poor people, according to “Feeding Intolerance: Prohibitions on Sharing Food with People Experiencing Homelessness.”

But Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said, “Restricting the feeding of homeless people in public spaces nationwide is just another veiled effort to push the visible poor out of downtown America.”

**While cities are pursuing measures targeting groups that share food with the homeless, most cities do not have adequate shelter or food resources to meet the need, according to the report, which cited the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ 2006 Hunger and Homelessness Survey.**

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## **Narcotics Officer Of The Year Indicted On Drug Charges**

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

November 10, 2007 The Associated Press

MEMPHIS - A Memphis police sergeant who was named Tennessee Narcotics Officer of the Year for 2006 was charged with selling illegal anabolic steroids and tipping off drug dealers about surveillance and investigations.

Sgt. Brady Valentine, 36, a police officer since 1994, was indicted Friday and relieved of duty after a federal complaint was unsealed.

Valentine was assigned to the West Tennessee Violent Crimes and Drug Task Force, a multi-agency team that regularly lands some of the biggest drug busts in the state.

He was honored by his department earlier this year for an interstate drug bust that netted 4.5 pounds of black-tar heroin that led to charges against 80 people in seven states.

He was named the state’s top narcotics officer last month at the Tennessee Narcotics Officers Association annual convention in Gatlinburg.

Some two dozen Memphis police officers have been indicted for public corruption since 2004, but Valentine’s arrest is particularly troubling to officials because he also held supervisory duties.



According to an affidavit, Valentine received regular payments from drug dealers for three years in exchange for assisting the movement of one marijuana shipment per month.

An informant said Valentine also worked with him in the spring and summer of this year in buying and distributing anabolic steroids.

The affidavit says monitored conversations revealed that on Sept. 9, a drug trafficker told Valentine that a police officer in an unmarked car was following him. Valentine told the trafficker which officers were on duty, what vehicle they were in and to stay on the phone so he could respond if the trafficker was stopped.

On Sept. 16, a trafficker asked for Valentine's help in a planned delivery of 1,000 "D-ball tablets," or steroids called Dianabol.

"I want to know that, hey, I can call you up and hopefully get out of trouble," the trafficker said.



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

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

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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