

## **GI SPECIAL GUARD ISSUE:**

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**One Year From Now  
“Our Strategy Is Simple:  
Organize The Men And Women  
Of Our Armed Forces To  
Withdraw Their Support For The  
War”**

**“Our Reason For Choosing This  
Strategy Is Also Simple: Without  
The Active Support Of Military**

# Service Members, This War Cannot Continue”

January 10, 2008 By Kelly Dougherty, Former Sergeant, Army National Guard, Executive Director, Iraq Veterans Against the War; IVAW E-Newsletter, [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

As we enter 2008, please stop for a moment and consider where we are now, and where we are going.

In just over a year, America will have a new President.

We will have endured a year of campaign commercials and attack ads.

We'll have watched debates devoid of any real discussion of the withdrawal from Iraq that a growing number of Americans now call for. We'll have waited, for yet another year, for our leaders to find a way to say what we know in our hearts: we must leave Iraq.

But what will have changed in the next year that will make that happen?

**We must face this fact: we run the serious risk that one year from today we'll be right where we are now, but with another year's worth of casualties, a year's worth of grieving families, a year's worth of Iraqi anger and suffering built on our occupation of a country we now know was no threat to us.**

**Ending this war in a year is different than ending it now, just as ending it now is different than ending it a year ago, or a year before that.**

**There is a price to pay for every day that we wait.**

**As a veteran who served in Iraq as a military police sergeant, I see our continued occupation of that country as more than simply a list of numbers.**

**On daily patrols through Baghdad and other cities, your glance darts from one window to the next and you look with suspicion at everyone you pass, waiting to be attacked.**

**Every time you drive, you anxiously scan the roadways and gutters, anticipating the explosion of a roadside bomb that will send burning shards of metal through both vehicles and flesh.**

**Indiscriminate home raids at all hours of the day and night become a common experience, as do the mass detentions of terrified and angry Iraqis.**

**You spend hours at checkpoints, with your finger on the trigger, prepared to make life and death decisions in a country where the line between civilians and combatants is blurred and in constant motion.**

**These things take a toll, on our soldiers, their families, and the Iraqi people.**

**As members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, we know these things and many of us still face them on a daily basis.**

**Despite what you see on TV, or read in the paper, this is daily life in Iraq.**

**A year from now, will we have moved any closer to withdrawal?**

**Or will our leaders continue to push such a decision off into the future, where, like so many decisions made by the powerful, the price to be paid rests squarely on the shoulders of the next generation?**

**We are at a crossroads: we can focus our energy exclusively on an election in which no viable candidate is committed to rapid withdrawal, or we can spend the next year ensuring that whoever takes office, Republican or Democrat, will face a country mobilized to the cause of bringing our troops home.**

**The veterans and active duty troops of Iraq Veterans Against the War represent the generation that is living with the pain and consequences of our leaders' daily decision to continue this war.**

**We have watched our closest friends be killed and injured, we've seen innocent people dehumanized and destroyed.**

**We are first-hand witnesses and participants of an illegal war and occupation and we are here to tell you that we have had enough.**

**We have come together, as members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, with this message: It is time to put this awful chapter of our history behind us.**

**It is time to do the right thing for the people of Iraq and the people of America.**

**It is time.**

We've been here before.

In the aftermath of the 2006 elections, the analysts said it plainly: the issue that had brought the Democrats to power was opposition to the war. Hundreds of thousands of people worked phone banks, canvassed their neighbors, made signs, and raised money for that election cycle, but it was not enough to end the war.

Why not?

The political leadership and the pundits have settled on the excuse that the Democrats don't have enough power in Congress to get it done.

But we think it is something else - we have failed to force our leaders into action.

This is not a unique situation in history.

Looking back on successful movements, what is the common denominator?

Has real change occurred when people relied on politicians to do the right thing, or when a movement of people used their strength to move this country forward?

We propose the second path - organizing Americans to move our leaders to do what must be done. Iraq Veterans Against the War has spent the last year devising a strategy and tactics to bring our troops home.

Our plans are not contingent on a particular candidate, or a party, because we're not willing to roll the political dice on something as important as this.

**Our strategy is simple: organize the men and women of our armed forces to withdraw their support for the war.**

**Our reason for choosing this strategy is also simple: without the active support of military service members, this war cannot continue.**

**The government has shown that no matter which lever people pull on Election day, they can continue, and even escalate, the war.**

**But without people to drive the trucks, to man the checkpoints, and to go out on nightly raids, no war is possible.**

**Of course, we don't expect to be able to convince the entirety of our armed forces to go on strike, but what percentage of soldiers would need to stand up against this war before our leaders decide that they cannot continue?**

**One percent?**

**Five?**

**We aim to find out.**

**We're drawing the line, and we're asking you to join us.**

**All over the country, veterans and members of the military are organizing chapters of Iraq Veterans Against the War in cities, in rural areas, and on military bases.**

**Last year at this time, we had eight chapters.**

**Today, we have 37, with more forming all the time.**

**We need your help to support those who are doing this important work on the ground.**

**We know what our brothers and sisters are going through in Iraq, and we're putting plans in motion to put an end to it.**

**Not a year from now.**

**Not next month.**

**Today.**

Peace,  
Kelly Dougherty  
Former Sergeant, Army National Guard  
Executive Director  
Iraq Veterans Against the War

**P.S. Our members are working hard organizing new chapters, recruiting new members, and preparing for Winter Soldier.**

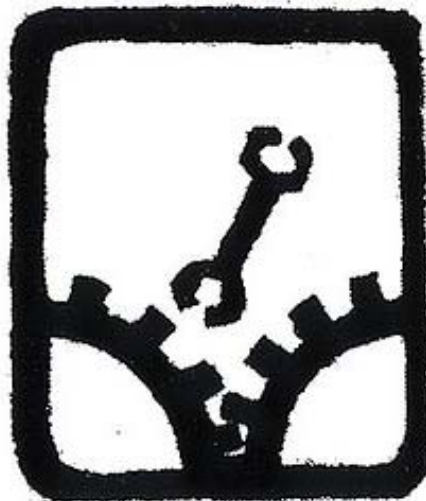
**We need your support to continue this work. Please make a donation today!**

**[To contribute: go to [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)]**



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# **G.I. RESISTANCE**



**“Yeah, Fuck Iraq. I Hate That Place. I Had Friends Die There. I Don't Ever Want To Go Back”**  
**“We Have The Right To Peaceful Protest, Damn You! Why Did You Arrest These Guys?”**  
**Iraq Veterans Against The War Kick Ass At Ft. Bragg;**  
**Command Takes Heavy Losses;**  
**Forced To Retreat & Release Prisoners With An Apology**



12.07: By Jason Hurd [Iraq Veterans Against the War] ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

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

Unit: Troop F 2/278th Regimental Combat Team  
Rank: Specialist  
Home: Asheville, North Carolina  
Served in: Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Sam Houston, TX; Fort Lewis, WA; Kingsport, TN; Baghdad, Iraq; Bristol, TN

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**On the morning of December 17, 2007, Steve Casey and I awoke bright and early at the Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina.**

**Steve and I had driven nearly three hundred miles from our home-base in Asheville, North Carolina to distribute holiday gift bags to the wonderful servicewomen and men stationed at our nation's busiest military post--Fort Bragg.**

Our friends and supporters in Asheville stuffed nearly three hundred small lunch bags full of holiday cards, chocolates, cookies and home-made brownies.

**The gift bags had a humble feel to them: brown paper lunch sacks with the tops folded down, green and red ribbons, a copy of our newsletter Sit-Rep stapled to the outside and a small sticker that said, "To: A Warrior, From: IVAW."**

Our mission was to ensure that these bags--each made with love and kindness--got into the hands of our deserving soldiers.

With gift bags in hand, Steve and I drove to Fort Bragg's Mini Mall and set up a small collapsible table to distribute the bags from. We taped two large poster boards to the front of the table; one said, "Happy Holidays From Your Fellow Veterans," and the other proclaimed, "We Love Our Service Women and Men."

Immediately, Steve and I began handing the packages to soldiers as they exited the Mini Mall. I greeted each soldier by saying, "Hello. My friend and I are veterans and we are giving holiday gift bags to our soldiers to show our appreciation for your service. Thank you and happy holidays."

**Nearly every soldier I spoke with replied with a large smile, "Thank you very much. I'm glad there are people like you doing this. Happy holidays to you too!"**

**Within an hour, Steve and I had given out nearly one hundred and fifty bags. In that time, only one soldier reacted negatively toward us; every one else seemed extremely pleased.**

Around one o'clock in the afternoon, a female manager who worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AFFES) came out of the Mini Mall and said, "Hey guys I'm glad your giving out packages to soldiers, but you can't do this on Fort Bragg without a permit."

I replied, "Great! Where do we get a permit?"

The manager explained where we needed to go, and we began packing up shop to go get our permit.

That's when the Military Police showed up. Three MP's--SSG Netwig, PFC Murray and PVT Garren--approached us and began questioning us about our gift bags.

SSG Netwig glared at a copy of Sit-Rep and said, "I'm going to keep my personal opinion out of this, but you are disrupting the order and discipline of my post." **["My post?" His own fucking personal private post? What, he killed the General and took command? And what the fuck kind of wig is a "Netwig" anyhow?]]**

I explained that we were on our way to get a permit for our bags and we had no intentions of disrupting the order and discipline of Fort Bragg.

**SSG Netwig replied that we had offended a lot of people with our bags (which was news to Steve and I) and that he would not allow us to continue distributing them.**

**At that moment, a Special Forces Captain (apparently one of the people we had offended) approached SSG Netwig and spoke with him privately. Immediately, SSG Netwig said that we were going to the Provost Marshall's office to answer questions.**

**"Are we being arrested?" I said.**

**"No. But you are being detained," SSG Netwig replied.**

**At that moment, the MP's shoved Steve and I against their patrol car, searched us, handcuffed us and placed us in the patrol car like criminals.**

They drove us away leaving a box of gift bags on the trunk of Steve's car. In the back of the patrol car, I looked at Steve and said, "Don't worry, this is a good thing--trust me."

"OK," Steve said. SSG Netwig drove us to the Provost Marshall's office where, after being searched a second time, we spent the next four hours as detainees.

**One investigator told Steve that Fort Bragg is a conservative post and that anti-war views were in the minority. ["One investigator" is a lying, stupid sack of shit. During a visit to Fayetteville in March 2007, the wife of a soldier told me face to face that the majority of the troops hate the War, and would like to have a word with George Bush, up close and personal, while fully armed. T]**

The officers separated Steve and I and began questioning us.

**I asked four times to make a phone call so that I could consult with an attorney; the officers denied my right each time.**

**A criminal investigator entered my room.**

**"Are you affiliated with any other groups besides IVAW?" he asked.**

**"No, I am not" I replied.**

**"How did you and this Steve guy meet?"**



**“Look,” I said, “I’m not going to continue answering questions without consulting an attorney.”**

**“But you aren't under arrest. You're merely detained and we are trying to have a friendly conversation with you,” the investigator said.**

**“I feel like it is in my best interests to consult with an attorney before continuing,” I replied.**

**Then the investigator and officers walked out leaving me alone in the room. Against my captor's wishes, I began text messaging the Quaker House and IVAW members to let them know what was happening (the officers had mistakenly left my phone). Immediately, the investigators began receiving calls from every peace activist from North Carolina to Philadelphia urging them to release Steve and I.**

**The MP's knew they had a situation on their hands.**

**Before we knew it, an investigator apologized to Steve and I for the inconvenience and released us.**

The investigator informed us that we just needed to get a permit for future activities of this nature.

Two young MP's escorted Steve and I back to our car and we talked about Iraq on the way.

**One of the young MP's said, “Yeah, fuck Iraq. I hate that place. I had friends die there. I don't ever want to go back.” [There it is.]**

**We pulled up to Steve's car and rubbing the cuts on our wrists from the handcuffs, we saw the perfect ending to our day. The box of gift bags was still sitting atop Steve's trunk and some passerby had written on it the following:**

**“Hi, I heard what happened.**

**“Listen up cops, politicians, and OVER EGOTISTIC DRAMA QUEEN SENIOR NCO'S AND OFFICERS!**

**“Many friends in my platoon DIED BRUTALLY for the First Amendment.**

**“We have the right to peaceful protest, damn you! Why did you arrest these guys?**

**“To all ya'll who don't believe in: freedom of speech, press, council, religion, assembly, and petition...GO TO HELL!!**

**“Sincerely, A concerned passerby and witness to the arrest of protesters.”**

**So much for being the minority.**

MORE:

# New Workers

[Respectfully dedicated to the soldiers of Ft. Bragg and Jason Hurd & Steve Casey, Iraq Veterans Against The War.]

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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I remember getting my last 2 + years in at Orion Assembly in Pontiac,  
so I could retire.

GM hired some new workers and GM told them not to talk to us old  
workers. It was

part of the “get along together with GM” hype.

They did not want us to tell them about the master / slave mentality.

They did not want

us to tell them that GM only listens when the factory is silent.

Wonder what the Military tells the young Soldiers about us anti-war  
pro-peace Vietnam

Soldiers?

Do the young Soldiers know that they are only Workers in Uniforms?

Cheap labor

compared with Blackwater? That the Military is their Master and  
that they are the Slaves?

That the Military only listens to shots not fired, search and avoid's  
and orders not being  
followed through.

Imagine the ire of the Military when the Slaves disobey or perhaps  
only obey their Master  
when their lives are not in danger.

## 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.