

GI SPECIAL 6B3:



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

**“An Arrogant Command”
Killing Wounded U.S.**

Troops:

**“I Believe Without A Doubt That
Soldiers Who Could Have Lived
Died Due To These New
Policies”**

“How Upset Would You Be If Your Friend Was Dying And Medevac Was Not Allowed To Come Immediately?”

“For The First Time In Seven Years Of Flying Medevac, I Am Ashamed To Be A Part Of This Mission”

“I Tried My Best And Was Reprimanded, Relieved And Insulted By My Battalion Commander”

The Medevac flight crews tried our best to launch as fast as possible, despite the unnecessary delays.

I was even relieved of my duties for launching immediately to save a fellow soldier after being instructed to wait 25 more minutes to launch.

Feb. 4, 2008
Letters To the Editor
Army Times

“What the hell happened to Medevac, sir?”

That was a question an angry sergeant asked me as I was eating chow last February at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq.

I didn't understand the question or the anger in his voice at the time, but I do now and would like to try to offer an explanation.

In the past, medical evacuation units reported to a medical command. These Medevac units had aviation assets, namely Black Hawk helicopters, but at the end of the day, Medical Service Corps officers were in charge.

Recently, the Medevac units were realigned to fall under an aviation command as a part of the new General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB).

My unit, the 571st Medical Company (AA) became C Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, and our new command decided to implement new Medevac procedures.

Ultimately, it was decided that Medevac aircraft would require gunship support for all off-FOB missions even if the landing zone was reported secure.

The new policy often caused significant delays in our response time, namely in the southern Multi-National Division-Baghdad area at FOB Kalsu, and a few soldiers may have died as a result.

I will say that after seven years of flying Medevac missions, including three Iraq tours, I believe without a doubt that soldiers who could have lived died due to these new policies, but that is only my opinion based on experience.

The launch policies were against the recommendations of the senior officers in my unit, and conflicted with MND-B Medevac policy, but the new restriction remained and we were forced to wait to launch.

In retrospect, the sergeant who spoke to me had every right to be upset since we were not always allowed to rapidly evacuate his soldiers when they were wounded.

How upset would you be if your friend was dying and Medevac was not allowed to come immediately?

As one of the pilots in C Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, I would like to apologize to the soldiers in the southern Baghdad area of operations for the delays in Medevac from November 2006 until May 2007.

The Medevac flight crews tried our best to launch as fast as possible, despite the unnecessary delays.

I was even relieved of my duties for launching immediately to save a fellow soldier after being instructed to wait 25 more minutes to launch.

Our mission has never been easy, but it was always simple: Launch as fast as possible, fly as fast as possible and give the wounded the best chance to survive.

The new policies of the 1st Cavalry GSAB prevented us from doing just that, and for the first time in seven years of flying Medevac, I am ashamed to be a part of this mission.

It would be easy to focus on the thousands of Medevac missions that my unit performed without delay and ignore the small percentage that went so very wrong.

I, however, believe we need to do the opposite and focus on those soldiers we failed due to a flawed policy and an arrogant command.

I hope members of the 1st Cavalry Division take notice to what I have written and help me fix the problems with Medevac before the next combat tour.

I tried my best and was reprimanded, relieved and insulted by my battalion commander.

I hope that the next time one of our Medevac crews is sitting down at chow and a soldier walks over to speak, it is to say, "Thank you for a job well done."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric V. Brodeur
Fort Carson, Colo.
Newcastle, Calif.

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:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Oakton Soldier Killed In Iraq

January 23, 2008 Donna Manz, Connection Newspapers

"David joined the army because he felt, inside of him, that this was something he had to do," said the father of Pfc. David H. Sharrett II, David, senior. "He didn't have to do this, he wanted to do it. He knew the risks, knew he was going into a dangerous area.

"I always told him, 'Everybody's proud of you ... nobody more than me.'"

David Sharrett's family is arranging for David's final return home. The 27-year-old soldier from Oakton was killed Wednesday, Jan. 16, after coming under grenade and small arms fire in Balad, Iraq.

IN SHARRETT'S PARENTS' kitchen is a photo of a grinning Vienna Youth Anklebiter football player. Athletic, big and strong, Sharrett played football through his childhood years and at Oakton High School, making State All-Star in his senior year.

"If you had to put together the kind of person you wanted to defend your country, David was that kind of guy," Sharrett's father said. "He was smart, tough. He was a warrior. He went out a warrior."

Details regarding his son's death have begun to emerge.

David Sharrett II and three fellow soldiers were helicoptered into an area of Balad where the troops faced hostile forces. The four-person squad passed a group of people they were led to believe was unarmed, but after passing by them, "all hell broke loose," David's father said. Attacked from the rear, two American soldiers were instantly killed, and David responded by killing the attackers. Only a single soldier survived the attack.

David was helicoptered out of Balad and died in Pallouata, Iraq, the same day, Jan. 16.

"I know I've said it before, but it's true ... Dave was the toughest guy I ever knew."

"And the gentlest," added David's mother, Vicki. "On our family tree, Dave was known as 'the gentle one.' As tough as he was on the outside, his God-given demeanor was a gentle one."

Sharrett's father recalled that one of the things that David enjoyed doing while in Iraq was going out to villages and handing out candy to the children.

SHARRETT WAS BORN in Woodstock, Va. on June 29, 1980, and moved with his father here in 1982. He graduated from Oakton High School in 1999, and, in 2006, joined the U.S. Army. He completed training at Fort Benning in December of that same year, and was then stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

He was assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

Father and son were always close, and stayed in regular contact while Sharrett was away.

"(Younger brother) Chris showed me how to get into David's 'My Space' page. Under 'Heroes,' David had written, 'my dad.' "I never meant to be his hero. I just wanted him to always know that there was someone on this planet who'd always be there for him ... I would have done anything for him. And, I did."

Sharrett's father remembers the young man who always looked out for his family.

"We were at the Outer Banks and got caught in one of those storms that come through quickly, with no warning. I was there on the beach with our son, Chris, and sand was hitting at us. I huddled over Chris, protecting him from the beating sand.

"All of a sudden, the sand stopped hitting me. I looked up to see Dave behind me, covering me, shielding me, with a boogie board."

DAVID LOVED the lifestyle he led and would have done anything to protect it, his father said. Young Sharrett was a student of history, especially of military history. He wanted to be able to tell his children and his grandchildren he had served and fought during an historical time in our country.

His parents said he rarely talked about Iraq. Instead, he used to ask them what was going on here, asking about the Redskins and the family.

Parents David and Vicki are sorting through memories and photographs now, thankful for the support of friends and the military.

“Dave had six ‘best friends,’” said his father. “It was such a comfort having his friends over here, talking, laughing, and weeping with us.”

Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day will have “totally different avenues of significance” for the Sharrett family this year. “We will embrace those days, and we’ll do so proudly ... with great pride,” said Sharrett’s father.

“I had a hip replaced last year,” Sharrett’s father recalls. “David was home, between Fort Benning and Fort Campbell, at that time. “We were coming home from the hospital, and Dave said, ‘Dad, you want me to carry you?’ He’s carrying me now. “I woke up this morning and I said to myself, ‘Dave, you’re pushing me. Like being at the gym with him ... ‘Dave, you’re making me work.”

SHARRETT’S AWARDS and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Weapons Qualification, M4, (expert). “What brings me hope and comfort is that Dave’s in a better place, he’s with God, and we’ll be together again. I know that.”

Sharrett leaves his parents, two brothers, 18-year-old Chris and 12-year-old Brooks, and wife Heather, living at Fort Campbell currently.

Sharrett’s father, an English teacher at Chantilly High School quotes a line spoken by Hamlet, ‘The readiness is all.’ “If David had to go, this is the way he would have chosen. It was sort of fitting for him. He was a warrior ... and a good one.”

Burial, with full military honors, is planned for Arlington National Cemetery on Jan. 29; burial and memorial service arrangements are not yet finalized.

GI With Local Ties Recovering From Wounds

2.1.08 Huntington Herald Press

A former Huntington resident is recuperating at an Army hospital in Texas from wounds received Jan. 18, when a buried bomb exploded under his armored vehicle.

Pvt. Zachary Ashbaugh, 20, faces months of recovery and rehabilitation, family members say. He is a patient at the military hospital at Fort Sam Houston, near San Antonio, Texas, where he arrived Jan. 21 after being treated at an Army hospital in Germany.

Ashbaugh, who graduated from Huntington North High School in 2006, is the son of Wayne L. Ashbaugh Jr., of Marathon, Fla., and Darlene Phares, of Auburn, Neb.

Wayne Ashbaugh Sr., of Huntington, said Thursday that his grandson’s left heel was shattered when the blast tore through the floor of the vehicle in which he was riding. One

of Zachary Ashbaugh's vertebrae was fractured, which will keep him in a back brace for some time, and several teeth were damaged from the blast concussion.

"He's coming along OK," the elder Ashbaugh said. "He'll walk again."

Ashbaugh was one of five soldiers hurt when their Stryker personnel carrier ran over a button-triggered improvised explosive device while in a peacekeeping patrol convoy near Taji, about 20 miles north of Baghdad.

Ashbaugh is a member of the 1st Battalion of the Army's 27th Infantry Regiment.

Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters dispatched to the scene came under small-arms fire during the rescue attempt.

All five wounded soldiers were removed from the disabled Stryker, but one of them later died.

Wayne Ashbaugh, who was commander of Huntington's VFW Post 2689 in 2006-07, received word of his grandson's situation in an early-morning phone shortly after the incident.

"When it hits that close to home -" Ashbaugh said, his voice trailing off. "Well, I had to give my wife the phone after I heard."

He and his wife Nancy will fly to Texas later this month to spend a few days with their grandson. Pvt. Ashbaugh's mother has been at his side for a week.

"He's undergoing dental surgery right now," Darlene Phares said in a telephone conversation at midafternoon Thursday. "He's going in tomorrow for his fifth surgery on his heel."

Phares said doctors have told her that her son will require three months of rehabilitation for his back injury, "but they haven't given us a time for the injury to his foot."

Zachary Ashbaugh enlisted in the Army during his senior year at Huntington North. He completed his schooling at mid-year of the 2005-06 school year and returned in June 2006 to receive his diploma after completing basic training.

While in high school, Ashbaugh worked at Owen's North, his grandfather said.

Ashbaugh has a number of relatives in Huntington. In addition to his paternal grandparents, a maternal aunt, Deb Summers, and maternal uncles David Huff and Kenneth Huff are Huntington residents.

"He's in the best of hands," Phares said of her son. "We're told that this is the best hospital the Army has. And he's doing a lot better than most here."

FUTILE EXERCISE:

**ONLY 10 MILLION MORE ID TO CHECK:
ALL HOME NOW!**



U.S. soldiers check the identification documents of a man (L) during a night patrol at the Zafraniya neighbourhood, southeast of Baghdad September 4, 2007. REUTERS/Carlos Barria (

TROOP NEWS

**“Not Only Is The Administration
Aware Of How Woefully
Inadequate The Current G.I. Bill Is,
They Aim To Keep It That Way”**

**“Bush Is All Of A Sudden Fiscally
Sagacious When It Comes To \$5.4
Billion Clams”**

**“You Might Recognize That As The
Amount Spent In Iraq Over A Period Of
Nineteen Days”**

Go to Iraq for a year. No, make that fifteen months.

Shut the fuck up. Take this Humvee with plastic doors and do your patrols while KBR counts their money.

Risk your life on behalf of an ungrateful nation, and when you want to finally get out and make something of yourself, too fucking bad.

By the way, care to reenlist?

January 30, 2008 Posted by Alex, Army of Dude [Iraq Veteran]

I must admit, I've become a little obsessed over the issue of the presently shitty G.I. Bill and the efforts of two Senators that aim to give it an overhaul fitting to the service our military has performed the past seven years.

I wrote about the topic yesterday for Vet Voice before I chanced upon another piece. With a hat-tip to Blackface, who linked to the Army Times.

The money quote:

"The Bush administration has remained wary of the bill, because of its \$5.4 billion cost and concerns that significant improvements in veterans' education benefits might encourage people to get out of the military to go to college, which in turn could hurt military readiness."

So the ridiculously out of control spending of the war in Iraq aside, Bush is all of a sudden fiscally sagacious when it comes to \$5.4 billion clams.

You might recognize that as the amount spent in Iraq over a period of *nineteen days*.

So if this is the best argument they have to reject a new G.I. Bill, I have a little spending advice of my own: stop paying Blackwater and other mercs a cool half million to go gun crazy in Baghdad, and leave Iraq three weeks ahead of schedule, whenever that happens (unless McCain is elected, then we'll be bomb-bomb-bombing our way into a recession as soldiers prepare for their deca-deployments).

The second half of that quote is so finely crafted by the non-serving administration that my head is still spinning twelve hours after I read it.

It should be taken like a fine brandy, swirled around the brain, every syllable savored for its underlying neglect for our veterans - not only is the administration aware of how woefully inadequate the current G.I. Bill is, they aim to keep it that way.

Exactly what veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan deserve for their multiple deployments and dedication to this country is being held hostage.

They must be living in a world where half a trillion dollars spent in a needless war, creating more insurgents, sending back hundreds of thousands of veterans disabled for life and telling them to fuck off when they get back from war is *building* military readiness.

Go to Iraq for a year. No, make that fifteen months.

Shut the fuck up. Take this Humvee with plastic doors and do your patrols while KBR counts their money.

Risk your life on behalf of an ungrateful nation, and when you want to finally get out and make something of yourself, too fucking bad.

By the way, care to reenlist?

The military, government et. al do not have our backs. That is nothing new.

But even civilians are lining up to take credence out of a reformed G.I. Bill. From the acclaimed *Findlay Courier*.

For many, but not for all.

We need to face the fact that not all of our military veterans are college material.

Just last week an analysis of Army enlistee education levels was released by the National Priorities Project, revealing that those with a high school diploma dropped to just under 71 percent in 2007.

The increasing unpopularity of the Iraq War has made it an extreme challenge for recruiters to get enough quality young people to sign on. The original goal, established when the draft was replaced with an all-volunteer military, was to have no more than 10 percent of recruits lacking a high school diploma. But current desperation has eroded that plan.

The report also indicated that at least 70 percent of Army recruits in FY 2007 were not high school graduates.

I imagine the guy who wrote this had his feet kicked up on his desk, tapping his loafers and imagined all the po' folks who stopped gang banging, dropped out of high school and joined the Army.

I would surmise that I know a lot more people in the military than this anonymous editorial scribe, and there are a considerable amount of them already drawing their paltry G.I. Bill money *two months* after separating from the Army.

Yes, shadowy figure of Findlay, Ohio. We want to use the G.I. Bill.

A friend of mine is going to the firefighting academy so that he may continue to serve his community.

Will he be able to pay for it all with the current bill? I don't know.

The editorial doesn't offer any ideas besides vaguely asserting that not everyone deserves a full G.I. Bill and enlightens us that "If a new GI Bill is written, it should be one that realistically benefits all deserving troops, not just those who are suited to college."

Thanks for the insight!

And who deems someone "deserving" anyhow?

No one is certain if they belong in school until they get there.

Rising from the depression and World War II, there was a whole generation of folks who weren't properly educated but needed a new start.

The G.I. Bill of 1944 educated fourteen Nobel Prize winners and two dozen Pulitzer Prize winners, including authors Joseph Heller, Norman Mailer, and Frank McCourt.

Giving everyone a shot is not as risky and expensive as this editorial alludes to. Not even a little bit.

Hey, Findlay, Ohio.

Do you like the acting style of Gene Hackman, the music of Johnny Cash and the poetry of James Wright?

They all used a full G.I. Bill not afforded to the hapless goons of today's military.

Another generation of young volunteers waiting to become tomorrow's lawyers, doctors and firemen are being stifled by this inane reasoning.

Support The Troops, indeed.

MORE:

**“Today’s Combat Veterans
Encounter A GI Bill Whose
Stinginess Would Have Been
Unimaginable To Their
Grandparents”**

“To Receive Any Tuition Benefits, You Must Have Agreed In Advance To A Monthly Deduction From Your Meager Paycheck”

“Worse Yet, The Benefit Is Just A Fraction Of What Is Needed To Meet Today’s Tuition Costs”

Jan. 31, 2008 By FINN M.W. CASPERSEN, Special to The Baltimore Sun. Finn M.W. Caspersen, chairman of the board of trustees of the Hodson Trust, also is chairman and CEO of a private management firm and chairman of the Harvard Law School Dean's Advisory Board.

After serving in the Navy in World War II, Marylander Charles Schelberg was able to attend Washington College in Chestertown, Md., thanks to the GI Bill. It covered all his costs.

Schelberg, who hailed from a working-class family of Chesapeake Bay watermen, was the first in his family to attend college and earned an economics degree that led to a successful career in community banking.

There were millions of Charles Schelbergs after World War II, and the individual success of each one fed the cumulative success of a nation that shrugged off the economic malaise of the Great Depression and stoked the economic engines of the world's most vibrant economy.

When today's military veterans return home from their nightmarish tours of combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, many nurture dreams of earning a college degree, just as many of their grandparents did after serving in World War II.

Two of Schelberg's grandsons have answered their country's call. Matthew and James Schelberg both served as Marines in Iraq's Anbar province. They are back home now, and both are pursuing college degrees — under circumstances that underscore the educational challenges facing contemporary veterans.

Today's combat veterans encounter a GI Bill whose stinginess would have been unimaginable to their grandparents. It is sad to chart how far it has fallen and how inadequate are its benefits.

Yes, the GI Bill still exists, although in a different form now known as the "Montgomery GI Bill," and it still offers education benefits.

But today's version makes education benefits a voluntary, contributory program.

To receive any tuition benefits from Uncle Sam, you must have agreed in advance to a monthly deduction from your meager paycheck.

Worse yet, the benefit is just a fraction of what is needed to meet today's tuition costs.

By contrast, the grandparents of today's veterans attended college free of tuition payments and free of the burdensome tuition-generated debt that most of today's veterans will shoulder.

This leads us back to Matthew and James Schelberg.

Matt attends Pennsylvania's Bucknell University, where his veteran benefits cover only a small part of his educational expenses.

He will accumulate an estimated \$60,000 in student-loan debt. James attends his grandfather's alma mater, Washington College, and his situation illustrates both the problem of a diminished GI Bill and the nascent effort to compensate for its shortcomings.

Where government has failed to act, the private sector is setting the example of how America's veterans deserve to be welcomed home.

James is one of the first recipients of a veterans scholarship program created by the Hodson Trust. The scholarship covers all of James' costs of tuition, room and board, books and other expenses not covered by veterans' benefits or institutional aid. While his brother faces years of debt repayment, James' education is covered in full.

But the private sector alone cannot compensate for what the federal government has failed to do. The nation must meet its moral obligation to all the young men and women who have risked their lives in defense of our country's ideals.

BLAIR AND HIS CRONIES MUST BE HELD ACCOUNT I HAVE MY DAY IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son Gordon was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. Her words carry more weight, and contain more truth, than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians. T]

From: Rose Gentle, Military Families Against The War [UK]
To: GI Special
Sent: February 02, 2008
Subject: my day in court

**when my 19 year son was killed in iraq on june 28,2004,
for blair and bushes lies
i had herd all the bull
as how we went in to iraq,
womd
all the lies thay could think of,
i am determined to get the truf
what we did go into iraq for
ie oil**

**i have fought with our government for over 3years,
thay have put all sort of hurdles in front of me
but my hours can jump theses hurdles
and now i am going to have my day**

**on the 11 ,12, 13 of february
i will be in the house of lords
in front of 9 lords to hear our case.**

**the case when it is herd
will raise the question of weather the iraq war was legal under international law,
this follows an earlier ruling by the law lords
granting us the right to appeal a genst the decision of the lower court
preventing us seeking a Judicial review
of this government refusal to order a public enquiry**

**blair and his cronies must be held to account
and bush
i want justice
for my son
and all the rest of the soldiers
and civilians whose lives
were lost due to this illegal and immoral war**

rose gentle , mfaw, UK

Pentagon Threatens Ranger For Writing Book About How Bin Laden Got Away

Jan 31, 2008 By Sean D. Naylor; Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

The Delta Force officer who commanded U.S. ground forces hunting Osama bin Laden at Tora Bora in late 2001 will publish a book in October that he promises will explain how the al-Qaida leader managed to slip through the grasp of the United States.

But the author's plans have put him on a collision course with U.S. Special Operations Command, which he says is threatening to take him to court for revealing classified information.

The author, who spoke on the condition his identity not be revealed, wrote the book under the pseudonym Dalton Fury. At the time of the hunt for bin Laden in the mountainous region of Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan, Fury was a major commanding a Delta Force troop, and was placed in charge of an additional Delta troop (for a total of about 40 Delta operators) plus assorted other special operations elements at Tora Bora.

It is now generally accepted that bin Laden was present at Tora Bora after fleeing Jalalabad ahead of the allied advance that toppled the Taliban government, but escaped the assault on his mountain stronghold, despite a massive bombing campaign and attacks from allied Afghan militias and U.S. and British special operators.

The failure to capture or kill bin Laden at Tora Bora later became a focus for critics of the Bush administration's handling of the war against al-Qaida.

Fury, who had prior enlisted service as an infantryman, retired in 2005 as a major and decided to write a book about Tora Bora, motivated by a desire to honor the troops who served with him there "and to tell the truth."

"No one has ever really talked about (how) it was the U.S. Delta Force and the SBS (the British Special Boat Service) that were actually in the mountains when the Afghans were leaving every night ... So you left Americans behind the lines by themselves."

Fury said he told his troops when they left Tora Bora, "this is going to become a big deal in the future."

"Of course everybody looked at me like, 'No it's not,'" he recalled. "We all assumed at the time that bin Laden would be caught in a week, a month, a year, and (Tora Bora) would be a minor footnote. But it's become (so symbolic) of major strategic failure... that I thought the operational positives and the tactical success that we had needed to be told ... to the public."

Fury said the book will also explain how bin Laden managed to escape.

"From my perspective as the ground force commander and what I've learned since then, I think we have a pretty good handle on the steps, the missteps, the decisions made and the actual actions that were taken that led him to get out of there," he said.

The book, which Fury has already written, is tentatively titled Kill bin Laden and will be published by St. Martin's Press.

But Fury's plans to publish the book have drawn the ire of Delta's two higher headquarters – Joint Special Operations Command, which runs the United States' most secret special operations missions, and U.S. Special Operations Command.

Fury said that, as required by the agreement he signed when he left the unit and retired, he sent Delta a copy of his manuscript for security review.

“They came up with a list of redactions of items they thought ought to be taken out,” he said. “I told them I would honor every one of those. However, they were never ever given to me.”

Delta's higher headquarters apparently intervened, according to Fury. “It's not Delta's fault,” he said. “It's their higher command – JSOC and SOCOM have the say. And they ... collectively decided not to provide me with any detailed redactions after a year of trying through my attorney.”

“All I got back was responses (reminding me of) my commitment to the classified information agreement that I signed ... basically threatening to possibly take me to court over this.”

Fury said that after SOCOM “stifled it,” he sent the manuscript to the Defense Department's Office of Security Review.

“OSR failed to respond in any timely manner at all, after numerous requests from my attorney.

“The comment that SOCOM made was that the sensitive information was so thoroughly woven into the manuscript that any attempt at detailed redaction would be literally impossible. They chose not to do it.”

Fury chose to write under a pseudonym in part to guard his family's security, and in part to pre-empt any criticism from within the special operations community that he was engaged in self-promotion.

Fury is also keen to demonstrate that he's not cashing in on his time at the unit. His small advance from the publisher barely covers his legal fees, he said.

After getting no response from Delta to his offer to donate his proceeds from the book to the unit's fund for survivors of fallen unit members, Fury arranged to give the bulk of any further money he makes from the book to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides scholarship grants to the children of special operators who were killed in the line of duty.

He said his efforts have not gone unnoticed by the rank and file in Delta (the full name of which is 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment – Delta). While there are some in the unit who have expressed disagreement with decision to publish the book, many others have come out in favor, according to Fury.

“There are numerous people that are completely against it, whether they were my best friend or not, they're against it, and I respect that, but there's an awful lot of

folks that I hear from all the time, whether it's through a buddy, a covert e-mail, or whatever about them being 100 percent supportive behind it." he said.

"Now, the guys that are out who were at Tora Bora, to a man, have been 100 percent supportive."

The author, who now works as a security consultant, has also established a Web site to promote the book: www.daltonfury.com. The home page features a photograph of a Delta operator at Tora Bora.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

01 Feb 2008 Reuters & 02 Feb 2008 Reuters & DPA

KUT - Gunmen killed two policemen and wounded four civilians when they stormed a bus terminal and opened fire in Kut, 170 km (100 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

SAMARRA - A sniper killed one Iraqi soldier while on patrol in central Samarra, 100 km (68 miles) north of Baghdad, an Iraqi army source said.

A roadside bomb aimed at a police patrol in western Baghdad wounded five people including three policemen, police said.

A roadside bomb killed four policemen when it struck their patrol in Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In the Northern city of Mosul, four U.S. funded Awakening Councils members were killed and nine injured when an explosive device targeted their patrol, the Iraqi News Agency Voices of Iraq (VOI) reported.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“It’s Better to Fight Them Over There”

“The Biggest Corporate, Right-Wing Lie Ever Told-And-Sold In America”

“And It’s The Exact Opposite Of The Truth”

“I Spent 3 Years Learning Infantry Tactics As A Soldier, And That’s A Fact. I Learned At Least That Much”

January 29, 2008 By Ward Reilly [Veterans For Peace]
(40th anniversary, Tet)

“It’s Better To Fight Them Over There”. That is the biggest corporate, right-wing lie ever told-and-sold in America. And it’s the exact opposite of the truth.

IF a war MUST be fought, it is “won” much, much, easier if it is in defense of our own ground, and fought at home. You know, as in “bring ‘em on”. Or “come and get me”.

And if there is to be “honor” and “justice” for any nation at war, (said) war can ONLY be in self defense.

It IS NOT “better to fight them over there”....again I say it... that is the biggest right-wing lie ever told to this nation.

I spent 3 years learning infantry tactics as a soldier, and that’s a fact. I learned at least that much.

It would be MUCH BETTER to fight ANY enemy here at home. How long would any Islamic extremists really last, driving around in pick-up trucks, in our neighborhoods here in the USA? Seriously, how long? They’d never get out of Harlem.

Almost every U.S. citizen is armed, or can be within a few hours. The only shots we’d miss would be from laughing-our-asses-off at those fools, as we squeezed the trigger. You can’t hit anything when your laughing when you shoot. I learned that, too.

The truth, and a many-time-proven fact is, that it's IMPOSSIBLE to "defeat them over there" in guerrilla warfare, right or wrong.

It might be easy for the neocons to mobilize a war, and to launch a war, but guerrilla warfare is virtually impossible to win against a foreign nation on their own ground, no matter how good your soldiers may be.

And Dick & George aren't soldiers. 5-deferment Dick, remember? What's "war", right?

You want to "support your troops"? Let them fight on their home ground. There is NOTHING like "home field advantage", especially if you have been attacked. Even Deadeye Dick, and ALL the SUV-football freaks in the country, should be able to understand that theory. No offense to the game of football.

"War is not I game". I heard 50+ Iraq and Afghanistan veterans scream that out loud together in St Louis last year. That's something they learned the hard way.

War is made especially difficult for your troops if your country has made an aggressive, unprovoked attack on innocent indigenous people.

Ideologically and historically speaking, the aggressive invader is ALWAYS wrong. Always.

Moral victory is impossible for any aggressive invader.

Invasive war becomes occupation, instead of warfare. Soldiers become cops, instead of warriors. Hated on the streets of the occupied. No honor, just horror. Lot's of horror for all.

And if the reason you went to war, aka the mission, isn't honorable, neither can the outcome be.

Why would fighting here be better, you may ask? If we were to fight over here, we wouldn't have to arrest all the adult men, and scare the shit out of every woman and child, for starters.

All that does is make a continuous supply of insurgents (angry citizens). And, if we fought here, we would know who the enemy is. That's why, and reason enough.

But it's much deeper than that.

What you CAN do better by "fighting them over there" is to make a LOT of (unregulated) money, and hide the devastation that warfare brings. (Unregulated) money flows like water in overseas warfare.

Of course in this case, the Iraqi's don't even get water. But billions of dollars flow downstream forever.

Is there anyone out there that truly believes that ANY religious cult could invade our entire nation, defeat the TRUE U.S. Army, that being ALL of our citizens, AND our military? (not to mention our 25,000 nuclear weapons)

Nationally, there are 217.8 million people age 18 and over, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau(2003).

Soldiers, one and all, if we are invaded. Does anyone really think that al Qaeda can really defeat 218 million armed and angry U.S. adults? Impossible.

Seriously, does anyone think that some crazy, religious fanatic-cult could force OUR women to cover their entire bodies, ON DEMAND?

Or to stay out of sight or to not speak in public, by order of "Allah"? Haha. You must be kidding.

I'm positive that our women ALONE could defeat Al Qaeda and the Taliban, and probably not miss a day at work. This isn't Saudi Arabia, thank god.... thank something, anyway.

Sure, a group of maniacs hijacked 4 jets, and used them as weapons. A murderous CRIME. Aside from the 19 hijackers, 2973 citizens died as an immediate result of those attacks. That was a criminal act of personal hatred. Like those crazy kids that go and kill a bunch of innocent teachers and students.

Or, like Dick & George invading Iraq. (And they have killed 1,000,000+, confirmed by 2 separate scholastic studies).

9-11 was not a "declaration of war", a declaration which can ONLY be made by a nation. Bin Laden is no nation. Nor is the Taliban or Al Qaeda. And they represent no nation.

What Bin Laden is, is a former (Carter, Reagan, & Bush I) U.S. ally and warlord, who was banned in his own country of Saudi Arabi ... a man that hates the Bush-Cheney crowd, (NOT our common citizens) mostly because of the U.S. military bases in his "holy land" in Saudi, some CIA back-stabbing, ego, and his own fanatical beliefs.

Don't over think it folks. That guy couldn't beat us here, ever. And Iraq had nothing to do with 9-11. I did hear that they had some oil, though.

And the funny thing is, EVERY SINGLE VETERAN that I know that is in the "anti war" movement, which is many thousands, would fight to protect THIS nation if we were invaded by any extremist. EVERY SINGLE ONE. There would be no opposition to a defensive war on our soil. None.

If that is "democracy" over there in Iraq after 5 years of Bush War, then I am God. You must be stupid, blind, or both, if you think that Iraq resembles (our vision of) democracy, in any way, shape or form.

We lost the people of Iraq the day we invaded them illegally and decided to stay, even after Saddam (another former U.S. ally) was long dead and buried.

We lost our own country, and our collective soul, the day we let 750 crooked politicians launch an aggressive, unprovoked war, on the other side of the world, in our names, against an innocent nation.

Ask George Washington who wins guerrilla warfare, EVERY TIME!

Or ask our current ally, England. Or ask the Viet Nameese.

OK, George Washington is dead (and spinning in his grave). Ask George H W Bush. Even he could tell you who wins guerrilla wars. That's why he didn't invade Iraq.

IF any war must be fought, let our troops die on our own soil! There is no down side, IF that war must indeed be fought.

"Defensively" is the only way war should be fought. In. Defense. Only.

"It's Better To Fight Them Over There". That is the biggest right-wing lie ever told-and-sold to this nation.

"They" CAN'T fight us over here, that's the truth. No way, no how. Especially now, post 9-11.

It's better to not fight, but if we must, it's better to fight over here. No lie.

FIGHT HIM HERE, SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT FOR HIM OVER THERE



REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

***"Only Those Who Know How To Fight
Need Apply"***

“We Need People, Veterans - American Citizens Who Know How To Fight - To Let Our Congressional Representatives Know They Are No Longer Welcome In The Hollowed Halls Of Our Government”

[This is in response to the front page article “We Would Fight Back,” 01/15/2008 By Ash Woolson, Iraq Veterans Against The War, in GI Special 6A20 at <http://www.militaryproject.org/docs/vol6/GI%20Special%206A20%20We%20Would%20Fight%20Back.doc>]

From: Monica Benderman
To: GI Special
Sent: January 31, 2008
Subject: Re: GI Special 6A20: “We Would Fight Back”

By Monica Benderman.

Monica Benderman is the wife of Sgt. Kevin Benderman, an Iraq war veteran who served over a year in prison as a Conscientious Objector having refused further participation in the immoral, unethical action of war. Please visit http://www.uncommonthought.com/mtblog/archives/cat_monica_benderman.php to learn more. Kevin and Monica may be reached at mdawnb@coastalnow.net

In Response to Ash Woolson ---

“...but what would happen if someone came to the U.S. and occupied our country, killed our citizens, causing such astounding unemployment? We would fight back.”

Ash - I beg to differ. You might fight. I know I would as would my husband - we have and do.

But the citizens - Ash - these American citizens rely on lawyers to fight their custody battles, lobbyists to fight their political issues, daycare workers to take care of their children and elderly parents.... if you are expecting them to fight with you - you'll be sorely disappointed.

“We would be outraged; we would start retaliating against our captors, our occupiers.”

This country has been held captive by cowardly, corrupt wealthy people with false power for more years than I care to consider. WE the people have talked our outrage, but few

have taken real action to demonstrate it. Why? Because the people are just as cowardly as those who are "leading them" allowing those "leaders" to foolishly believe in the power of their position until that power has become an "occupying force."

Standing together in lines of protest - marching with signs, banners and chanting slogans and anti-war cadences - that's not outrage. Talking about all the reasons things don't work - that's not outrage. Waiting around believing that the few of us who have taken real action are the saviors to lead the rest -- that's a copout.

Come on - Ash - you're a soldier - you know what fighting is. Seriously - what our citizens have done is NOT fighting back.

"We need to take our head out of the sand and help Iraq."

The best help for Iraq is to give them the money we have stolen from them - the land that is theirs - and the freedom to use their skills, intelligence and strength to help themselves in all the ways they know how - the ways Americans still have to learn.

The best help for Iraq is for Americans to stop thinking we have any real experience that can benefit the restoration of the country we have destroyed.

America is diseased - and until we find a way to admit that, recognize the cure and be willing to face the challenge of undertaking that cure in very real terms - the disease will continue to spread - at grave risk of becoming terminal.

I know what fighting is - I know what it means to be in the trenches kicking 24/7 - not giving in to every single force of action thrown at you, meant to make you quit and walk away.

My husband knows.

We also know outrage - the outrage of hearing others talk about fighting, knowing it is nothing more than talk.

2LT Dennis Morrisseau is someone who knows how to fight. Standing alone in front of LBJ's White House, middle finger extended, he told his government what he thought of the orders he had been given, and refused those orders, even under threat of being put on a plane to Viet Nam.

Facing court-martial and years in prison, he fought what they threw at him and won.

He knows what is needed now. He's willing to fight again to help restore the power to the people power that never should have been given away.

There are others. Are you one?

You know you would fight back - Ash???

Well -- are you ready???

It's not about a revolution, Ash. It's about a Rebellion - REBELS - WITH A CAUSE. Are you ready to put your money where your mouth is and become part of an effort of the people sanctioned by our Constitution?

We want our country back. We want America to wake up to its truth. We want to fight what big money is doing to the people.

We need people, veterans - American citizens who know how to fight - to let our congressional representatives know they are no longer welcome in the hollowed halls of our government. We are taking them back - as the people.

Are you willing to work with us - to FIRE CONGRESS!! and let them know the people have the power??

Only those who know how to fight need apply.

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

Happy Anniversary: February 2, 1989 Russia Withdraws From Afghanistan In Defeat



Peace History: Carl Bunin

Russian participation in the war in Afghanistan ended as Red Army troops withdrew from the capital city of Kabul. They left behind many of their arms.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. Army during a home invasion searching an Iraqi citizens house near Baquba December 15, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong

[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."

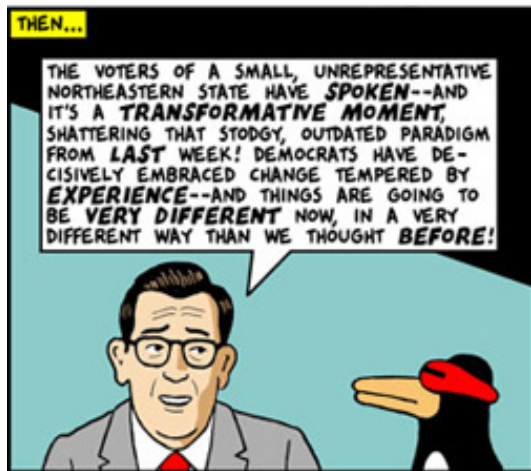
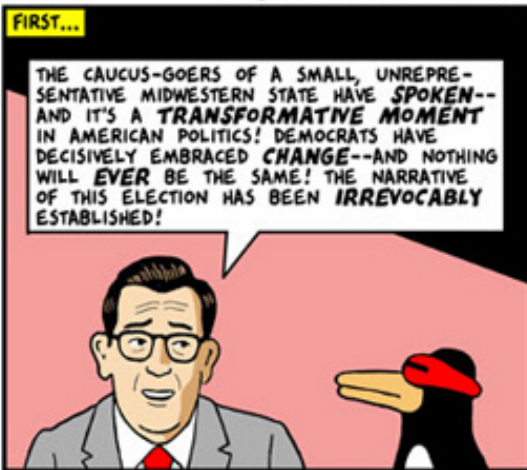
OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**THE ADVENTURES
OF
CONVENTIONAL
WISDOM MAN**



OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Every Palestinian Killed In Gaza Defined As A Terrorist “Including Small Children And The Elderly Infirm”

January 31, 2008 Stephen Lendman, Uruknet [Excerpts]

Israel makes no distinction between civilians (including women and children) and resistance fighters, and B'Tselem [The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories] stated that Yuval Diskin, head of the Israel Security Agency (ISA), “defines every Palestinian killed in the Gaza Strip as a terrorist,” including small children and the elderly infirm.

With electricity restricted and fuel supplies reduced [in Gaza], Israel went further.

It sealed its borders and cut all fuel shipments in response to Palestinian rocket attacks in and around the border town of Sderot.

They're fired in self-defense and used in response to repeated Israeli attacks that in the week of January 17 - 23 alone:

- killed 19 Palestinians along with three others from previous IDF-inflicted wounds;
- extra-judicially executed seven of the victims, including two women;
- wounded 71 Palestinians, including 24 children and three women;
- made 33 IDF incursions in the West Bank and five in Gaza;
- arrested 58 Palestinian civilians, including seven children, in the West Bank, and 32 in Gaza, including 3 children;
- destroyed five homes and razed agricultural land in Jabalya in northern Gaza;
- allowed further settler attacks against civilians and property in Hebron.

The same pattern continued the following week through January 30 with more Israeli incursions, attacks and arrests.

In the West Bank:

- Nablus was targeted and several Palestinian civilians arrested; several homes were also searched and ransacked in the villages of Kufer Kalil, Beit Dajan and Beit Fourik;
- the IDF seized six Palestinians in Jenin in a pre-dawn invasion; another followed there several days later, the Israeli army opened fire randomly, one civilian was injured, four

others arrested and a home was ransacked; several civilian homes were attacked and ransacked in the town of Qabatiya and village of Abu Da'eif in the northern West Bank; local sources reported unprovoked random gunfire by heavily armed troops in civilian neighborhoods;

-- the IDF invaded Bethlehem, killed one civilian, arrested another, and injured seven others; eyewitnesses reported that local journalists were prevented from witnessing and documenting the incursion;

-- several other West Bank cities were targeted and six civilians arrested: the Al Toor neighborhood in northern Jerusalem; the village of Beit Rima near Ramallah; Tulkarem city and the nearby Nur Shams refugee camp; and Jenin city.

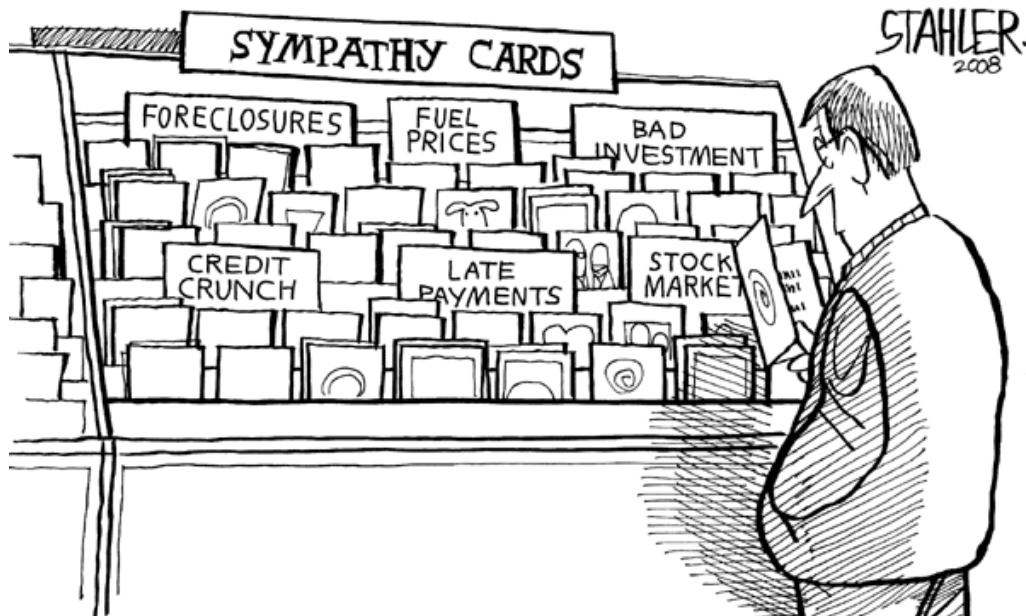
These are malicious acts of aggression, abductions and wanton killing.

Mostly civilians are targeted, and when Palestinians respond with crude Qassam rockets and children throw rocks, it's called "terrorism."

Israel's response - fiercer attacks and incursions in the Territories on any pretext or none at all and further tightening of its medieval siege on Gaza.

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Received:

“Put John McCain On The GI Special Emailing List”

From: Mr M109R
To: GI Special
Sent: January 30, 2008 8:07 AM

I think it would be a great idea to put John McCain on the GI Special emailing list.

I am getting a bit worried about that SOB. A good dose of reality might possibly do him some good. Far as that goes, perhaps all the candidates should get copies.

I read every one and believe they do a great job of informing all of us as to what's really going on.

Thanks for all you do.

Don Storing
Chapter 50
Veterans For Peace

REPLY: McCain and the rest are just doing their jobs: defending the Empire. The heavy lifting, as usual, is being done by people like yourself, in Veterans for Peace, and Vietnam Veterans Against The War, and Iraq Veterans Against The War, supporting the increasing numbers of members of the armed forces turning against this war, just as it took that resistance inside the armed forces to stop Vietnam.

Respect, to you and them all.

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