

**GI SPECIAL 5K20:**

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



Photo by Nahrawan [Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO, who sent this in.]

**“I Was Sent To Another  
Country To Kill A Bunch  
Of People Who Did  
Nothing Against  
Americans”**

**“I Got The Impression The Iraqi  
People Don’t Want Us There”**



Hank keeps watch as Jeff, Joe, and Garrett discuss the issues.  
IVAW Tower Guard Nov 16-18, 2007: [http://csaction.org/IVAW\\_TG/tg\\_04.html](http://csaction.org/IVAW_TG/tg_04.html)

November 17, 2007 By R. SCOTT RAPPOLD, THE GAZETTE

For former Army Spc. Mark Wilkerson, it was the raids — barging into the homes of regular Iraqis in search of weapons and insurgents — that turned him against the war.

“Our mission was to win the hearts and minds of the people, and you don’t do that when you’re treating every single one like they’re an insurgent, like they’re a terrorist,” said Wilkerson, 23.

After a year in Iraq with a Fort Hood-based military police unit, the 2002 Widefield High School graduate felt strongly enough that he sought conscientious objector status and, when that was denied, went AWOL. He served five months in a military prison this year.

He is among a small group of Iraq veterans holding a three-day demonstration in Acacia Park in Colorado Springs that began Friday.

With a mock guard tower — to symbolize a guard tower in Iraq because “we all at one point in Iraq pulled tower guard,” Wilkerson said — they hope to draw attention to the fact that not everyone who served there supports the war.

**“When I got there they waved flags, then they were giving us angry looks, and then they were throwing rocks and planting IEDs,” said Wilkerson, who got out of a military prison in Oklahoma in July.**

**“I got the impression the Iraqi people don’t want us there.”**

The members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, a national group, have held demonstrations elsewhere in Colorado, but this weekend’s is their first in Colorado Springs, Wilkerson said.

“In this very all-American, all-military town, there are people who are against the war but support the troops and support the veterans,” said former Marine Capt. Rick Duncan of Colorado Springs.

He served in Iraq in 2003 and 2004, and went back last year. He now runs a veterans advocacy group, the Colorado Veterans Alliance.

Duncan said he came to oppose the war because of how it affected his fellow troops.

**“I continuously saw people being sent back into a meat grinder again and again and again,” said Duncan, 30. “I saw people dying and leaving families and distraught loved ones.**

**“Seeing the degradation of the military, the degradation of the troops. There’s only so much you can take before you have to begin speaking up.”**

Friday’s demonstration was politely received by passersby, with some earnest discussion but no shouts aimed at the veterans, Wilkerson said. The group planned to be back at the southwest corner of the park from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and Sunday.

**They acknowledge theirs is a viewpoint rarely heard, at least publicly, from soldiers.**

**“I don’t think we’re a minority voice, but I think we’re a minority willing to speak up about it,” Duncan said.**

**Former Army Spc. Garrett Reppenhagen, sitting atop the tower, said he supported the war when he went to Iraq in February 2004.**

**“I thought I was going over there to look for weapons of mass destruction and try to get revenge on the people who attacked us on 9/11,” said Reppenhagen, 32, now a Pikes Peak Community College student.**

**“I really got disenchanted. I was sent to another country to kill a bunch of people who did nothing against Americans and never tried to attack us,” Reppenhagen said.**

The Iraq Veterans Against the War advocates an immediate pullout from Iraq. Its members argue that violence occurs because people resent the U.S. troop presence, and say the country will stabilize on its own.

“The people will take some pride in their country when there is no one to hold their hand,” Wilkerson said.

“We can say there will be a civil war (if the Americans leave), but there already is one.”



## **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**

### **Soldier Killed In Iraq**

Nov. 12, 2007 By Andrea Washington, Staff writer; Hinesville Publishing

An American-Samoa native assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division was killed in Iraq Wednesday, according to a statement released Thursday by the Department of Defense.

An improvised explosive device took the life of 29-year-old Sgt. Lui Tumanuvao during combat operations in Arab Jabour on Nov. 7.

The infantryman was a member of the division's 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Tumanuvao's father, Kelekolio Tumanuvao, told Pacific Magazine his son was a brother, husband and father who will surely be missed.

"It's a very sad day for us," he said. "My son was a very quiet and kind person."

His father said Tumanuvao was an Army Reservist who worked with local emergency medical services in Fagaalu, American Samoa.

He was deployed to Iraq in late 2004 and returned home in January 2006.

Tumanuvao decided to become part of the active duty Army after redeploying and arrived at Fort Stewart in April 2006. He was deployed to Iraq again in May of this year.

The soldier is survived by his wife, Selia, and their two young children, his parents Kelekolio and Monica and siblings.

The funeral services for Tumanuvao are on hold. His family said they want the soldier's remains to return home for burial before the end of November.

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## **Ballad Base Mortared**

11.24.07 Reuters

One mortar bomb killed an Iraqi citizen and wounded two others on Thursday when it landed inside a coalition forces' military base in the city of Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

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## **WELCOME TO IRAQNAM: HAVE A NICE DAY**



A U.S. soldier with First Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, in the neighbourhood of Arab Jabour in south Baghdad October 18, 2007.  
REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Italian Occupation Soldier Killed, Three Wounded In Paghman**

Nov 24 by Sardar Ahmad

PAGHMAN, Afghanistan (AFP) - A Taliban bomber killed an Italian military engineer, when he blew himself up in a scenic town near Kabul, officials said Saturday.

Three more Italians were wounded in the attack in the town of Paghman, some 25 kilometres (15 miles) west of the capital Kabul, Italian and Afghan officials told AFP.

In a compound opposite the site of the blast, weeping men and women gathered around the bloodied and shrapnel-pierced bodies of a father and his six-year-old son.

**Some alleged the pair were killed when soldiers opened fire after the attack. "These pigs killed him," said one angry relative.**

It occurred as NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers were opening a footbridge, the force said.

The attacker moved wearing civilian clothing along the river. Once spotted, ISAF personnel moved in to question the individual when the insurgent detonated himself.

A policeman told AFP he arrived minutes afterwards to a scene of slaughter. "We saw several bodies lying on the ground, many of them without arms and legs," said the policeman, who would not give his name.

The foreign casualties were evacuated by a chopper that landed on the road, he said.

An Italian military engineer aged about 35 died en route to hospital, said a spokesman for ISAF's Italian contingent, which numbers about 2,390 soldiers.

Two more military engineers and another soldier were lightly wounded, spokesman Captain Eros Correa said.

**The wooded town has seen little of the violent insurgency launched by the Taliban months after a US-led coalition drove them from power in 2001. [So much for that.]**

**An attacker in a bomb-filled car also struck later Saturday near the border with Pakistan, in the province of Khost, but took no lives.**

**The target was a convoy of the US-led coalition which operates alongside ISAF, a coalition spokesman said, dismissing the Taliban's claim of high casualties. Soldiers later opened fire on a vehicle, wounding an Afghan.**

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## **Australian Soldier Killed In Tirin Kot**

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

November 23, 2007 Paul Maley, News Limited & (Xinhua)

AUSTRALIAN commando Luke Worsley, of Sydney, has been killed in a close-quarters battle with Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

Private Worsley's death comes after two Australian troop fatalities and one serious injury in Afghanistan in the past six weeks.

Defence force chief Angus Houston said the soldier had died at 7.30am eastern Australian time, after being shot during a raid on a compound 10km east of Karim Towt that was "characterised by heavy, close-quarter fighting".

The fighting was initiated by Taliban insurgents in Tirin Kot district of Uruzgan province and lasted several hours.

Private Worsley was on his second tour in Afghanistan with the 4RAR unit based in Sydney and had also served in East Timor in 2003 with the 1RAR.

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

November 23, 2007 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

In Nawa district of Ghazni province on Thursday, the US military said in a statement, a coalition soldier was wounded in the clash and was treated on-site and subsequently transported to a medical facility for follow-on treatment, the statement said.

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## **Resistance Action**

Nov 20 (Reuters) & November 23, 2007 Deutsche Presse-Agentur & Nov. 24 (Xinhua)

**A “company-size” group of Taliban insurgents ambushed a joint Afghan-coalition patrol with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades near the village of Sarsina, in the south-central province of Uruzgan.**

**In the U.S. army a company is usually around 100 troops.**

Taliban militants attacked a police checkpoint and beheaded seven policemen and took away another six agents in the early hours of Friday in southern Kandahar province, local police said.

“A group of militants attacked the mobile check post in Arghandab district this morning and beheaded seven of our policemen,” said Abdul Hakim, a police commander in the district. He said the militants took along with themselves another six policemen from their mobile checkpoint, which had been set up to clamp down on the insurgents in the area.

Taliban and police came in contact in Gilan district of Ghazni province Friday afternoon, and one policeman were killed.

Two more policemen sustained injuries in the firefight that lasted for some two hours, he added.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **Bush’s Buddies’ “Government” In Deep Shit**

Nov. 19 By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

United Nations officials now concede that the country was in better shape during the brief reign of Somalia’s Islamist movement last year.

“It was more peaceful, and much easier for us to work,” Mr. Laroche said. “The Islamists didn’t cause us any problems.”

Mr. Ould-Abdallah called those six months, which were essentially the only epoch of peace most Somalis have tasted for years, Somalia’s “golden era.”

**“This government doesn’t control one inch of territory from the Kenyan border up to Mogadishu,” said a Western diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, citing diplomatic protocol.**

**“This is basically the last chance,” the Western diplomat said.**



But the people in Afgooye's squatter camps do not have a lot of faith.

**"We want the Islamists back,"** said Mohammed Ahmed, a shriveled 80-year-old retired taxi driver. Mr. Mohammed said he was not especially religious. "But," he said, "at least we had food."

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **1800 From Ohio Army National Guard Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

November 26, 2007 Army Times

The Ohio Army National Guard is mobilizing about 1,800 members of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in what was reported as the state's largest single-unit deployment of the Iraq war.

The Columbus-headquartered brigade is scheduled to begin a 12-month tour in January, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported on Nov. 15.

The brigade will train for 60 to 90 days at Fort Hood, Texas, before deploying to Kuwait.

The development marks the first time the brigade will deploy as a whole under a new modular concept developed by the Army, according to the newspaper.

More than 12,000 Ohio Army and Air National Guard soldiers have been deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, though none is currently deployed overseas, a Guard spokeswoman told the newspaper.

Deployment ceremonies for some of the units have been scheduled for Jan. 6 in Cleveland and Medina, the newspaper reported.

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# **Poland To Withdraw All Troops From Iraq In 2008**

November 23, 2007 (dpa)

Poland will withdraw all 900 of its troops from Iraq by the end of 2008, new Prime Minister Donald Tusk said in his first address to the Polish parliament on Friday.

“We will conduct this operation keeping in mind that our commitment to our ally, the United States, has been lived up to and exceeded,” he said.

“The specific logistics and date will come from consultations with our allies, including our main ally, the United States. But 2008 is the last year of the Polish military mission in Iraq,” he added.

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## **“I Don’t Even Know How Many Raids I Did While I Was There” “You’re Dehumanizing Them In Front Of Their Wives And Their Kids And, You Know, The Women Are Crying And The Children Are Crying”**

[Thanks to Samuel Farber, who sent this in.]

November 14 NPR

Demond Mullins spent a year in Iraq with the National Guard. When he came back, he felt alienated and angry at what he had seen and done in the war.

His military transport plane brought him back in the fall of 2005. When he arrived at New Jersey’s Fort Dix, there were no bands waiting to welcome him home, Mullins says.

What waited instead was a pair of white-painted school buses. Those buses would carry the surviving members of his National Guard unit back toward civilian life.

Mullins, who grew up in Brooklyn, spent a year as a clothing model. He was ambitious enough to join the National Guard to pay for college.

That was the life Iraq interrupted.

And when he tried to resume it, Mullins’ old friends kept asking questions, like “What was it like when you shot someone?”

“I don’t know,” he says. “My experiences are not pornography for my friends or for anyone else. I use the word pornography because I feel like it is just the ... exploitation of my personal experiences for someone else’s entertainment.”

Mullins says he either ignored the question “or I would just say, ‘You know, I don’t want to talk about things like that’ or just say, ‘I didn’t shoot anybody or whatever.’”

He says he’s not sure if he did shoot and kill anybody, though he knows exactly what he did at close range.

“I dehumanized people,” Mullins says.

“I don’t even know how many raids I did while I was there. But during raids you’re throwing them up against the wall, you’re tying their hands behind their back, you’re dragging them out of the bed.

“You’re dehumanizing them in front of their wives and their kids and, you know, the women are crying and the children are crying and you’re just like, whatever. Put a bag over their head or blindfold, drag them into the Humvee.

“Certain exhibitions of violence on my part that were probably unnecessary — were definitely unnecessary. But I was really stressed out and on edge at the time and I conducted myself ... like that.”

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## **Scots Troops Deliberately Fail Drug Tests To Evade Afghan War:**

### **“I Heard Quite A Few Of The Guys Planning How They Were Going To Get Out Of Going”**

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

**“We were shown videos and given intelligence briefings on the Taliban, telling us how many men strong they are, what kind of weapons they are using and what we would have to do to them. “I cannot go into detail because it’s operational but I can tell you that it was bloody terrifying for us all.**

Nov 24 2007 By Janice Burns, Scottish Daily Record [Excerpts]

SCOTS soldiers enjoyed an orgy of drugs, sex and booze in Mexico as they prepared to serve in Afghanistan.

Squaddies from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders told last night how their comrades snorted cocaine, romped with prostitutes and guzzled tequila in Cancun.

The battalion's antics have earned them the nickname The Cancun Platoon.

The Record revealed this month that 17 Argylls from the trip are being kicked out of the Army after failing drug tests.

Three other units joined the 400 Argylls on the jaunt.

One soldier told us: "I took a lot of coke when I was out there but I never got caught.

"I was surprised it was just 17 who tested positive. I still can't believe I got away with it.

The soldiers reckon many of the 17 soldiers who failed drug tests set out deliberately to get caught to avoid being sent to Afghanistan.

They knew that under the Army's zero tolerance drugs policy, they would automatically be kicked out if they tested positive.

A third soldier said: "A few days before we went to Cancun we all got a warning order telling us what we were going to be doing in Afghanistan.

"We were told the risks and how we would need to carry World War kit.

"We were shown videos and given intelligence briefings on the Taliban, telling us how many men strong they are, what kind of weapons they are using and what we would have to do to them.

"I cannot go into detail because it's operational but I can tell you that it was bloody terrifying for us all.

"It was the first time it really sank in that we might not come home alive. There is a good chance we'll get shot or blown up.

"A lot of the young ones just put their head in their hands and said 'Jesus f\*\*\*. I can't do this'. They were in a bit of a state.

**"Most of the guys who got caught in the drugs tests were crapping themselves about going to a war zone. They took the drugs to get thrown out.**

**"I heard quite a few of the guys planning how they were going to get out of going to Afghanistan. Some were going to take drugs and others were going to go AWOL during the month's leave we get before we go.**

"We'll have to fill the gaps with the TA. I'm really worried about that as well because they'll go with hardly any training."

The Argylls flew home to their base, Howe Barracks in Canterbury, Kent, after the debauched Cancun break.

But even there, according to the soldiers, there were plenty of drugs on offer.

One said: "Drugs are rife in the barracks. You can get them from the pub across the road, which is a drug den.

"The Army know about it. They have said anyone caught in there will be fined £1000.

"Last week, someone went in there and overdosed on cocaine and horse tranquillisers.

"He collapsed right outside the pub and his mate walked across the road to the guard room and reported it.

**"He was coked out of his nut and his eyes were like saucers. He was talking a load of rubbish and saying 'Does this mean I can get out?' and 'Can I go home now?'.**

**"Both the boys wanted the Army to know they had been taking drugs so they could get out.**

"A lot have been kicked out over the past three years, but because it was dribs and drabs it's never been in the papers."

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## **"I Asked Sgt. Gaskins About His Hopes For The Future. He Replied That He Has No Future"**

11/22/07 By Robert C. Koehler, Chicago Tribune [Excerpts]

"I asked Sgt. Gaskins about his hopes for the future. He replied that he has no future." — psychotherapist Rosemary Masters

This is the cost of our wars, and sooner or later we need to begin paying down the debt. But it is only payable in the devalued currency of the truth.

For now, Soldier, we're still in denial and you're under arrest.

Welcome to PTSD Nation.

Brad Gaskins, of Newark, N.J., was at one time as gung-ho as a soldier can get, the ideal recruit, the boy with a hero's heart. He'd been the starting quarterback on his high school football team and had enlisted in the Army at age 17, while still a senior. That was 1999.

He wanted to serve his country, fight hard, win a medal. He swelled with pride when he wore his olive-green dress uniform to church. When we think "support our troops," we're thinking of Brad Gaskins.

He served a stint in Kosovo, came home, made sergeant in three years.

When we went into Iraq, he was on the front line of the invasion, pushing into Baghdad. Here's where it started: the horror that slowly turned to nightmares, that wrecked his marriage, that pushed him to the edge of sanity and resulted in his going AWOL in 2006.

This was after two tours of duty in Iraq, and after he could get no help at Fort Drum, in Watertown, N.Y., where he was stationed.

In 2003, after the shock-and-awe bombing campaign, "his unit was tasked to bury the bodies of the Iraqi dead," Masters wrote in her psychological evaluation of Gaskins a month ago. "He had found this assignment very disturbing.

"Bulldozers were used to push the bodies into mass graves," she wrote. "The bodies would fall apart, the smell was unforgettable. He felt badly that the bodies were treated with such disrespect. There was no effort made to identify the dead so that their families could know what happened to them. He was expected to handle many of the dead bodies which were significantly decayed and often 'oozing goop' into the ground."

That was only at the beginning of Gaskin's first tour in Iraq, and it gets worse. But I pause long enough to grope for some appropriate emotions. There are none, of course. None that encompass bulldozed corpses, mass graves, and headlines that declared "Mission Accomplished."

This was when we were winning. Awareness of the dirty side of the war was not collective. It was borne, and suppressed, only by the ones who were there, doing what they were told.

When Gaskins returned home after a 10-month tour, the hell he had witnessed was already starting to back up and spill into his dreams.

Then he was sent back.

"He stated that his second tour was much worse than the first," Masters wrote. He told her of the death of a friend; the aftermath of a suicide bombing; and of a horrible accident in which an IED, in the process of being dismantled, went off and "blew out the front of a house and killed a family of four, including a little girl and a little boy while they were eating breakfast."

Though Gaskins was not the one who made the mistake, or the one in charge, he was there and has absorbed 100 percent of the guilt for not insisting the area be cordoned off, Masters wrote. He "clearly recalls the clothing the children were wearing."

This is the anatomy of a PTSD diagnosis. The report goes on and on. Since his return from the second tour of duty, Gaskins has been seriously dysfunctional, Masters reported. Flashbacks and dreams will suddenly propel him back to Iraq. Once, when his wife surprised him, he held a knife to her throat. Once he hit her. He has headaches, he can't eat, he has no interest in life.

After a year of AWOL, he contacted the veterans' advocacy organization Citizen Soldier, who secured his appointment with the psychotherapist.

A week ago he was planning to surrender to authorities at Fort Drum and plead for recognition of his condition and an honorable discharge.

**He held a press conference at the Different Drummer Cafe in Watertown, which is operated by Citizen Soldier, but shortly before I had a chance to conduct a phone interview with him — and while a local TV station's camera was rolling — he was arrested and led away in handcuffs.**

The last I heard he'd been transferred to Walter Reed, but his status with the Army is up in the air.

**In her PTSD evaluation, Masters wrote: "He wonders if God is punishing him because before he joined the Army he thought of war as something fun and exciting."**

I wonder where he got that idea?

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## **“Our Military Cannot Afford To Not Allow Soldiers To Perform Their Duties,” He Said**

**[The truth is that when enough soldiers decide not to “perform their duties” in an evil, dishonorable war for Empire, there is nothing whatever the military can do about it. The wholesale rebellion of the U.S. army in Vietnam stopped that Imperial war. Individual actions didn't. Mass action inside sure did. T]**

November 14, 2007 By Kent Harris, Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — A soldier assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges of desertion and failing to follow a lawful order.

In a general court-martial at Caserma Ederle, Judge (Col.) R. Peter Masterston sentenced Pfc. Andrew G. Hegerty to one year of confinement at the Army detention facility in Mannheim, Germany. Hegerty also was reduced in rank to E-1, ordered to forfeit of all pay and given a bad-conduct discharge.

Because of a pretrial agreement, Hegerty will serve nine months behind bars.

The 19-year-old deployed to Afghanistan with his unit in May, but decided he didn't want to return to his unit when his block leave ended on Sept. 23.

He visited Fort McCoy, Wis., to try to separate from the Army two days later, but was told he would be returned to his unit.

“They said there was nothing they could do for me, so I left Fort McCoy, knowing that I was a deserter,” he told the judge.

Hegerty said he returned to his home in Wisconsin before deciding to turn himself in at Fort Knox, Ky., on Oct. 10.

Sent back to Vicenza, he refused an order from the top noncommissioned officer in his battalion's rear detachment to attend a predeployment session. He told the judge that such a move would only lead to his going back to Afghanistan and "hazardous duty." "It's a dangerous job, sir, and I didn't want to go back to it," he said.

Prior to the court-martial, Hegerty waived an Article 32 hearing and several other processes that could have prolonged the process. He described his unit's mission as "very important," but said he felt he would be unable to do it.

"I have nightmares. I can't sleep at night," he said. "I'm not really able to pull the trigger and shoot anyone."

**Six members of Hegerty's squad were killed in an ambush last week, and his defense counsel, Maj. Christopher Hanifin, said that made Hegerty feel "terrible" about his actions. In addition, a soldier who was supposed to testify in his behalf couldn't because he was medically evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany after the attack.**

But Hanifin argued that Hegerty's age and prior good service in his 20 months in the military should count in his favor. "In short, he has a lot of rehabilitation potential," Hanifin said. "And at 19 years old ... he has that possibility, your honor."

Capt. Larry Babin, the military prosecutor, said Hegerty's actions deserved severe punishment.

**"Our military cannot afford to not allow soldiers to perform their duties," he said.**

Hegerty had faced a maximum sentence of six years in prison, a dishonorable discharge, reduction in rank to E-1 and loss of all pay.

[Thanks to Meike Capps-Schubert, Military Counseling Network, Germany who sent this in. Check it out: [www.mc-network.de](http://www.mc-network.de)]

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## **At Camp Striker, "There Are Snorts Of Derision At The Suggestion That The Army Could Be Pulled Out Any Time Soon"**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

November 24, 2007 David Smith in Baghdad, Guardian Unlimited [Excerpts]



Later I packed my bags, left Camp Striker and checked in at a helicopter pad.

There was a waiting room, or rather tent, showing American TV and on came The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. As the host began a satirical history of US arms policy in the Middle East, under the dramatic graphic "America to the rescue", I watched the reaction of US soldiers in the room.

"We've been rescuing the Middle East for some time now," Stewart said. "Think back to 1990, when an oil-rich, very nice little country named Kuwait was invaded by the very not-nice Iraq ... At that time, we had to weaken Saddam Hussein, who had become very powerful after purchasing a shitload of weapons from ... oh boy, oops."

Some soldiers sat and stared, stony faced. Others smiled or chuckled, perhaps in spite of themselves, perhaps not.

"See, at that time we had to give him weapons, because he was at war with Iran," Stewart continued. "But see, once Saddam got real powerful, we had to worry that he would topple our friends in Saudi Arabia. Which is why we put troops there, which kind of pissed off, uh, that guy (cut to picture of Osama bin Laden), who had also become very powerful, fighting the Russians in Afghanistan after getting weapons from - son of a bitch! What the fuck!"

Again, some of the watching soldiers did not flinch.

But others, probably a majority, just had to laugh.

I haven't heard much of talk of politics among the troops here.

The US presidential election is regarded as a faraway business that won't affect day-to-day operations here. There are snorts of derision at the suggestion that the army, so deeply entrenched, could be pulled out any time soon.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

# Resistance Action

23 Nov 2007 & 11.24.07 Reuters

Two car bombs targeting police patrols killed six policemen in southeastern Mosul.

Guerrillas on a motorbike killed a doctor who was working with the U.S. military in Kut, 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, on Thursday, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two members of the Interior Ministry's anti-crime unit when it targeted their patrol in central Baghdad, police said.

The body of a policeman was found with gunshot wounds in Tuz Khurmato in northern Iraq, two days after he was captured, police said.

A car bomb killed three policemen and wounded 11 others near the city of Samarra, police said.

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**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**

## **The Insurgent Parrot Of Baghdad**

[Thanks to David McReynolds for circulating.]

November 19, 2008 Letter from Cathy Breen via Melissa Jameson [Excerpt]

The Jordan Times, Nov. 15, 2007

Baghdad:

“I don’t go out of my home because of the danger” says one customer. “I decided to buy a parrot who can entertain me.”

The son of a prominent seller of exotic animals at the market said “Our situation at the time of Saddam was much better.”

He explained that during the former regime pet lovers from Iran and Russia used to regularly visit Al Ghari. “Today we have local customers who like to have birds in their homes, as these people do not step out. But times have changed” he says.

**As he points a finger to a group of animals, suddenly an African Grey parrot—a new arrival—shouts out: “Down with Bush!”**

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi family waits on a bench as US soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division, 3BCT, search their home in the village of al-Awsat, south of Baghdad, 16 November 2007. At least 36 people were killed in fierce gun battles as suspected Al-Qaeda fighters, some dressed as Iraqi soldiers, attacked three villages on Thursday, officials said.(AFP/File/Patrick Baz)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**The women and children were moved into a room, where they huddled together in silence. The men had been forced down onto their knees wherever they were apprehended, their hands secured behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and their eyes covered by makeshift blindfolds.** YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.07

**“My sons and wife were very terrified,” complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. “Does the security plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?”** BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007

**“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”**

[There’s nothing quite like invading somebody else’s country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don’t they? Don’t they?]

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

## **Cholera Epidemic Spreading In Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, Nov. 23 (UPI)

The Iraqi Health Ministry said more than 80 cases of cholera were reported in Baghdad over the past few weeks.

A Health Ministry official said most cases of the disease were reported in impoverished areas that lack water and other necessary services, Alsumaria satellite TV reported Friday.

The official also said water supplies at six government hospitals were found to be unsanitary.

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

### “The Joy Of Being A Child In Gaza”



Rafah, Gaza Strip: Palestinian boys play next to a damaged building.  
Photograph: Abid Katib/Getty Images

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in, with the caption.]

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

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

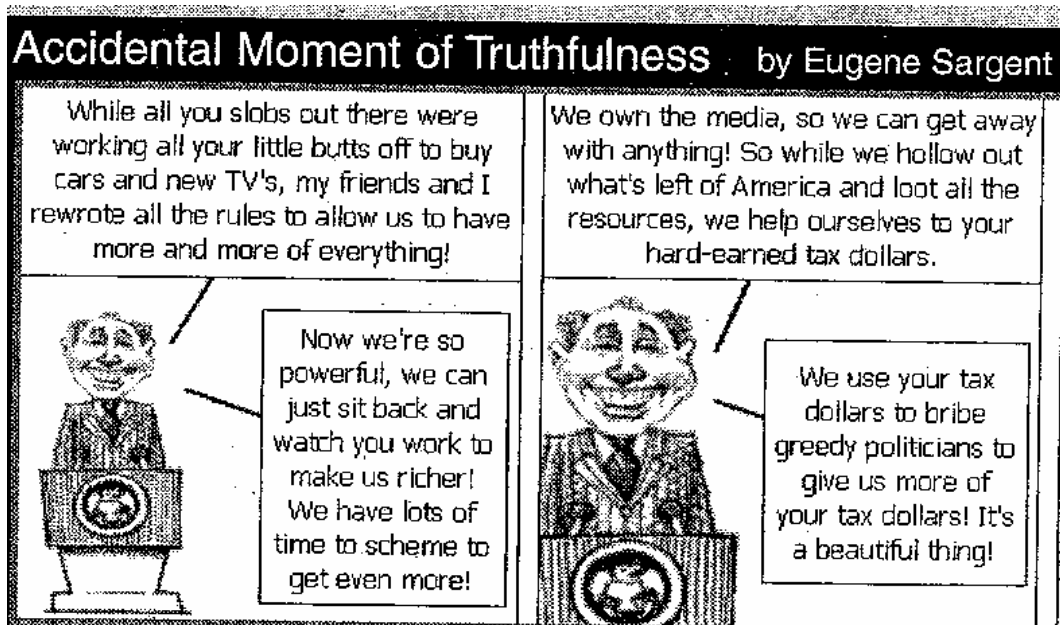
Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our 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/))

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



## CLASS WAR REPORTS



**Capitalism At Work:**

**“We Have A Record 482 Billionaires --  
And A Record 47 Million People  
Without Any Health Insurance”  
“Since 2000, We Have Added 184  
Billionaires -- And 5 Million More People  
Living Below The Poverty Line”**

Between 1983 and 2004, the average wealth of the top 1 percent of households grew by 78 percent, reports Edward Wolff, professor of economics at New York University. The bottom 40 percent lost 59 percent.

November 09, 2007 By Holly Sklar, Zmag [Excerpts]

When it comes to producing billionaires, America is doing great.

Until 2005, multimillionaires could still make the Forbes list of the 400 richest Americans. In 2006, the Forbes 400 went billionaires only.

This year, you'd need a Forbes 482 to fit all the billionaires.

The average Forbes 400 member has \$3.8 billion.

When the Forbes 400 began in 1982, it was dominated by oil and manufacturing fortunes. Today, says Forbes, “Wall Street is king.”

Nearly half the 45 new members, says Forbes, “made their fortunes in hedge funds and private equity. Money manager John Paulson joins the list after pocketing more than \$1 billion short-selling subprime credit this summer.”

The 25th anniversary of the Forbes 400 isn't party time for America.

We have a record 482 billionaires -- and record foreclosures.

**We have a record 482 billionaires -- and a record 47 million people without any health insurance.**

**Since 2000, we have added 184 billionaires -- and 5 million more people living below the poverty line.**

**The official poverty threshold for one person was a ridiculously low \$10,294 in 2006.**

That won't get you two pounds of caviar (\$9,800) and 25 cigars (\$730) on the Forbes Cost of Living Extremely Well Index.

The \$20,614 family-of-four poverty threshold is lower than the cost of three months of home flower arrangements (\$24,525).

**Wealth is being redistributed from poorer to richer.**

**Between 1983 and 2004, the average wealth of the top 1 percent of households grew by 78 percent, reports Edward Wolff, professor of economics at New York University. The bottom 40 percent lost 59 percent.**

In 1982, when the Forbes 400 had just 13 billionaires, the highest paid CEO made \$108 million and the average full-time worker made \$34,199, adjusted for inflation in \$2006. Last year, the highest paid hedge fund manager hauled in \$1.7 billion, the highest paid CEO made \$647 million, and the average worker made \$34,861, with vanishing health and pension coverage.

And the rich, notes Fortune magazine, "give away a smaller share of their income than the rest of us."

Tax cuts will save the top 1 percent a projected \$715 billion between 2001 and 2010. And cost us \$715 billion in mounting national debt plus interest.

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## **“The Global Credit Crisis Has Hit Asia With A Vengeance For The First Time”**

21st November 2007 The Business.co.uk [Excerpts]

**The global credit crisis has hit Asia with a vengeance for the first time, triggering a massive flight to safety as investors across the region pull out of risky assets.**

**Yields on three-month deposits in China and Korea have plummeted to near 1% in a spectacular fall over recent days, caused by panic withdrawals from money market funds and credit derivatives.**

“This is a severe warning sign,” said Hans Redeker, currency chief at BNP Paribas. “Asia ignored the credit crunch in August but now we’re seeing the poison beginning to paralyse the whole global economy,” he said.

Korean and Chinese three-month yields have fallen from 4% to 1% in a matter of days in an eerie replay of events on Wall Street in late August when flight from banks and the US commercial paper markets caused yields on three-month Treasuries to falls at the fastest rate ever recorded. Asian investors appear to be opting for deposit accounts with government guarantees.



It is unclear what prompted this latest “heart attack” in the credit system, though rumours abound that Asian banks have yet to own up to their share of the expected \$400bn to \$500bn losses from the US mortgage debacle.

Stock markets were battered across the region. The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong fell 4.15%, while Tokyo’s Nikkei slumped to the lowest level in a year and a half, dragged down by the shares of the ‘Seven Samurai’ exporters.

**Asian jitters set off fresh turmoil on Europe’s credit markets.**

The iTraxx index measuring default insurance on bank and insurance bonds hit an all-time high of 63.5.

**“The whole financial market is in turmoil with Bund-Swap-Spreads going through the roof,” said Andrew Guy, director of ADG Capital Management.**

Marcus Schuler, director of credit marketing at Deutsche Bank, said spreads on low-grade European bonds had been jumping ten basis points a day for the last week. “There’s been risk aversion across the board,” he said.

**In a rare move, the European Covered Bond Council said it was suspending trading of mortgage-linked bonds in the inter-bank-market owing to the “undue over-acceleration in the widening of spreads”.**

Charles Dumas, chief strategist for Lombard Street Research, said credit woes had led to an alarming spike in the ‘Ted spread’ between commercial Libor and US Treasury bills, now near 150 basis points.

**“Libor is at a premium to T-bills not matched the great crash in 1987,” he said.**

Mr Redcker said the flight from risk has led to a sudden unwinding of the \$1,200bn yen “carry trade” as hedge funds and Japanese investors close risky positions. The yen has snapped back violently from yen118 to yen108 against the dollar since early October, with similar moves against other Anglo-Saxon currencies.

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**Received:**

**“I LOVE This One....Should Be Noted As ‘Chicken Shit Bush”**

From: [xxxx]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2007 3:12 PM  
Subject: Re: GI Special 5K14: Why

**Man....I LOVE this one....should be noted as ‘Chicken Shit Bush - likes to play at being a human being!’**

Tell the guy great job.....

Reply: OK. Here it is again, by popular demand. T



[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier]

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**GI Special** [www.militaryproject.org](http://www.militaryproject.org)

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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