

## GI SPECIAL 6B19:



**Gambler's Fallacy:  
Why Staying In Iraq Is Wrong:  
"There Is In Fact No Winning  
Condition For Iraq"  
"Now It's Soldier's Lives Being  
Tossed Away On This Never-Ending  
Bad Wager, In The Hope That**

# Somehow, Someday, A Big Win Will Come Out Of It”

“Soldiers Aren’t Chips On A Gambling  
Table, And They Shouldn’t Be Treated  
That Way By Uncaring Politicians Who  
Have No Personal Investment In Ending  
The War”



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

02/09/2008 By ArmySergeant [Iraq Veterans Against The War; ivaw.org]

From *Disaffected and It Feels So Good*, an OIF/OEF veteran blogger, with permission:

“Is Iraq worth what we are paying?”

“No.

“Does leaving cheapen the sacrifices of those who have served and those who gave the final full measure?”

“Maybe...”

**“But it’s a vulgar gambler’s fallacy of irrational escalation used by Chickenhawk Warmongers to tap into the raw emotions of those who have lost loved ones or those who have served and want to, need to believe their government didn’t send them into a war for profit.”**



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**I think that is in fact what is my greatest issue with the way a lot of people argue in favor of the war. "We have to stay there, because people have died there, and we have to honor their service."**

**Well, if we stay because people have died there, then we’re going to be staying forever, because more people will continue to die to ensure that those who have died will in some way not be mistreated.**

We’ve all seen the smaller version of this.

The guy who keeps buying lottery ticket after lottery ticket, because he’s already thrown so much money away that it would be wasteful if he didn’t keep it up until he won. Or the guy who goes to Vegas or Atlantic City and winds up losing everything, because he didn’t want to quit the table while he was behind.

He had to have a win to save face, and now when he comes home, he’ll be sleeping on the couch for months.

That’s essentially where we’re at. In a manner reminiscent of "I won’t be the first president to lose a war", nobody wants to be the guy who rains on the parade, admits that primary sources show we were lied and misled into war, and says it’s time to cut our losses and move out.

That our ‘goals’ are unrealistic, and there is in fact no winning condition for Iraq.

I challenge everyone reading this-and yes, I even include the radical right-wingers who drop by. Can you provide me a criteria for winning that includes specifics in two sentences or less? A criteria, after which it is met, US troops will be able to leave because the job is done?

**"Don't quit until the job is done" only applies if there is a valid and reachable job to do. It does not apply if your only motivating factor is "not to look weak".**

**Because it's not just money being thrown away by some guy in a casino that's happening now.**

**Oh, money is certainly being thrown away-thrown away on contractors, thrown away on mistaken goals, thrown away on projects that fail, pointless new uniforms even the Army acknowledges have issues, buying more bad weapons that produce cringe-worthy dust tests.**

**Now it's soldier's lives being tossed away on this never-ending bad wager, in the hope that somehow, someday, a big win will come out of it.**

It is a sobering reflection of how much death has been occurring that the Army has authorized Gold Star lapel pins on the uniform.

We don't even know the real cost of the Iraq War in people, because the figures that would be most important aren't being released.

What about the figures of the wounded?

What about the figures of the people who come back psychologically damaged and no longer able to function effectively as a normal person, upping our already awful divorce statistics? What about the suicide rate?

**Soldiers aren't chips on a gambling table, and they shouldn't be treated that way by uncaring politicians who have no personal investment in ending the war.**

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## **ACTION REPORTS**

**Outreach To Troops At Fort Stewart:  
"Several Soldiers Or Family Members  
Came Back Through The Gate And  
Asked For A Couple More DVDs And  
Material To Share With Others"**



VFP member Sandy Kelson handing out material at the main gate of Fort Stewart, GA.

From: Jonathan Hutto [U.S. Navy, Appeal For Redress: [www.appealforredress.org/]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: February 24, 2008  
Subject: VFP at Fort Stewart, Action Report

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February 20, 2008 By John Grant - VFP Philadelphia Chapter 31 & Sandy Kelson, VFP Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter

Veterans For Peace has established a presence in the Fort Stewart, Georgia, area; the effort was organized by Sandy Kelson from the Northwest Pennsylvania VFP Chapter.

**He and John Grant from Philadelphia Chapter 31 began their outreach slowly by standing in front of the main base gate passing out free copies of Sir! No Sir!, GI Rights cards, Appeal For Redress forms, and VFP and IVAW brochures to anyone with a base sticker who would accept the material.**

It was Monday, the President's Day holiday, and 150 MPs were just returning to Fort Stewart from Iraq and Kelson and Grant kept encountering them driving on to the base.

**The two VFP members had a number of very positive exchanges with some of these soldiers.**

Kelson and Grant introduced themselves as Vietnam or Vietnam-era vets as they passed out the materials. Kelson encountered an African American soldier just back from Iraq nursing an injured gas-pedal leg. Grant had a conversation through the window with a just returning soldier riding with his wife and two kids; when Grant told the man "welcome home," his 7-year-old daughter screamed in delight from the backseat.

The young man looked happy and overwhelmed. He told Grant, "I could tell you a whole lot about Iraq."

At first, Kelson and Grant were cautious on what they said while handing out the material.

Grant began to change his rap to emphasize the GI Rights Movement during the Vietnam era in the Sir! No Sir! film. This didn't seem to present a problem to the soldiers or family members in the cars.

**Then, Kelson offered a "Bring Them Home Now" bracelet to a soldier in a car with his family and the guy took it gladly, extending his hand in gratitude.**

**The two VFP members have passed out over 400 Sir! No Sir! DVDs that are now sitting on coffee tables in homes and quarters throughout the huge Georgia army base.**

**Several soldiers or family members came back through the gate and asked for a couple more DVDs and material to share with others.**

Five hundred DVDs of the Iraq film The Ground Truth are expected via the mail in the coming days, and they will be distributed the same way at the main gate.

Working the cars with a large Veterans For Peace banner behind them, no MPs from the base have given Kelson and Grant even a drive-by eyeballing that either are aware of.

A friendly and good-humored Hinesville police officer told Grant to stay out of the road, a rule they have complied with for the most part.

**The two VFP members have linked up with local activists Kevin and Monica Benderman and Cathy Browning, all of whom have been helping and providing information.**

Kevin Benderman declared himself a CO and has done prison time in retaliation for his whistle-blowing in the Army. He will be pursuing his case in federal court.

The Veterans For Peace Fort Stewart Outreach Project located a venue at the Shuman Recreation Center in Hinesville and will be showing the documentary Meeting Resistance the features interviews with the Iraqi insurgency on Sunday, February 24. They have taken out ads in the Friday and Sunday issues of the local paper, The Coastal Courier.

Two GI counselors will be arriving in Hinesville to be available to any soldier who needs information about discharges and other issues. This will also be announced in The Coastal Courier.

**MORE:**

# **MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!**

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

## **NOTE WELL:**

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

## **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

## **Texas Sgt. Killed In Baghdad**



U.S. Army Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, of Big Spring, Texas, died Feb. 20, 2008 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered from a road side bomb. (AP Photo/U.S. Army, Fort Campbell)

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## **Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier**

February 24, 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080224-05

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device struck the Soldier's vehicle during a combat patrol in northern Baghdad Feb. 24.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed In Southern Baghdad**

February 24, 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080224-06

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed by smallarms fire during combat operations in southern Baghdad Feb. 24.

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# 19-Year-Old Ft. Campbell Soldier Killed Near Baghdad

2.26.08 ARDMORE, Okla. (AP)

A 101st Airborne Division soldier has been killed in Iraq.

The mother of 19-year-old Pfc. Michael Phillips of Ardmore, Okla., says she was told Sunday afternoon that her son was killed Sunday morning.

Anglia Phillips says her son died near Baghdad when the Humvee he was in was hit by a roadside bomb.

Phillips was a 2006 graduate of Ardmore High School and was based at Fort Campbell, an Army post on the Kentucky-Tennessee state line.

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## NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



U.S. Army Pfc. Jeremy Roussel, 20, from Wareham, Mass. braces against the rain as he mans his post during Operation Coliseum in Arab Jabour, south of Baghdad, Iraq on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

# Resistance Action

Feb 23 AP & Feb. 24 (Xinhua) & Feb. 26, 2008 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan - A roadside bomb hit a vehicle carrying five policemen and a child in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing all six, officials said. The blast happened in the eastern Khost province close to the border with Pakistan, said police chief Gen. Mohammad Ayub. Police here are poorly paid, and many complain that superior officers skim from their paychecks or that they are not paid at all.

KABUL, Afghanistan - Seven Afghan security guards died Saturday when their car hit a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan, while a gunman killed a district police chief in the region, police said. The guards, who worked for a road construction company, hit the bomb in the Sarkano district of Kunar province, a mountainous area close to the border with Pakistan, said provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Jalal.

Also in Kunar, a gunman shot and killed the police chief of Chawkey district Friday night, Jalal said. One man was arrested in connection with the case, he said.

A roadside bomb struck a police van in Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing three policemen and wounding two others, an official said. The explosion took place Sunday afternoon when a convoy of the provincial governor, police and army was returning from Maiwand district to Kandahar city, the provincial capital, Kandahar's governor Asadullah Khalid told Xinhua via phone.

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## TROOP NEWS

# Soldier Stages Shooting To Avoid Return To Iraq

02/26/08 AP

APPLE VALLEY, Calif. -- A soldier trying to avoid redeployment to Iraq had a friend shoot him in the leg and then claimed he'd been wounded in a holdup, authorities said.

Army Pfc. Matthew John Myers, 20, of Apple Valley, limped into a minimart about 9:30 p.m. Sunday and reported he had been walking on a golf course when a gunman stole his wallet and military identification and shot him in the right thigh, authorities said.

A helicopter search failed to find a robber and San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies became suspicious of the story because they could not find a blood trail or any shell casings and Myers could not describe the attacker.

Also, Myers "had stated that he was walking alone when the suspect came up and shot him, then ran away," sheriff's Sgt. Todd Newton said. "But when deputies went back to investigate they found two sets of footprints that had been walking side by side for some time."

"We were out looking for the suspect, and things just weren't adding up," sheriff's spokeswoman Trish Hill said.

Myers was questioned and finally told investigators that a friend, Daniel Dotterer, 20, shot him with a .32-caliber revolver so that he could avoid returning to Iraq, Newton said.

Dotterer also confessed that they had staged the shooting, Newton said.

"I don't think he realized how serious this situation was. I think he thought he was just helping out a friend," Newton said. "He realized it wasn't a real good idea when the deputies showed up at his home."

Neither man was arrested but the results of the investigations will be turned over to county prosecutors, sheriff's spokeswoman Arden Wiltshire said Tuesday.

The district attorney's office will decide whether to file criminal charges. Dotterer could be charged with assault with a deadly weapon and firing a gun in an inhabited area, Newton said.

Myers was treated at a hospital and released but doctors did not remove the bullet because of possible complications, sheriff's Sgt. Randy Gwaltney said.

Myers is with the 101st Airborne Division and stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He was home on leave and was expected to return to active duty, Hill said.

It was not immediately clear when he was supposed to return to Iraq.

Apple Valley is about 75 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

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## **“I Was Appalled At The Fact That This Soldier Had Her Son Taken From Her And Placed With Her Ex-Husband Because She Was Deployed”**

Letter To The Editor  
Army Times  
2.25.08

Upon reading the Jan. 21 article, "Deployed soldier loses custody to civilian ex-husband," I was appalled at the fact that this soldier had her son taken from her and placed with her ex-husband because she was deployed. What is the point of a Family Care Plan?

I'm a unit administrator for my Army Reserve unit, and if the FCP is useless, why bother filling it out and then having it notarized?

If this soldier had her FCP filled out and her second husband was to provide for the child, for the court to place the son with her first husband is just wrong.

Now this soldier has to go through all these headaches and heartfelt pain to get her son back. That the state of New York is treating one of their guardsmen like this is just plain sad.

I truly hope this soldier takes this case as far as she can, and that she gets her son back. The one good thing in this is that the boy did have a nice, safe home while his mother was deployed. But now that she has returned, send him back to be with her.

Sgt. Shawn Pierce  
Fort Devens, Mass.

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



Funeral services for Army Spc. Christopher West, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008, at Arlington National Cemetery. West, 26, of Arlington, Texas, died Feb. 4, 2008, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered on Feb. 3 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **GET THE MESSAGE?**



Iraqis demand an end to the US Occupation in Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 22, 2008. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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## **Resistance Action**

23 Feb 2008 Reuters & 24 Feb 2008 Reuters & 25 Feb 2008 By Sabah al-Bazi, Reuters & (KUNA) & (Reuters) & AP & 26 Feb 2008 Reuters

A tribal leader was killed and a policeman injured when militants, including a bomber, attacked a base used by U.S.-funded concerned local citizens. The attack took place on Saturday in a village near Falluja in Anbar province.

One member of a U.S.- backed neighbourhood police unit was killed and nine were wounded when a car bomb aimed at their patrol exploded in Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

A bomber in a wheelchair killed a top policeman and wounded four others in an attack on the police operations centre in the Iraqi city of Samarra on Monday, police said.

The bomber entered the operations centre in Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, and asked to speak to assistant police chief Major-General Abdul-Jabbar Rabee Muttar, said Captain Luay Mohammed.

Mohammed, an official in the Samarra police chief's office, said the bomber detonated explosives hidden in the wheelchair. The attacker had met Muttar previously but he did not know what they had spoken about.

"I was with the assistant police chief and we went downstairs to meet him (the bomber) in the reception area. He said he wanted to talk to the assistant police chief alone so we moved a few metres away," Mohammed said.

"Then we saw flames and an explosion. The assistant police chief was beheaded. There were pieces of flesh from the suicide bomber," said Mohammed, who was slightly wounded in the explosion.

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Guerrillas shot dead a senior U.S.-funded awakening council official along with his son after storming their house in southern Baghdad, a local awakening chief said Monday.

Khamis Ali al-Zobaie, a leader of the awakening council in the Dora neighborhood of southern Baghdad, died along with his son after attackers stormed their house Sunday night, said Mustafa Kamal al-Jubouri.

Al-Jubouri added that the Sunni sheik who was killed is a relative of Salam al-Zobaie, who served as deputy prime minister before he quit the government last year.

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A police source told KUNA that unknown militants opened fire at a police patrol in Maarith district in Mosul, killing four policemen and wounding three others.

Five Iraqi soldiers, including their commanding officer, were killed when nationalist militants ambushed their patrol south of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, said Major-General Abdul Kareem al-Rubaie, leader of Iraqi security forces in Diyala province.

Guerrillas killed four policemen in a drive-by shooting when they were on patrol in eastern Mosul, police said.

Guerrillas killed two U.S.-backed neighbourhood policemen in a drive-by shooting in an attack on their checkpoint in a town south of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

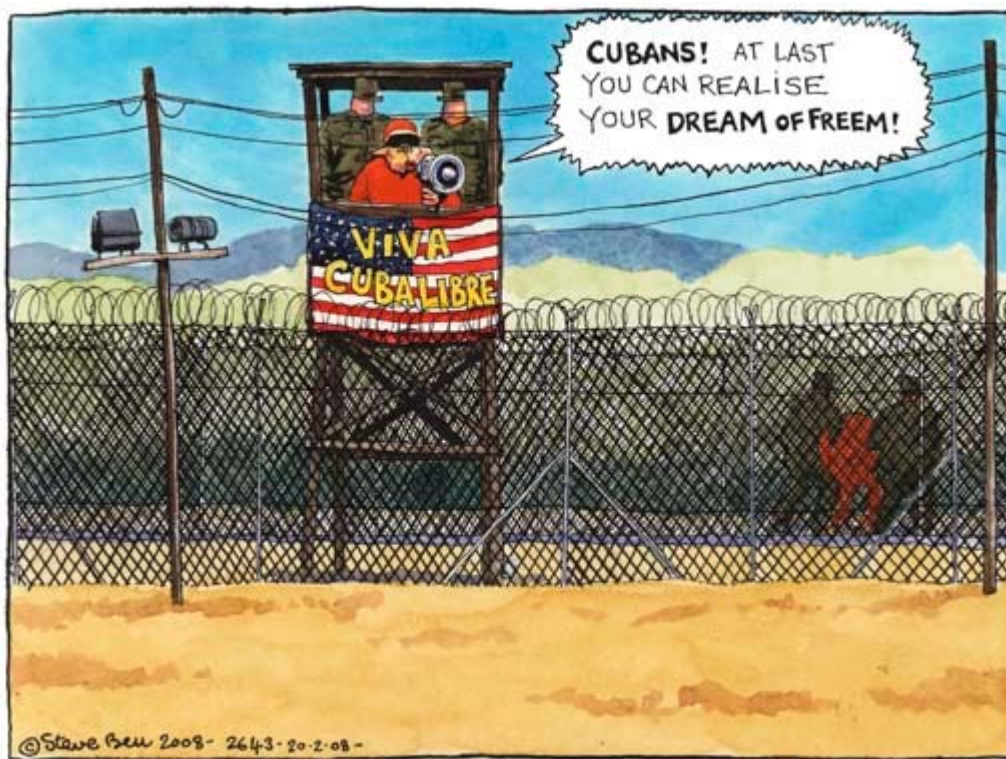
**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## 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



[Thanks to NB, who sent this in.]

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## “Iraq For Slow Learners”

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in. He writes: FROM VFP GRANT HERE IN PERRY [MICHIGAN].

From: Grant  
Date: February 20, 2008  
To: Letters@freepress.com  
Subject: Iraq for slow learners

Let's see if I can get this Iraq thing straight by reducing it to simple terms I can understand.

So lets say a gang of vigilantes breaks into my house supposedly to destroy weapons I don't have.

They kill some of my children, and others run away for their survival.

My furniture and house is wrecked almost beyond recognition.

Fortunately no weapons are found and I think the vigilantes are free to leave.

Unfortunately, the vigilantes have looked askance at the way our family lives. They determine to stay until we have adopted their new ways.

At that point, gangsters in the area learn that their deadly enemies, the vigilantes are in the house.

Next, the gangsters invade our house for the fight and there is further mayhem and destruction...

My dilemma-

If the vigilantes leave now, I will no longer have the freedom I enjoy.

Got it?

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## Warhead To Tow

**By April Fitzsimmons [Sgt. USAF 1985-1989], March 18th, 2007, Madashellclub.net.**  
April Fitzsimmons welcomes your comments. You can email her at true2selph@aol.com.

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January 29, 2007 - Balad Air Base, Iraq

Dear Barb:



Every day I'm in Iraq is like walking through hell. The smell is the worst part. It goes straight to my gut. I'm always dry heaving. I saw a dead kid on my seventh day in country. His eyes were wide open, there was a hole in the back of his head and flies were buzzing around his mouth.

Word travels slow around here and no one knows what's going on. There's a Burger King and Pizza Hut and the gym rocks. Rodriguez bought a camera so we can make videos and post them on YouTube. Things are pretty rough and they're nothing like you see on TV.

Winning this war is a joke but we have to keep trying, otherwise that makes us the joke and that's just too hard to swallow.

People up high talk about Iraq like it's Fantasy Football.

Besides their money and reputations, they don't really have anything at stake in the game. They trade players, look at stats and tell the fans and owners that if we add more people, gain more yardage and score more touchdowns, then we'll finally be able to do a victory dance and come home.

They forgot to have a good game you need two teams with similar strengths.

This was never a fair game. It was so unfair that we didn't even get a referee. I think the UN gave up on us.

We have the greatest military in the world and the Iraqis never even had a chance. They lost the moment we landed. Look at their weapons: cell phones; nail guns, ball bearings and pocketknives. They're like a bunch of kids throwing dirt clods at the Stormtroopers.

There are some serious dudes that want to kill us but being here just makes it worse.

These guys were fighting with each other before our country was even born and they'll stop when they're ready, not because we tell them to.

They don't want our idea of how they should behave, anymore than you wanted to leave the synagogue to join me at Union Methodist on Sundays.

I couldn't force you to love me. I couldn't pay you to love me and I couldn't win you over with sweet talk or fancy ideas.

It's all just a big game.

We have uniforms and awards for MVP.

Marinetti just got Marine of the Year.

Folks sit on the sidelines and yell for and against us.

We wear helmets so we can butt heads and toss grenades instead of a ball. We eat together and sleep together, just like the teams do when they're on the road.

The coach gives us pep talks tells us what plays we're going to run.

At the end of the day we get paid, not nearly as much as football players do, but we do get paid to play this game. Rather than torn ligaments we've got everything from dehydration to lost limbs, brain trauma and flat liners. I've been having nightmares lately, Barb. I can't stop thinking about that kid's face.

We'd be better off walking away from this war.

We've fumbled too many plays.

We should give the Iraqi's all the money we're going to spend trying to change them and just come home.

That's what you and I are doing with this split. Like your lawyer said, we have 'irreconcilable differences'.

We're walking away with the little dignity we have left. Even though it's humiliating and I'm ashamed that I failed our marriage, I think it's the right thing to do. We will both be better off and so will the children.

Sanders called after the reunion in New Orleans. He said you looked good with your short hair. I always liked it better short.

Sanders said he felt like he'd been sucker-punched. He said he couldn't understand why we'd spent six months picking up bodies and garbage in Iraq, while our hometown is still totally trashed. He's on meds now and seemed pretty down so if you'd look out for him, I'd appreciate it.

I'm going to sign off. I'll keep an eye out for the divorce papers. Tell the kids I said 'hi'. And I'm real sorry I couldn't be the Dad or the husband that you wanted me to be.

LCpl Jon J. Wyatt, USMC\*

\*Jon J. Wyatt is a fictional character that lives in the mind of April

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT 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.**

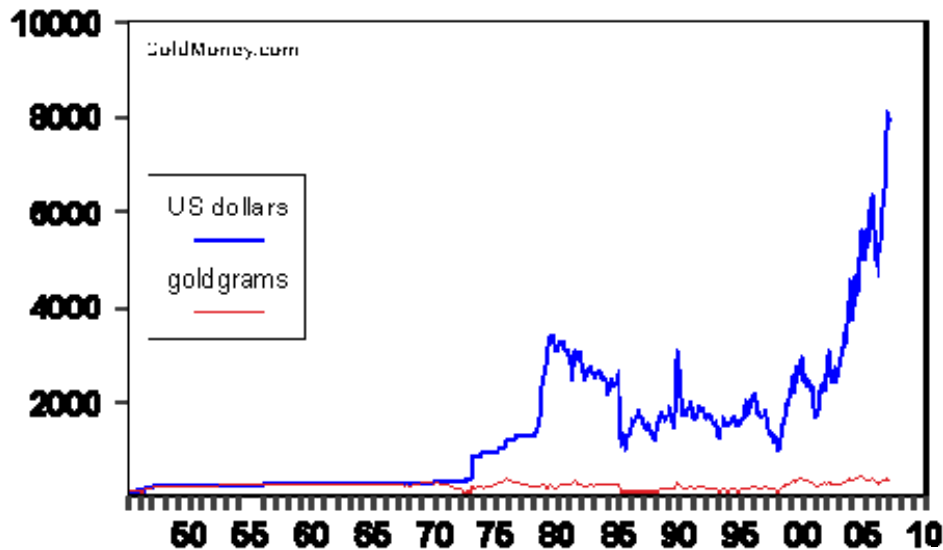
**Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.**

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/))

## Facts Are Stubborn Things

### Crude Oil Prices (Base of 100) December 1945 through January 2008



Copyright © 2007 by James Turk.

[The exchange value of oil measured by two mediums of exchange. For an immediate ticket home from either Iraq or Afghanistan, does this show the exchange value of oil increasing or the dollar falling? T]

## OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi girl and her mother look on as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army hold them in their living room during a home invasion in the Azamiyah neighborhood, north Baghdad, Feb. 11, 2008. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

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.

**[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?]**

**"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."**

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**Cash-Rich Obama Buys Yahoo:  
Outbids Microsoft For Internet Giant**

February 26, 2008 The Borowitz Report

Flush with cash after a deluge of online donations, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill) stunned the business world today by outbidding Microsoft for the Internet giant Yahoo.

The purchase of Yahoo is believed to be the largest acquisition of a multibillion-dollar company ever by a Democratic presidential candidate, industry experts said.

A spokesman for Microsoft at the company's Redmond, Washington headquarters acknowledged that the company was "disappointed" to lose Yahoo to Sen. Obama, but added, "We can't really be mad at him, because we love him so."

The news of Sen. Obama's \$48 billion offer for Yahoo sent a shudder through Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)'s campaign, which for the past six weeks has been subsisting on Ramen noodles.

In his televised debate in Cleveland, Ohio with Sen. Clinton, Sen. Obama said that he was able to purchase Yahoo because his campaign was reaping online donations averaging \$1.8 billion a day.

Mr. Obama also offered to "personally hire" 2 million Ohioans to do odd jobs around his campaign headquarters.

"People say, can we really come up with enough errands for 2 million Ohioans to do?" he said. "Yes we can."

Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick praised Sen. Obama's plan, telling reporters, "His campaign is more than just words, he is offering people a real opportunity to go on a Starbucks run."

Sen. Obama later added, "My campaign is more than just words, I am offering people a real opportunity to go on a Starbucks run."

Elsewhere, President Bush said that the economy was not in a recession, leading economists to conclude that the economy was in a recession.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**"I Think We Have A Government  
Within A Government"  
"The Fence's Location Had  
Everything To Do With Politics And**

# **Private Profit, And Nothing To Do With Stopping Illegal Immigration” Working Class Homeowners Face Ruin While The Rich Face Nothing But More Money**

[Thanks to SSGT N, [ret'd] who sent this in.

[She writes: Sounds more like welfare for the rich and an apartheid separation wall for the rest of us. Except this time the wall placement is giving away land, huh?

[This whole "Homeland (in)Security" thing is just a spiral down and down, pushing the nations into armed camps, where the economies are so busy supporting their armies that they can't afford education, medicine, and the things that add to our time on the planet. What was it that Big Brother said? "War is Peace?"

[Will the next prez/admin be able to start undoing this crap? Or will the dark side be too strong? Will the Cheney take up residence in the White House cellar and continue casting evil spells?]

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**“I don’t see why they have to destroy my home, my land, and let the wall end there.” He points across the street to Hunt’s land. “How will that stop illegal immigration?”**

February 22, 2008 Melissa del Bosque, Texas Observer [Excerpts]

**As the U.S. Department of Homeland Security marches down the Texas border serving condemnation lawsuits to frightened landowners, Brownsville resident Eloisa Tamez, 72, has one simple question.**

**She would like to know why her land is being targeted for destruction by a border wall, while a nearby golf course and resort remain untouched.**

**Tamez, a nursing director at the University of Texas at Brownsville, is one of the last of the Spanish land grant heirs in Cameron County. Her ancestors once owned 12,000 acres.**

**In the 1930s, the federal government took more than half of her inherited land, without paying a cent, to build flood levees.**

**Now Homeland Security wants to put an 18-foot steel and concrete wall through what remains.**

**While the border wall will go through her backyard and effectively destroy her home, it will stop at the edge of the River Bend Resort and golf course, a popular Winter Texan retreat two miles down the road.**

**The wall starts up again on the other side of the resort.**

“It has a golf course and all of the amenities,” Tamez says. “There are no plans to build a wall there. If the wall is so important for security, then why are we skipping parts?”

Along the border, preliminary plans for fencing seem to target landowners of modest means and cities and public institutions such as the University of Texas at Brownsville, which rely on the federal government to pay their bills.

A visit to the River Bend Resort in late January reveals row after row of RVs and trailers with license plates from chilly northern U.S. states and Canadian provinces. At the edge of a lush, green golf course, a Winter Texan from Canada enjoys the mild, South Texas winter and the landscaped ponds, where white egrets pause to contemplate golf carts whizzing past.

**The woman, who declines to give her name, recounts that illegal immigrants had crossed the golf course once while she was teeing off. They were promptly detained by Border Patrol agents, she says, adding that agents often park their SUVs at the edge of the golf course.**

River Bend Resort is owned by John Allburg, who incorporated the business in 1983 as River Bend Resort, Inc. Allburg refused to comment for this article. A scan of the Federal Election Commission and Texas Ethics Commission databases did not find any political contributions linked to Allburg.

**Just 69 miles north, Daniel Garza, 76, faces a similar situation with a neighbor who has political connections that reach the White House.**

In the small town of Granjeno, population 313, Garza points to a field across the street where a segment of the proposed 18-foot high border wall would abruptly end after passing through his brick home and a small, yellow house he gave his son.

“All that land over there is owned by the Hunts,” he says, waving a hand toward the horizon. “The wall doesn’t go there.”

In this area everyone knows the Hunts.

Dallas billionaire Ray L. Hunt and his relatives are one of the wealthiest oil and gas dynasties in the world. Hunt, a close friend of President George W. Bush, recently donated \$35 million to Southern Methodist University to help build Bush’s presidential library. In 2001, Bush made him a member of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, where Hunt received a security clearance and access to classified intelligence.

Over the years, Hunt has transformed his 6,000-acre property, called the Sharyland Plantation, from acres of onions and vegetables into swathes of exclusive, gated communities where houses sell from \$650,000 to \$1 million and residents enjoy golf courses, elementary schools, and a sports park. The plantation contains an 1,800-acre

business park and Sharyland Utilities, run by Hunt's son Hunter, which delivers electricity to plantation residents and Mexican factories.

The development's Web site touts its proximity to the international border and the new Anzalduas International Bridge now under construction, built on land Hunt donated. Hunt has also formed Hunt Mexico with a wealthy Mexican business partner to develop both sides of the border into a lucrative trade corridor the size of Manhattan.

Jeanne Phillips, a spokesperson for Hunt Consolidated Inc., says that since the company is private, it doesn't have to identify the Mexican partner. Phillips says, however, that no one from the company has been directly involved in siting the fence. "We, like other citizens in the Valley, have waited for the federal government to designate the location of the wall," she says.

Garza stands in front of his modest brick home, which he built for his retirement after 50 years as a migrant farmworker. For the past five months, he has stayed awake nights trying to find a way to stop the gears of bureaucracy from grinding over his home.

A February 8 announcement by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the agency would settle for building the fence atop the levee behind Garza's house instead of through it, which has given Garza some hope.

Like Tamez, he wonders why his home and small town were targeted by Homeland Security in the first place.

**"I don't see why they have to destroy my home, my land, and let the wall end there." He points across the street to Hunt's land. "How will that stop illegal immigration?"**

Most border residents couldn't believe the fence would ever be built through their homes and communities. They expected it to run along the banks of the Rio Grande, not north of the flood levees — in some cases like Tamez's, as far as a mile north of the river. So it came as a shock last summer when residents were approached by uniformed Border Patrol agents. They asked people to sign waivers allowing Homeland Security to survey their properties for construction of the wall.

When they declined, Homeland Security filed condemnation suits.

**In time, local landowners realized that the fence's location had everything to do with politics and private profit, and nothing to do with stopping illegal immigration.**

In 2006, Congress passed the Secure Fence Act, authored by Republican Congressman Peter King from New York. The legislation mandated that 700 miles of double-fencing be built along the southern border from California to Texas.

The bill detailed where the fencing, or, as many people along the border call it, "the wall," would be built.

On August 10, 2007, Chertoff announced his agency would scale back the initial 700 miles of fencing to 370 miles, to be built in segments across the southern border.



How did his agency decide where to build the segments?

Chad Foster, the mayor of Eagle Pass, says he thought it was a simple enough question and that the answer would be based on data and facts.

**Foster chairs the Texas Border Coalition. TBC, as Foster calls it, is a group of border mayors and business leaders who have repeatedly traveled to Washington for the past 18 months to try to get federal officials to listen to them.**

**Foster says he has never received any logical answers from Homeland Security as to why certain areas in his city had been targeted for fencing over other areas. “I puzzled a while over why the fence would bypass the industrial park and go through the city park,” he says.**

Despite terse meetings with Chertoff, Foster and other coalition members say the conversation has been one-sided.

**“I think we have a government within a government,” Foster says. “.. a tremendous bureaucracy—DHS is just a monster.”**

The Observer called Homeland Security in Washington to find out how it had decided where to build the fence.

On the second call a media spokesperson with a weary voice directed queries to Michael Friel, the fence spokesman for Customs and Border Protection. Six calls and two e-mails later, Friel responded with a curt e-mail: “Got your message. Working on answers...” it said. Days passed, and Friel’s answers never came.

Since Homeland Security wasn’t providing answers, perhaps Congress would.

Phone conversations with congressional offices ranged from “but they aren’t even building a wall” to “I don’t know. That’s a good question.”

At the sixth congressional office contacted, a GOP staffer who asked not to be identified, but who is familiar with the fence, says the fencing locations stemmed from statistics showing high apprehension and narcotic seizure rates.

This seems questionable, since maps released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers showed the wall going through such properties as the University of Texas at Brownsville — hardly a hotbed for drug smugglers and immigrant trafficking.

Questioned more about where the data came from, the staffer said she would enquire further. The next day she called back. “The border fence is being handled by Greg Giddens at the Secure Border Initiative Office within the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office,” she said.

Giddens is executive director of the SBI, as it is called, which is in charge of SBInet, a consortium of private contractors led by Boeing Co. The group received a multibillion dollar contract in 2006 to secure the northern and southern borders with a network of vehicle barriers, fencing, and surveillance systems. Companies Boeing chose to secure

the southern border from terrorists include DRS Technologies Inc., Kollsman Inc., L-3 Communications Inc., Perot Systems Corp., and a unit of Unisys Corp.

A February 2007 audit by the U.S. Government Accountability Office cited Homeland Security and the SBInet project for poor fiscal oversight and a lack of demonstrable objectives.

The GAO audit team recommended that Homeland Security place a spending limit on the Boeing contract for SBInet since the company had been awarded an "indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract for 3 years with three 1-year options."

The agency rejected the auditors' recommendation, saying 6,000 miles of border is limitation enough.

In a February 2007 hearing, Congressman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat and the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, had more scathing remarks for Giddens and the SBInet project.

**"As of December, the Department of Homeland Security had hired a staff of 98 to oversee the new SBInet contract. This may seem like progress until you ask who these overseers are. More than half are private contractors. Some of these private contractors even work for companies that are business partners of Boeing, the company they are supposed to be overseeing. And from what we are now learning from the department, this may be just the tip of the iceberg."**

A phone call to Giddens at SBI is referred to Loren Flossman, who's in charge of tactical infrastructure for the office.

**Flossman says all data regarding the placement of the fence is classified because "you don't want to tell the very people you're trying to keep from coming across the methodology used to deter them."**

**Flossman also calls the University of Texas at Brownsville campus a problem area for illegal immigration. "I wouldn't assume that these are folks that aren't intelligent enough that if they dress a certain way, they're gonna fit in," he says.**

**Chief John Cardoza, head of the UT-Brownsville police, says the Border Patrol would have to advise his police force of any immigrant smuggling or narcotic seizures that happen on campus.**

**"If it's happening on my campus, I'm not being told about it," he says. Cardoza says he has never come across illegal immigrants dressed as students.**

**Flossman goes on to say that Boeing isn't building the fence, but is providing steel for it. Eric Mazzacone, a spokesman for Boeing, refers the Observer to Michael Friel at Customs and Border Protection, and intercedes to get him on the phone.**

**Friel confirms that Boeing has just finished building a 30-mile stretch of fence in Arizona, but insists other questions be submitted in writing.**

Boeing, a multibillion dollar aero-defense company, is the second-largest defense contractor in the nation.

The company has powerful board members, such as William M. Daley, former U.S. secretary of commerce; retired Gen. James L. Jones, former supreme allied commander in Europe; and Kenneth M. Duberstein, a former White House chief of staff.

The corporation is also one of the biggest political contributors in Washington, giving more than \$9 million to Democratic and Republican members of Congress in the last decade. In 2006, the year the Secure Fence Act was passed, Boeing gave more than \$1.4 million to Democrats and Republicans, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

A majority of this money has gone to legislators such as Congressman Duncan Hunter, the California Republican who championed the Secure Fence Act.

In 2006, Hunter received at least \$10,000 from Boeing and more than \$93,000 from defense companies bidding for the SBInet contract, according to the center.

During his failed bid this year for the White House, Hunter made illegal immigration and building a border fence the major themes of his campaign.

**In early February 2008, Chertoff asked Congress for \$12 billion for border security.**

**He included \$775 million for the SBInet program, despite the fact that congressional leaders still can't get straight answers from Homeland Security about the program.**

As recently as January 31, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee members sent a letter to Chertoff asking for "greater clarity on operational objectives for SBInet and the projected milestones and anticipated costs for the project." They have yet to receive a response.

Boeing continues to hire companies for the SBInet project.

And the congressional districts of backers of the border fence continue to benefit. A recent Long Island Business News article trumpeted the success of Telephonics Corp., a local business, in Congressman King's congressional district that won a \$14.5 million bid to provide a mobile surveillance system under SBInet to protect the southern border.

**While Garza and Tamez wait for answers, they say they are being asked to sacrifice something that can't be replaced by money.**

**They are giving up their land, their homes, their heritage, and the few remaining acres left to them that they hoped to pass on to their children and grandchildren.**

**"I am an old man. I have colon cancer, and I am 76 years old," Garza says, resting against a tree in front of his home. "All I do is worry about whether they will take my home. My wife keeps asking me, 'What are we going to do?'"**

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## ***Welcome To The Occupied USA; Strike Leader Arrested For Photographing Cop At Union Meeting***

February 22, 2008 By Lee Sustar, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

THE FREIGHTLINER management in Cleveland, N.C., must be breathing a sigh of relief.

Five terminated members of the union's bargaining committee who helped lead a one-day strike last year have been denied union membership by their local union president in what experts say is a violation of their union's constitution.

One of the five, Allen Bradley, was arrested February 16, even as he, along with the other terminated members, were complying with a police order to leave a union meeting.

His "crime?"

Taking a photo of a police officer who was confronting a fellow worker.

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**Received:**

**“Encouraging News About Fort Dix”**

From: Kathy Kelly  
To: Thomas F Barton  
Sent: February 22, 2008  
Subject: Re: GI Special 6B16: Ft. Dix

**Thanks for a dose of encouraging news about Fort Dix. The GI Special is like a rudder.**

Very best,  
Kathy

**REPLY:**

**And now the news from Ft. Stewart in this GI Special along the same lines.**

**Looks like it could be a movement.**

**There are more and more rudders every day. We need them all.**

Solidarity,  
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