

## **GI SPECIAL GUARD EDITION:**

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# **Army Values**

**"I Am Loyal To My Fellow Soldiers; I Do Not Want Them To Die In A Purposeless War"**

**"I Am Loyal To The Constitution; A Constitution Which Is Under Attack By Men Who Have Not Sacrificed To Protect It"**

**"Our Leadership Is Currently Dishonorable"**



*Loyalty: Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and fellow soldiers.*

**Nowhere in this list does it say “the current leadership of your country, and their political decisions”.**

11/14/2007 By Army Sergeant [Iraq Veterans Against The War: [www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/)]

**A lot of people question how I can be a sergeant in the Army, giving my oath true weight, and believing in its values, and still be a member of IVAW.**

**It’s easy.**

**I believe in the Army’s purpose-it is to defend our country and protect the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.**

**I don’t think its purpose is foreign wars we can’t win.**

**Its true purpose is noble, and has been subverted by armchair soldiers, politicians who have never had to serve.**

**They don’t know these values, and they don’t live them -- but I do.**

**And here’s why they support, rather than contradict, what I’m doing now as a member of IVAW.**

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*Loyalty: Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and fellow soldiers.*

**Nowhere in this list does it say “the current leadership of your country, and their political decisions”.**

**I am loyal to my fellow soldiers; I do not want them to die in a purposeless war.**

**I am loyal to the Army; I do not want it to be weakened on multiple fronts and taken away from its true purpose, defense of the nation.**

**I am loyal to the Constitution; a Constitution which is under attack by men who have not sacrificed to protect it.**

**I bear true faith and allegiance to these, most particularly the Constitution which founded our nation.**

*Duty: Fulfill your obligations*

Our highest obligations as soldiers is our obligation to our country and the flag we salute. Our obligation as citizens and patriots compels us to defend our country in any way we can -- against its destruction as well as its dishonor.

**The Iraq War, and the way it is being prosecuted, dishonors us in the eyes of the world, and even worse, dishonors us to ourselves.**

*Respect: Treat people as they should be treated.*

Treat the people of the United States as well as the people of Iraq with respect. They deserve to be treated according to their status: if they are prisoners of war, then treat them with the full dignity accorded POWs. If they are criminals, then give them trials.

Innocent until proven guilty: we do not lose our values when we step away from our shores.

*Selfless Service: Put the welfare of the Nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.*

Being a member of IVAW is hard.

It is hard to stand up, to devote effort and time to an organization committed to what is right, when your leadership so firmly believes that it is wrong.

It's hard to face the intimidation and harassment that many members of the active duty military face when they begin to speak out on what they feel. It's hard to stand up and tell your higher ups that they are committing crimes.

**But the welfare of the Nation, our continued survival as an honorable country, and the continued survival of the Army depends on some of us standing up, and saying, "Sir, no Sir!"**

That we will not participate in illegal acts, and we will report them when and where we see them.

We will not train our soldiers to commit them, and will train our soldiers to follow the honorable path.

And the honorable path now, the hard service, means standing up and speaking the truth, so that legislators can begin to realize it, and bring us home.

*Honor: Live up to Army Values*

Honor is living up to all the Army Values, but it is even older than that. It is the thing you have when you have nothing else left. It is all you need: it should be the cornerstone of a soldier.

It is phrased as living up to all the Army Values, because if you lack even one, you cannot be an honorable soldier.

It is the ability to look yourself in the mirror at the end of the day and know you have done all that you can, and that you have not had to reproach yourself for anything.

**Our leadership is currently dishonorable.**

By their bending of the torture legislation to allow what they want to take place, they are attempting to put a stain upon our honor that will take at least a generation to erase.

As soon as our soldiers have fulfilled their usefulness to them, leadership shuffles them away, with “personality disorders” instead of PTSD treatment.

Benefits are cut, while contractors reach huge rewards.

This is not taking care of the people who have given their all to the country.

**It is dishonorable, and the only way to restore that honor is to stand up against the people who are doing so and will do so again.**

*Integrity: Do what is right, legally and morally.*

**The things that the political leadership of this country are trying to do right now are neither legal nor moral.**

The acceptance of torture, the belief that once Americans go beyond their borders, they no longer have to hold to the beliefs that shaped our nation, ‘baiting’ with weapons caches, and other such tactics at the very least skirt the fine line of legality: they are definitely not moral.

Claiming that it is okay to treat people dishonorably because they are not an organized force fighting against us is simply wrong, as is the argument that they are not citizens and therefore do not deserve the protections of the Constitution.

We are the good guys!

We do the right thing, even if others don’t, and if our leadership does not understand that, it needs to.

It needs to pull out of this war, and cease its immoral actions, to bring itself in line with the country’s beliefs and principles.

*Personal Courage: Face fear, danger, or adversity (physical or moral)*

It does not take physical courage to stand up and fight against injustice in this fashion.

Most members have not been physically attacked -- the cowards who attack people for their beliefs have gone after a father of a dead servicemember instead (Carlos Arredondo).

But it does take moral courage.

**It takes moral courage to stand up for what you know to be true and right, moral courage to say that the country is steering in the wrong direction, and you are committed by your oath to turn it around.**

It takes moral courage to resist a war that your leadership believes in, or to stand against your entire platoon and state that you will not treat a prisoner with anything less than full dignity.

**And it takes moral courage to be counted, here, to let people insult you for perceived cowardice, when the truth is that you, like I, may not be against all wars, all places, all times.**

**But hopefully you, like I, like many committed and dedicated members of the military community, are against this one.**

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## **Commanding General Says National Guard Troops Destined For Endless Imperial War: “Leaders To Deploy Units More Rapidly Than Normal” “More Mobilizations” “Lessened Period Of Dwell”**

October 22, 2007 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

The National Guard and Army Reserve are transitioning into operational forces vital to the war fight overseas and security at home, but until the two components are fully transformed, deployment policies limiting these soldiers to 12-month mobilizations could force leaders to deploy units more rapidly than normal.

The demand for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan exceeds the supply, making it critical to use the Guard and Reserve to meet the needs of commanders in theater.

In addition, the global war on terrorism is a “generational conflict,” Campbell [Gen. Charles Campbell, commanding general of Forces Command] said.

“Even with the extended (boots on the ground), it’s going to take more mobilizations of more units to meet the same requirements. You can expect more mobilizations and a lessened period of dwell given the same demand.”

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# **New Jersey Gov Condemns Guard Call Up**

[Thanks to Chris Lombardi, Military Project, who sent this in.]

October 18, 2007 By TOM HESTER Jr.; Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. - New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine says an impending large deployment of state National Guard troops represents an overuse of the citizen soldiers that undermines their purpose.

"The fact that we continue to have the kind of overuse of our National Guard is just a mistake," said Corzine, who voted against the Iraq war when he was a U.S. senator.

## **MORE:**

## **Half Of N.J. National Guard To Head To Iraq Next Year; "What's Going To Happen To Their Kids? Their Kids' Tuition? Mortgage Payments?"**

[Thanks to Chris Lombardi, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Oct 18, 2007 WNBC-TV

NEW YORK - The Pentagon has ordered roughly half of New Jersey's Army National Guard to deploy to Iraq in the second half of next year, NewsChannel 4 learned on Wednesday. A full combat brigade of New Jersey guardsmen, more than 3,000 soldiers, received their orders over the weekend.

They are part of a Defense Department rotation of eight National Guard units from across the country who will replace active duty troops fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Training, expected at least initially at Fort Dix in central New Jersey, will begin no later than next summer.

State senator and former acting Gov. Dick Codey said all of New Jersey will feel the impact of the large deployment.

"They should pray for these men and women who are going into battle," Codey said. "You're talking about thousands of families that are affected by this."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates is on record saying citizen soldiers should serve on duty no longer than 12 months, including training -- unlike active duty troops who are now on 15-month deployments.

**However, units of the New Jersey and New York National Guard who were in Iraq last year were among the first soldiers to have their tours extended to 15 months as part of President George W. Bush's surge strategy last winter.**

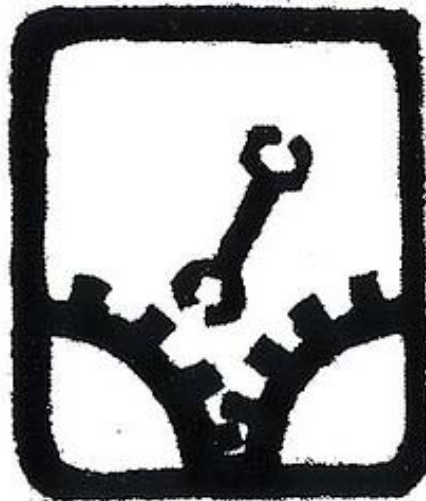
Codey said long tours disrupt lives.

**"What's going to happen to their kids? Their kids' tuition? Mortgage payments?" he said. "The salaries certainly don't match."**

**This would be the largest deployment of New Jersey guardsmen to Iraq since the war began four and a half years ago.**

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## **G.I. RESISTANCE**



**“No One But The Soldiers Have  
The Power To End The War  
Now”**

Iraq Veterans Against the War is proving every day that we are the vanguard organization in the movement to ending the war. But we must remember that our credibility does not derive from media appearances, placements in protest rallies, or the medals on our uniforms. No, it comes from the fact that we are still soldiers, and we never leave another soldier behind.

From: J.D. Englehart  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 26, 2007  
Subject: SUPPORT G.I. RESISTANCE

**Article & Graphics By Jeff Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against the War, [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)**

***"The morale, discipline and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are...lower and worse than at any time in this century and possibly in the history of the United States...our army...is in a state of approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous."*** - Col. Robert D. Heinl, Jr.; *The Collapse of the Armed Forces*, *Armed Forces Journal*, June 7, 1971

***"Mutiny is the Conscience of War."*** —Common Graffiti written by Soldiers in the trenches of World War I

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Much noise is being made today as to what true GI Resistance actually means.

In a confusing, often obfuscating and divisive hodgepodge of arguments, a variety of voices try to pinpoint and isolate a singularly accepted standard of GI Resistance.

Sometimes in stark arrogance, members of the antiwar community bicker back and forth as to what supporting resistance entails, without actually considering the point of view of the soldier fighting the war.

For instance, words like cowardice, loyalty, and even duty are used by some to attack, condescend, and humiliate war resisters, soldier dissenters, AWOL's, and deserters.

These arguments are seriously flawed, yet each stance tries to establish itself as the only acceptable means of supporting GI Resistance.

There are countless ways to crack an egg, and in a generalized effort to end the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, a plethora of tactics will be needed.

Most of us know that by now.

**But what we fail to realize is that sometimes the means to immediately end a war start with the boots on the ground.**

So who then are we, as activists, veterans, and concerned citizens, to place moral standards on any soldier who would detriment the war effort in any way she or he sees fit?

**The question is not what GI Resistance is, but rather how can we support it any way shape or form?**



One only needs to open a U.S. history book to find examples of GI resistance throughout our years of war and conquest. As far back as the American Revolution, instances of GI rebellion were common, as underpaid, underfed, and ill-equipped regulars staged mutinies and revolts against what they saw as forced conscription, colonial elitism, and rampant war profiteering. In barbarous wars such our Civil War, soldiers plagued by the torment of battle and butchery deserted in massive numbers.

AWOL's were common throughout World War I, and studies on World War II now show that soldiers from both sides had tendencies to deliberately aim astray when firing projectiles at enemy combatants.

**But it wasn't until the Vietnam War that the true power of an organized underclass of soldiers showed its amazing potential to end military adventurism.**

Through amazing instances of organizing, communicating, and solidarity, American service members utilized a whole array of tactics to make their stance against a war they saw as immoral and wrong.

**From civil disobedience to direct action--from outspoken "Rap Sessions", antiwar coffee houses, underground newspapers, "search and evades" missions, and mass desertions, to more extreme measures as combat refusals, equipment sabotage and assassinations of commanding officers in the field -- soldiers challenged the power structure of the military from within, and sent shock waves through the establishment that were felt all the way to the architects of war in Washington, D.C.**

Of course, many people within the movement used a variety of tactics to spread distrust of the political system essential in ending the war.

**However, it wasn't until the very moment when the soldiers refused to fight that the powers-to-be had absolutely no other option than to pull the plug on their military aggression in Southeast Asia.**

**The GI Revolt from that time is an amazing display of people-power, and what can be achieved through a well-organized, dedicated effort to tear down systems of oppressive power from within.**

**Their greatest strength came from a decentralized ability to operate sporadically and pop up, much like a fungus refusing to die, uncontrollably in all corners of the American empire.**

**The fertile conditions that nurtured their resistance came from a strong antiwar movement back home, and a tightly-held veteran-soldier solidarity to keep the resistance intact.**

**Soldier solidarity is where we are failing today.**

**As activists committed to ending this war, we need to reach out to the troops who are fighting it and show them that we support GI Resistance.**

**Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan need to know that at home in the United States there is a dedicated activist community that will support them in resisting this illegal war at any cost.**

We need to realize amongst ourselves that GI resistance is resistance by definition. Therefore, any resistance acted out by soldiers must be supported.

**There can be no ultimatums to supporting resistance. Whether that resistance is in the form of organizing amongst peers, starting underground 'zines or websites, combat refusals or even acts of sabotage, we as activists must do our part to help aide and assist them, even if our assistance can only be in spirit and emotion.**

We must understand that any form of resistance, even cases of AWOL and desertion, play a huge part in undermining the war effort from within. Never are we allowed to judge or discriminate against soldiers who choose to leave the military for whatever reason the soldier deems necessary. If more of the public accepted and supported AWOL and/or desertion as a justified alternative to participating in an illegal war, then perhaps we could expect more and more soldiers to quit their jobs.

Ideally, one could picture the perfect scenario in which, on any given morning, the whole army fails to "show up to formation."

**At any rate, accusations of cowardice or treason are completely unacceptable.**

**Furthermore, any soldier or veteran (especially one inclined towards an antiwar persuasion) that resorts to such patronizing derision should be reminded that such chest-beating machismo and arrogant self-righteousness is absolutely detrimental to our ultimate goal of ending the war.**

**The whole idea is to win the soldiers trust and include them, not insult and exclude them.**

**Iraq Veterans Against the War is proving every day that we are the vanguard organization in the movement to ending the war.**

**But we must remember that our credibility does not derive from media appearances, placements in protest rallies, or the medals on our uniforms.**

**No, it comes from the fact that we are still soldiers, and we never leave another soldier behind.**

**Our credibility lies with the soldiers that are still tied to this war, not with the public who overwhelmingly supports an immediate withdrawal, and not with the politicians promising peace with empty rhetoric.**

**No one but the soldiers have the power to end the war now.**

**And as an organization inherently dedicated to the soldier, our sole function should be reaching out to them, helping them to resist, helping them to come home.**

That is the true essence of solidarity, the true meaning of "Support GI Resistance," and when it finally comes together, that's when we'll really see the beginning of the end.



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

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

**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.