

## GI SPECIAL 6B7:

# ALL HOME NOW



World Press Photo of the Year 2007: REUTERS/Tim Hetherington/Vanity Fair: An American soldier resting at a bunker in Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, September 16, 2007. Jury chairman of the World Press Photo 2007 contest, Gary Knight, said "This image shows the exhaustion of a man and the exhaustion of a nation, we're all connected to this."

## **“Pawns In A Sick Game With No End”**

**Here's What One Marine Iraq Veteran  
Had To Say About An Invitation To  
Re-Deploy:**

# **“I’ve Had Enough Of The Games That Are Being Played” [And At Ft. Carson They Feel That Way Too]**

**From: Jeff Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War & The Military Project**  
**To: GI Special**  
**Sent: January 16, 2008**  
**Subject: Re: THE EARLY BRIEF - 3,200 Marines Prepare for Afghan Tour**

**I think this little story from [E.] would be great for an article in GI SPECIAL...**

**This is pretty much the same mentality we see out here with soldiers from Fort Carson, like they are pawns in a sick game with no end.**

**[Here is the email Jeff Englehart refers to:]**

**From: E.**  
**To: Military Project**  
**Sent: January 15, 2008**  
**Subject: THE EARLY BRIEF - 3,200 Marines Prepare for Afghan Tour**

**[XXXXX] told me about this over the weekend. When he was at drill he told his Commanding officer that he didn’t want to go, and they signed papers on Sunday placing him back in the IRR, so he didn’t have to be deployed!!!**

**He told them that “I’m not a wimp, but I served my Country and my Country doesn’t appreciate my service.”**

**“I’ve had enough of the games that are being played, I love the Marine Corps, but not all the bullshit that goes along with it.”**

**That’s my boy!**

**MORE:**

## **“He Said The Marines Are On 12- Hour Shifts Seven Days A Week, And Have Only One Day Off A Month”**

# **Body Of 20-Year-Old Marine From Tunnel Hill Killed In Iraq Arrives; Soddy-Daisy Marine Wounded In Same Incident**

January 23, 2008 The Chattanooga

A 20-year-old Marine from Tunnel Hill, Ga., was killed in Iraq on Saturday, the Department of Defense announced. The body arrived in Chattanooga today and was escorted to Love Funeral Home in Dalton.

Services for Lance Corporal James M. Gluff will be Monday at 12:30 p.m. in the chapel of Love Funeral Home. Burial with full military honors will be Monday at 2:30 p.m. at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga.

The family will receive friends at the Love Funeral Home Sunday after 2 p.m.

Lance Corporal Gluff was involved in combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He had been promoted to lance corporal in 2006.

The graduate of Northwest Whitfield High School left a wife and young son.

He is survived by his wife, Hope Gluff, 20, and his son, Michael Wayne, 14 months.

Also, another Marine from Soddy-Daisy who is in the same unit, was wounded in the same incident.

Corporal Daniel O'Keefe, who was recently married, suffered facial wounds from shrapnel.

He was flown to a hospital in Germany.

His parents are Tom and Angie O'Keefe.

Tom O'Keefe said Thursday morning that the family was at home last Saturday around 8:30 p.m. when they received a call saying their son had been injured in combat. The O'Keefes have two older sons.

Mr. O'Keefe said his son has undergone one surgery on his face and is up and around. He said he has visited two other Marines, who are in intensive care at the same hospital in Germany. They were injured in the same incident.

He said physicians have delayed a second surgery on his son's face for fear that nerves could be damaged. He said doctors are hoping the injuries will heal on their own. He said his son has trouble opening and closing his left eye.

Corporal O'Keefe, who is 21, is married to Tera Warren, who is also from Soddy-Daisy. She is flying to Germany today to be with her husband.

O'Keefe said he has spoken with his son several times at the hospital in Germany, and his son's wife has been able to talk to him every day. He said his son told him, "Dad, I want to be go back (to Iraq) and finish what I went over there to do."

However, his son said he believes the two other critically injured soldiers will be coming home rather than returning to Iraq.

Mr. O'Keefe said his son told him that the unit had completed its daily patrol and was back in barracks when they were called out again after being alerted by Iraqi police of sniper attacks.

**He said the Marines are on 12-hour shifts seven days a week, and have only one day off a month.**

He said his son stated that two trucks went out toward where the sniper attack was reported. Corporal O'Keefe was in the first truck along with Lance Corporal Gluff and the others who were injured.

Mr. O'Keefe said his son told him that they spotted a sniper by a well house. The sniper was shot, but not taken out, he said.

He said his son approached the well house and, as he went in, the sniper detonated an explosive device on his body. He said his son immediately hit the floor of the well house.

Mr. O'Keefe said his son stated that Lance Corporal Gluff and other Marines were on foot on the other side of the well house when a second suicide bomber set off an explosion that took the life of Lance Corporal Gluff and critically injured the other two. Mr. O'Keefe said he and his wife plan to attend the Gluff funeral. He said his son would sometimes ride with Lance Corporal Gluff between Chattanooga and Camp LeJeune.

Corporal O'Keefe was home schooled, his father said, and he joined the Marines in January 2005.

## **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

# Sailor With Beach-Based SEAL Team Killed In Blast; 6 SEALS Wounded



Luis A. Souffront (courtesy photo)

February 10, 2008 By Steve Stone, The Virginian-Pilot

### VIRGINIA BEACH

A sailor assigned to a Virginia Beach-based SEAL team has died and six of his comrades were wounded in combat in Iraq, the Pentagon announced Saturday.

The slain sailor was identified as Petty Officer 1st Class Luis Ariel Souffront, 25, of Miami.

Souffront, an explosive ordnance disposalman, was assigned to Naval Special Warfare Group Two, based in Virginia Beach.

**His was the third combat death last week among personnel assigned to that unit.**

“The water was his life and joining the Navy was his passion,” said Rosanna Tejeda, one of his cousins, Saturday evening. “Everyone is at a shock and total disbelief” in Souffront’s family, she said. “We have lost a precious person.”

The Department of Defense said he died Thursday from wounds suffered from the blast of an improvised explosive device.

“Six other people were injured,” said Lt. David Lockett, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Group Two, based at the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base.

Their wounds “ranged in severity,” he said, but all were successfully evacuated to military medical facilities where they are being treated and “none of their injuries are life-threatening.”

The names of those who were hurt were not released, but all were members of Souffront’s unit, and some of them were SEAL team members, Lockett confirmed.

Citing security concerns, Lockett said he could not say where in Iraq the incident occurred or offer any substantive details of the nature of the mission the unit was on when the blast occurred.

“They were carrying out combat operations,” he said.

As a combat-support specialist, Souffront trained and fought shoulder-to-shoulder with SEAL team members.

Explosive ordnance specialists “play a critical role” in special warfare missions, Lockett said. Such combat support personnel “go through the same training that the SEALs do before deployment,” he said. They also “work side-by-side with the SEALs on the battlefield, assuming the same risk.”

While they may not wear the same patches and insignia, they “are brothers in arms on the battlefield,” Lockett said.

Souffront is survived by his mother and father, who reside in Miami.

On Tuesday, the Pentagon confirmed the deaths of two Navy SEALs also assigned to Special Warfare Group Two.

Nathan H. Hardy and Michael E. Koch, both 29, were killed Monday in small-arms fire during anti-insurgent operations, the Navy said.

Souffront enlisted in the Navy on July 24, 2000. After boot camp, he attended several specialized training schools and completed Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal School at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida in July 2002.

He was then assigned for two months to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Unit One in San Diego and was then transferred to Guam, where he was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Five through November 2005. That month, he was transferred to the Virginia Beach-based SEAL Team.

Souffront’s awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, a Combat Action Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary

Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, two Sea Service deployment awards, two Navy/Marine Corps Overseas Service awards and the Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship Medals.

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## Roscoe's Slain Soldier Remembered



Staff Sgt. Gary W. Jeffries

January 31, 2008 By Kimberly Gray, Special to the Reporter-News

ROSCOE -- Gary Wayne Jeffries was a quiet teenager who showed an interest in the military at a young age, according to people who remember the slain soldier from his years at Roscoe High School.

The 37-year-old Army staff sergeant was identified Wednesday as one of five soldiers killed Monday in Mosul, Iraq. The soldiers died from wounds suffered when an improvised bomb hit their convoy, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

The soldiers were assigned to Fort Carson, Colo.

A memorial service is set for 1 p.m. Feb. 13 at Fort Carson. Services will be determined by the families, a base spokeswoman said.

**Jeffries is the 20th person with Big Country ties to be killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

He graduated in 1990 from the high school in Roscoe, a town of 1,380 people 50 miles west of Abilene.

In the school yearbook, Jeffries jokingly "willed" to underclassmen his camouflage jacket, his intelligence, ability to fix a carburetor and change oil, and his cowboy boots.

Former classmate Chas McGlothlin of Sweetwater said Jeffries was a quiet kid who was "always in the weight room." He remembers Jeffries showing an interest in the military in high school and frequently wearing camouflage.

Roscoe High School Principal Frank Young was a football coach for the Plowboys when Jeffries was a student-athlete. Young remembers him as a “really quiet kid who did what he was supposed to.” He said Jeffries was a good person and hard worker who was part of a good class.

Jeffries joined the Army in 1997 and was on his fourth deployment overseas when he died, according to records from Fort Carson.

He served in Korea from March 2000 to March 2001 and joined the 3rd Brigade Combat team in April 2001. Jeffries deployed to Iraq from March 2003 to March 2004 and from December 2005 to November 2006. He returned to Iraq in December for his third deployment.

He was awarded several medals, including the Army Commendation Medal with the valor device, the Army Commendation Medal (2), the Army Achievement Medal (5), the Army Good Conduct Medal (3) and the National Defense Service Medal.

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## **GUESS WHO’S WORRIED GUESS WHO ISN’T GUESS WHY ALL HOME NOW**



A US soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field, patrols a street in the Azamiyah neighborhood in north Baghdad, Feb. 8, 2008. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**



# Wheaton North Grad Killed In Afghanistan



Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller. (Family photo January 28, 2008)

January 29, 2008 By Russell Working, Tribune reporter

When Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller was a sophomore at Wheaton North High School, he was deeply impressed by a line in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar": "Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once."

Miller's former English teacher and gym coach, Chad Downie, recalled the words Monday after Miller died Friday in combat in Barikowt, Afghanistan.

The 24-year-old soldier was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Ft. Bragg, N.C., the Defense Department reported. He was killed during small arms fire under circumstances that reflected the Shakespearean quote, Downie said.

"That made a huge impression on Rob, and in fact it was the saying on the back of our T-shirts for gymnastics the next year," he said. "There's a sense of bittersweet irony there in that the way Rob died was a very courageous way, and he always tried to conduct himself in a way that would inspire others."

Born in Harrisburg, Pa., Miller was the son of Philip and Maureen Miller, who now live in Oviedo, Fla. He grew up in Wheaton, the oldest son of eight children, and attended St. Michael Parish School and later Wheaton North.

A former teacher at St. Michael, Peggy Flynn, remembered Miller as a kid who always had a smile on his face and had a strong value system.

“He was nice to other people, which is remarkable sometimes in 8th grade,” Flynn said. “He wasn’t really aware of peer pressure. Say some kids were going to misbehave in class and it was planned; he wouldn’t do it.”

At Wheaton North, Miller was on a gymnastics team that went to state, and he helped spark the beginning of a dynasty in that sport, Downie said. The school has been back to state five times since.

“I literally had to kick him out of the gym, because he wouldn’t stop working out,” Downie said. “He wouldn’t rest. He was a really intense guy, a focused guy, and just pushed himself to the limit.”

After spending a year at the University of Iowa, Miller joined the Army in 2003, making the elite Special Forces.

“He just muscled his way through it,” his father said by phone from Oviedo.

Miller’s focus wasn’t limited to physical endeavors. He loved history and social studies and became proficient in several languages -- including French, Pashto and Spanish -- in training and in Afghanistan.

Miller’s military education included courses in leadership, “survival, evasion, resistance and escape,” Special Forces heavy weapons and Ranger School.

He received honors including the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, parachutist badge and Special Forces tab. “We’re really proud of Rob,” his father said. “He was doing what he loved and he was serving with great friends.

“We thank God for blessing us with Rob for the years he was with us.”

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## **“Canadians Are Stretched Thin” “You Can Only Do So Much With The Troops That You Have”**

February 10, 2008 Brian Hutchinson, Canwest News Service [Excerpt]

With about 1,000 combat troops on the ground, Canadians are stretched thin and cannot secure the entire province of Kandahar and must “prioritize,” said [Lt.-Gen. Michel] Gauthier.

“We’re focused on where most of the population of Kandahar province lives, 75 per cent roughly, in Zhari, Panjwaii, Kandahar City,” and two other districts to the north and south of the capital, Arghandab and Spin Boldak, he said.

“You can only do so much with the troops that you have,” Gauthier added.

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## ***No Shit?***

### **“Broad Opposition To A War That Many Europeans Consider A Largely American Enterprise”**

Feb 10 By Jim Michaels, USA TODAY

Before leaving for Iraq, [DoDSec] Gates told U.S. allies in Munich that the war in Afghanistan is central to Europe’s security and that all NATO nations must share more responsibility for fighting there.

Divisions within NATO over the mission in Afghanistan have been growing for the past couple of years, but Gates’ remarks were among his most direct challenges to America’s European allies.

Much of the reluctance to boost troop commitments in Afghanistan reflect broad opposition to a war that many Europeans consider a largely American enterprise.

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## **Norwegian Government Closes Kabul Embassy After “Threats”**

Feb 10 By BJOERN AMLAND, Associated Press Writer

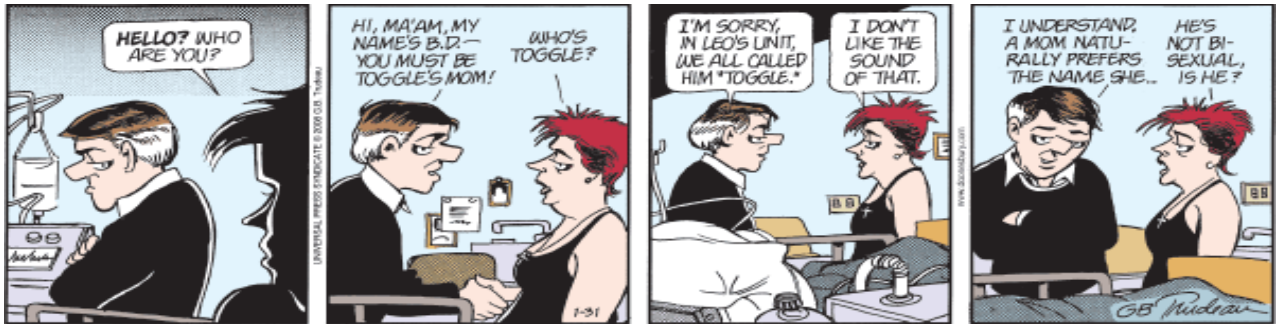
OSLO, Norway - Norway closed its embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul Sunday because of “terror threats,” a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

Kristin Melsom said the embassy had been closed until further notice. She would not elaborate on the nature of the threats or how long the embassy would remain closed.

“It is too early to comment on that,” she said.

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**TROOP NEWS**



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## 250 From 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

February 11, 2008 Army Times

About 250 soldiers from 18th Airborne Corps deployed to the Middle East on Jan. 28, a day later than scheduled because of an airplane problem, Fort Bragg spokesperson Sgt. Jessica Fimbres said.

The soldiers are bound for Baghdad, where they will assume command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq as part of a planned 15-month tour, Fimbres said.

Two more groups of soldiers from the 18th Airborne Corps will deploy in coming weeks. In all, 900 soldiers are to deploy.

In 2005, the 18th Airborne Corps also deployed as Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Fimbres said.

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## “Troops Arriving Home From Iraq And Afghanistan Have Been Carrying A Mysterious, Deadly Bacteria” “The Outbreak Might Be The Largest Of Its Kind To Spread Through Hospitals In History”

Feb. 8, 2008 By John Hendren, ABC News

Troops arriving home from Iraq and Afghanistan have been carrying a mysterious, deadly bacteria, according to a new magazine report.

Doctors have linked the bacterium *acinetobacter baumannii* to at least seven deaths, as well as to loss of limbs and other severe ailments, according to the report, which found the bacterium has spread quickly since the war in Afghanistan began in the fall of 2001

**Acinetobacter baumannii has been found in military hospitals in Germany, the Washington, D.C., area and Texas -- the primary destinations of wounded service members from the two war zones.**

**And it has now spread to civilians, according to the report.**

"The outbreak began traveling with patients or nonpatients from Iraq all the way back to Walter Reed," said Dr. Rox Anderson at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Timothy Endy, a retired Army colonel now teaching infectious disease medicine at the Upstate Medical University of the State University of New York, said the outbreak might be the largest of its kind to spread through hospitals in history.

Doctors quoted in the magazine article agreed. "Of the infectious disease problems that come out of the conflict, it is the most important complication we've seen," Dr. Glenn Wortmann, acting chief of infectious disease at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, said in the February issue of *Proceedings*, published by the U.S. Naval Institute, a professional organization focused on naval issues.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

February 8, 2008 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers & 10 Feb 2008 Reuters & By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer

Head of [U.S. funded] Sahwa in 14th of Ramadhan neighbourhood, Mshahda, 15 km to the north of Baghdad City was assassinated by fighters at around 05:00 pm last night. 2 of his security detail were injured.

Clashes between Anbar Police and fighters in Andulus neighbourhood, east Fellujah resulted in the death of 1 fighters and the arrest of another and the injury of 1 policeman.

A bomber using a fuel tanker, killed four Iraqi soldiers and wounded seven others in a blast in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad.

**Two policemen were killed and 10 policemen wounded, when 10 mortar rounds hit a police station in Balad Ruz town, 50 km (30 miles) southwest of Baquba, police said.**

A car bomb blast aimed at a convoy of U.S.-funded neighbourhood policemen wounded three members including the unit's leader, southwest of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Five people were killed in clashes when guerrillas attacked villages manned by U.S.-funded neighbourhood policemen in the northern province of Nineveh, police said.

The U.S. military confirmed that an attack on a compound housing some of its allies near Sinjar in northern Iraq killed five U.S.-allied fighters and wounded five others.

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Insurgents stormed two villages in northwestern Iraq. They were repelled by U.S.-allied fighters and Iraqi security forces in clashes that left at least 22 people dead, according to Sheik Fawaz al-Jarba, a lawmaker and the head of a U.S.-allied group in Mosul.

The attack began about 5 a.m. when about 25 carloads of heavily armed insurgents drove into the villages of Khams Tlol (Five Hills) and al-Madina, about 50 miles west of Mosul, al-Jarba said. The militants were wielding rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and assault rifles.

**Clashes broke out that lasted about five hours.**

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## **GET THE MESSAGE? IRAQI WORKERS TELL U.S. TROOPS TO GET OUT OF OUR FACTORY**



Employees carry banners with various slogans demanding U.S. soldiers get out of the factory where they are working in the Sadr City district of north Baghdad, February 10, 2008. REUTERS/Karen Raheem

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**“Among Sadrist Rank And File,  
Impatience With The Ceasefire Is  
High And Growing”**  
**“It Is Fanciful To Expect The Mahdi  
Army’s Defeat”**  
**“Its Principal Strongholds Are Virtually  
Unassailable”**

**Fleeing military pressure in Baghdad, Mahdi Army fighters redeployed to the south, thereby setting up the potential for an escalation of the class-based confrontation with the U.S.-backed ISCI.**

7 February 2008 Middle East Report N°72, Crisisgroup.org [Excerpts]

Their retreat notwithstanding, the Sadrists remain deeply entrenched and extremely powerful in a number of regions.

Fleeing military pressure in Baghdad, Mahdi Army fighters redeployed to the south, thereby setting up the potential for an escalation of the class-based confrontation with the U.S.-backed ISCI.

**Among Sadrist rank and file, impatience with the ceasefire is high and growing.**

They equate it with a loss of power and resources, believe the U.S. and ISCI are conspiring to weaken the movement and eagerly await Muqtada’s permission to resume the fight.

The Sadrist leadership has resisted the pressure, but this may not last.

**Critics accuse Muqtada of passivity or worse, and he soon may conclude that the costs of his current strategy outweigh its benefits.**

**In early February 2008, senior Sadrist officials called upon their leader not to prolong the ceasefire, due to expire later in the month.**

The U.S. response – to continue attacking and arresting Sadrist militants, including some who are not militia members; arm a Shiite tribal counterforce in the south to roll back Sadrist territorial gains; and throw its lot in with Muqtada’s nemesis, ISCI – is understandable but short-sighted.

The Sadrist movement, its present difficulties aside, remains a deeply entrenched, popular mass movement of young, poor and disenfranchised Shiites.

It still controls key areas of the capital, as well as several southern cities; even now, its principal strongholds are virtually unassailable.

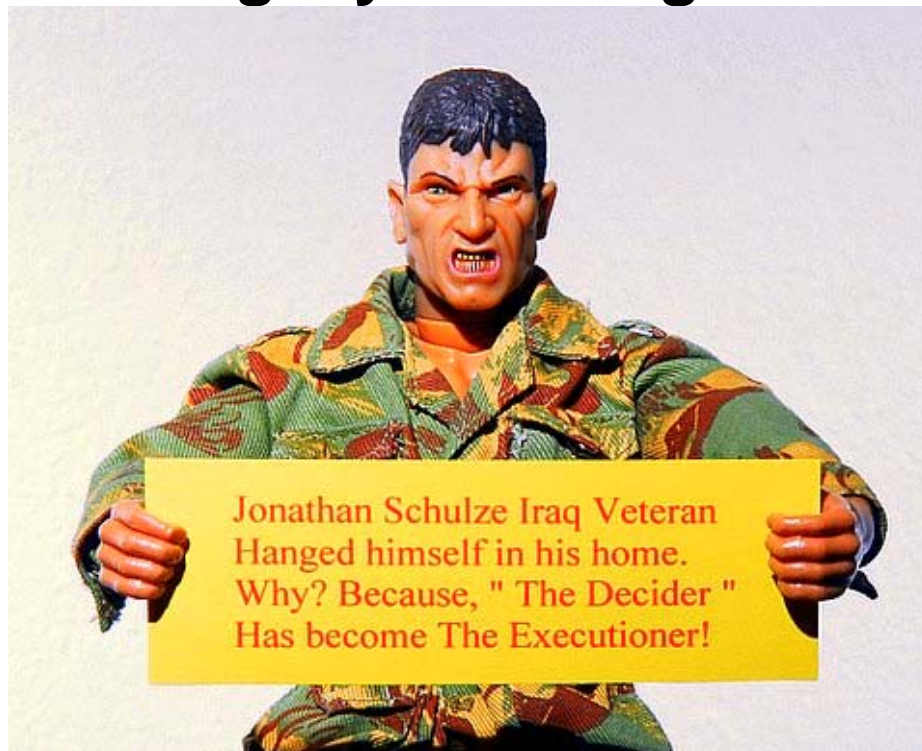
**Despite intensified U.S. military operations and stepped up Iraqi involvement, it is fanciful to expect the Mahdi Army's defeat.**

**Instead, heightened pressure is likely to trigger both fierce Sadrist resistance in Baghdad and an escalating intra-Shiite civil war in the south.**

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

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# The Legacy of George Bush



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: February 10, 2008



## The Legacy of George Bush

**Mike Hastie**  
Vietnam Veteran  
Feb. 10, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie**  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

# Redemption?

From: [Sgt. - ret'd]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 31, 2008  
Subject: redemption?

Then there is redemption:

*Iraq ratifies Kyoto Protocol on climate change  
4 days ago*

*BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has formally ratified the UN's Kyoto Protocol on climate change, according to a government statement seen by AFP on Saturday.*

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## **Reply:**

From: GI Special  
To: [Sgt. - ret'd]  
Sent: February 2, 2008  
Subject: Maybe redemption, maybe not.

It may be the U.S. employees there smell a change in business management.

If this crew doesn't want to end up on a Greenzone roof hanging on to a copter skid, they got to make nice to the incoming Democrats, and this move lays some groundwork.

They need the money and the security guards, otherwise know as the U.S. armed forces, which is all they got.

It would be such a farce to Maliki and crew coming on as born-again environmental activists. Maybe they'll require IEDs be equipped with non-polluting propellants.

As for the Corpse of Engineers, [mentioned in the Sgt's email about New Orleans] they make a specialty of corruption. The Colonel or whoever has enough rank awards the contract and doesn't look too close. Upon retirement a job is waiting someplace that got a contract. Maybe a hundred thousand p.a., golf club membership, executive dining room, company car, whatever.

The thanks of a grateful nation.

With a most elegant health plan, eliminating any necessity of setting foot one in any medical building operated by the VA.

Thanks for all the good stuff you send!

Respect,  
T

**Reply:**

From: [Sgt. - ret'd] [Excerpts]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: February 03, 2008 12:43 AM  
Subject: Re: Maybe redemption, maybe not.

Actually,

**I enjoy the arcane humor of an occupied country ratifying the protocol even though the occupier won't. So absurd.**

**Maybe they can say that the invasion is environmentally damaging and make the US clean up their act.**

**Biodiesel hummers, biodegradable MRE wrappers, solar panels on that useless embassy building ("Embarasso" means preppers en Espanol).**

I digress.

**There is absolutely no way whatsoever the US (or any military) will find Mr. bin Laden.**

**There is no other excuse for our presence in Afghanistan (besides oil pipelines and their (p)Resident\* being a former executive of Union Oil).**

**Finding Saddam was probably an accident, but once it looked like the news would leak, he had to be stashed in that rat-hole, then kangarooed and executed before he**

**could squeal on US involvement in chem weapons complicity years before (among other things).**

Actually I should be thanking you for putting out GI Spec. You're consistent, and if I can contribute occasionally (I live in a dial-up world, and access the web just a couple times a week) I feel honored to have the opportunity to keep your back.

[Sgt. - ret'd]

\*The 'p' is silent. Just like here in the good ol' USA

**Reply:**

Hey Sgt., only right if you got my back, I got yours. That way we can see what's coming 360. And then there are also all those good strong troops and veterans from Iraq Veterans Against The War and Veterans For Peace watching out for low-life back-shooting politicians. You and they are what make the difference.

Respect for your service,  
T



Covered 360

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***CORRECTION:***  
**IRAQ VETERAN RUNNING FOR**  
**CONGRESS ON IMMEDIATE**  
**WITHDRAWAL PLATFORM**

From: Sarie Bryson  
To: GI Special  
Sent: February 10, 2008  
Subject: Re GI SPECIAL 6B6 - FW: PSL Federal, State & Local Candidates Across the U.S.

**Re GI SPECIAL 6B6**

**Under the Troops News section, it says “Iraq Veteran their Vice-Presidential Candidate” ...**

That would be so wonderful if it were so.

**But ..... Iraq veteran Michael Prysner is instead running for Congress and Howard University student and anti-war/pro-justice activist Eugene Puryear is Gloria La Riva’s running mate.**

**Eugene I think is as fine as they come too, and has his own personal experiences I’m sure of oppression and exploitation from which to draw his passion for socialism.**

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**War In Iraq:  
The Eye Of The Hurricane  
“The Iraqi Resistance Has Met The  
Occupation From The First With  
Courage, Resolution, Resource And  
Intelligence. At Every Stage It Has Been  
The Decisive Factor In The War”**

January 2008 By David Hungerford, Via Al-Moharar [Excerpts]

The Bush administration has changed its strategy in Iraq.

Previously the occupation relied on Kurdish and Shiite militias to keep a grip. Now it has added Sunni militias called “Awakening Councils” (al-Sahwa) and Concerned Local Citizens (CLCs) to the mix. It is a fateful step.

Nonetheless the change only ratifies the failure of all previous occupation policies. It solves no old problems of the occupation and presents many new ones.

From the beginning of the occupation in April of 2003 the people of Iraq raised a powerful resistance against the US and British invaders.

To hang on the occupiers resorted to a divide and rule strategy.

**The occupation put together a disreputable lineup of Shiite and Kurdish parties, all with their own militias, and called it a “government.”**

**The “security services” of the puppet government are largely made up of the collaborator militias.**

The results have been murderous sectarian and ethnic cleansing, massacres, roundups and imprisonment of thousands of people accused of resistance, and rampant death squad murders by the so-called “government security services.”

Reliance on Shiite sectarian parties and militias meant the occupation had limited ability to employ collaborators among the Sunni Muslims of Iraq.

Accordingly the national resistance has been passed off as a “Sunni insurgency.” The mayhem is termed a “sectarian civil war” in which the occupation is no more than an innocent bystander caught in the middle, trying to save the savage Iraqis from one another.

The Shiite sectarian parties have no unity among themselves. Two of them, Muqtada al-Sadr’s movement and the Islamic Supreme Council in Iraq (ISCI), have been fighting for control of the south for almost a year! As well the Kurdish parties in the occupation “government” have a history of fighting each other.

**In sum, Bush is in a catastrophic predicament.**

**He resorts to a number of scams to hide it.**

### **Success Of The “Troop Surge:” A Deception**

Bush and his supporters claim his “troop surge” is a success.

More troops have brought stability and progress toward victory, it is said.

Facts show otherwise.

The Washington-based Brookings Institution publishes monthly graphical summaries of military attacks in Iraq. The numbers come from the US military and cannot be verified from other sources.

The most recent data goes up to September of 2007.

**The chart shows that in September of 2006 there were about 3200 attacks on “coalition forces,” i.e., occupation troops. In September of 2007 the number given is slightly above 2000, about 63% of the number 12 months earlier.**

**To claim success because by your own account you were only attacked 2000 times is ludicrous.**

Gen. Raymond Odierno, the US commander of operations in Iraq, says something different: reconciliation with those he describes as “onetime Sunni fighters” represents the “primary driver of enhanced security.” (“US Shifts Sunni Strategy in Iraq,” LA Times, 14 Jan 2008)

Odierno is talking about the “Awakening Councils” and CLC’s. There are said to be 70,000 persons in these militias and they are paid \$300 per month—a lot of money in today’s Iraq.

### **The “Awakenings” And Al Qaeda: Only A Small Part Of The Picture**

The official story is that the occupation only recently turned to former Sunni “insurgents” to fight al Qaeda. There is much more to it.

Most independent observers say that AQ is only a small part of the overall resistance.

The difference between the national resistance and al Qaeda is basic. The national resistance fights to restore Iraq’s independence and sovereignty. Al Qaeda opposes Iraqi nationalism and proclaims instead the goal of divine rule on earth.

Given that the Shiite sectarians already fight among themselves the additional Sunni militias can only multiply the conflicts.

Like the Shiite and Kurdish militias, the aims of the Sunni militias are frequently at odds with those of the occupation. One of the militiamen, Omar Abbas, 23, is quoted as saying that the Badr Brigade of the ISCI is the worst threat, and Sadr’s Mahdi Army is the next worst.

**The Washington Post quotes First Sgt. Richard Meiers of the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division as having got something exactly right: “We’re paying them not to blow us up. It looks good right now, but what happens when the money stops?”**

It will not be long before the contradictions overwhelm what little temporary advantage the occupation has gained from the “Awakenings” and CLCs.

The Iraqi resistance has met the occupation from the first with courage, resolution, resource and intelligence.

At every stage it has been the decisive factor in the war.

There is every reason to think it still is.

The Iraqi people will surely find the means to solve this latest problem before them.

**MORE:**

## **“Cracks Are Beginning To Appear In The US Military’s System Of Recruiting Paid Volunteers”**

Cracks are beginning to appear in the US military’s system of recruiting paid volunteers -- some members of a Sunni “Awakening” group in central Iraq are threatening to pack up and go home unless they are given weapons, ammunition and full-time jobs. 2.6.08 AFP

### **MORE:**

## **US-Funded Sunni Tribesmen Close Offices, Go On Strike In Baqouba; Demand “That Detained People Not Convicted Of Crimes Be Released”**

[Thanks to June Van Ingen, who sent this in.]

February 8, 2008 By Steve Lannen, McClatchy Newspapers & February 9, 2008 AP

Members of U.S.-allied citizen brigades, which are credited with helping to tamp down violence in many parts of Iraq, went on strike Friday in Diyala province, alleging that the provincial police chief there is running a death squad.

A leader of the group said that brigade members, most of them Sunni Muslims, wouldn’t resume working with U.S. and Iraqi government forces until the Shiite police chief resigns or is indicted.

A curfew was imposed, and police throughout the province ended their patrols early to avoid clashes with the U.S.-funded concerned local citizens, or “popular committees” as they’re known in Diyala, who staged demonstrations against the police chief. No casualties were reported.

The citizens groups also are demanding that the heavily Shiite police force be remade into one that reflects the composition of the mixed Sunni-Shiite province, that detained people not convicted of crimes be released and that Sunnis who return to Shiite-dominated areas from which they’ve been displaced be protected.

U.S.-funded Sunni tribesmen shut their offices and rallied in Baqouba’s streets Saturday. Hundreds of members of Sunni awakening councils in Diyala province held at least three demonstrations Saturday. At one rally in downtown Baqouba, a banner was hoisted above the crowd reading “al-Qureyshi targets Sunnis and kidnaps women” — referring to Gen. Ghanim al-Qureyshi, director general of Diyala police.

Later Saturday, the U.S. military issued a statement saying the awakening councilmen would meet in person with U.S. and Iraqi officials to address their grievances and “decide a way ahead.”

**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.

## OCCUPATION REPORT

### *Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!*

### **U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**





**Women mourn by the bodies of an Iraqi couple killed when the U.S. military stormed their house in the village of Adwar, 15 kilometers (10 miles) south of Tikrit. Iraq, Feb. 5, 2008. The couples teenage son was killed also and two daughters were wounded , one of them died later on. (AP Photo/Hameed Rasheed)**

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA.**

**[They can kill people at checkpoints, butcher families in their own homes, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

**[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.**

**[What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to die under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?**

**[You'd want that in your home town, right?]**

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</b></p>
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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **Election 2008: Behold, How The Mighty Have Fallen**

February 8, 2008, Lance Selfa, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

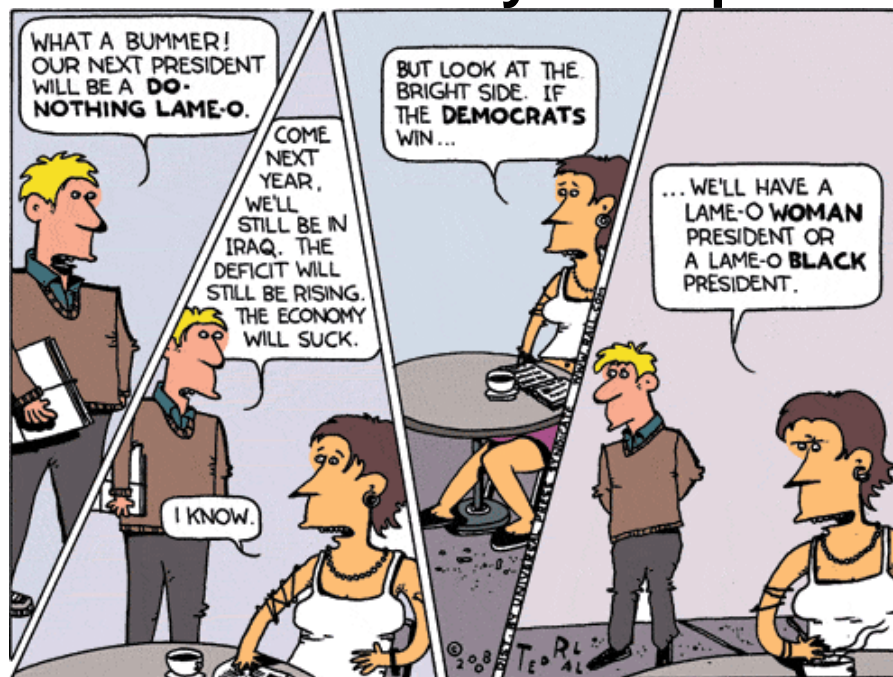
With Bush ending his term as one of the most unpopular presidents ever, the notion that his administration would usher in a generation of conservative Republican rule seems laughable today.

Instead, large majorities of the population associate Bush and the Republicans with disastrous policies (Iraq), incompetence (Katrina), scandal (too numerous to list) and cronyism (Halliburton, et al.).

The boost that September 11 gave to Bush and the right wing temporarily slowed, but did not stop, the longer-term trends that appear to be unraveling the old Republican coalition.



## Election 2008: "Obama And Clinton Both Maintain That A Significant Number Of U.S. Troops Will Have To Stay In Iraq"



February 8, 2008 By Alan Maass, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

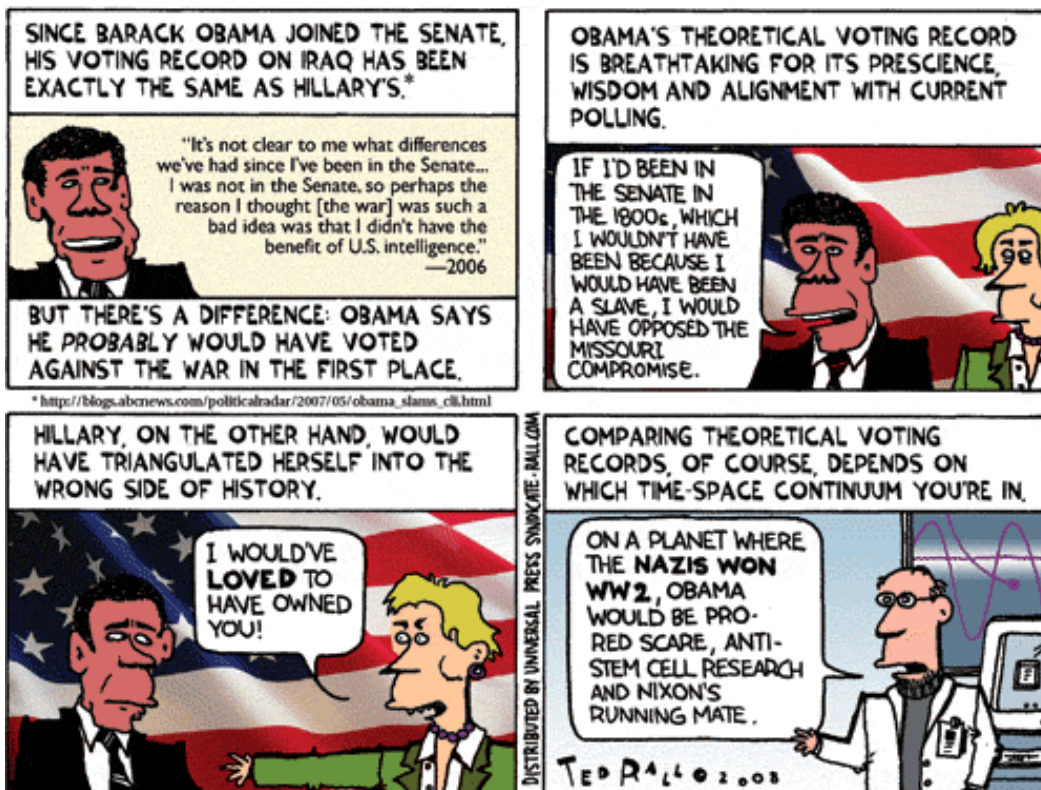
Obama and Clinton both maintain that a significant number of U.S. troops will have to stay in Iraq to protect the U.S. embassy, train Iraqi forces and carry out operations against vaguely defined “terrorist threats.”

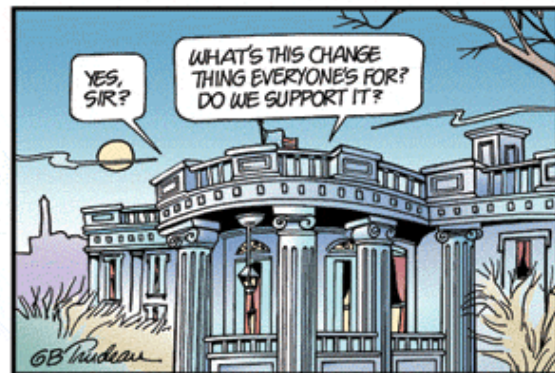
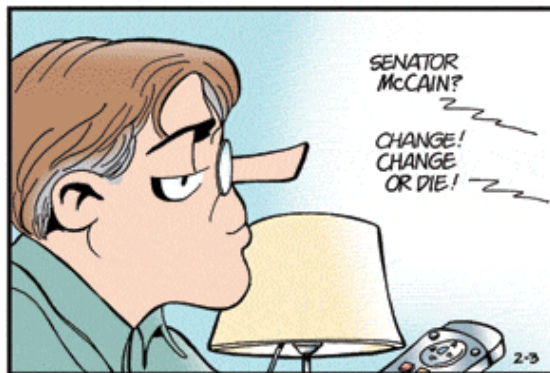
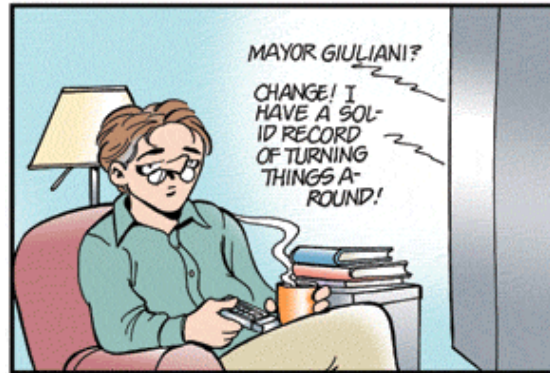
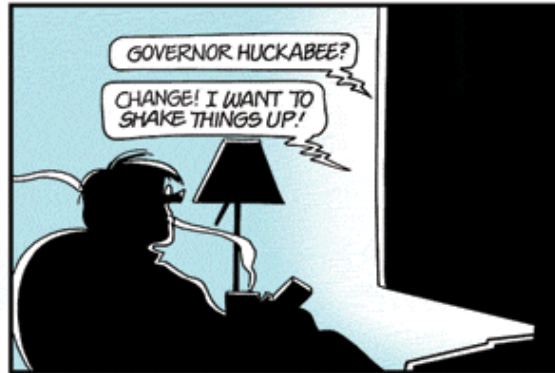
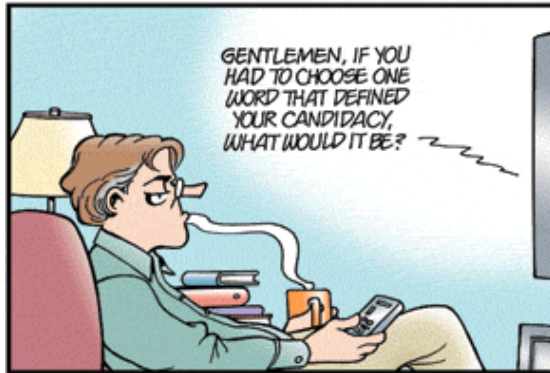
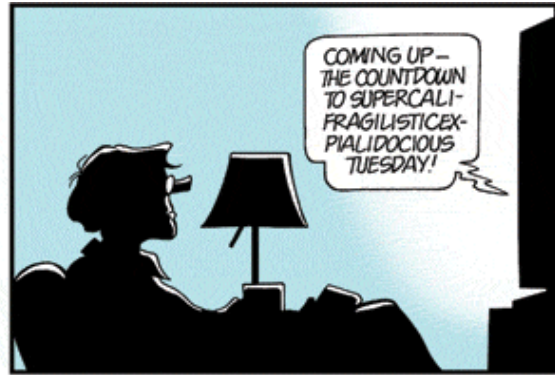
When they can even be distinguished from each other, their disagreements about Iraq are about details, not anything of substance. And in fact, when you look beyond the rhetoric, at what the candidates actually propose to do about Iraq and the “war on terror,” Obama and Clinton are actually closer to the Bush White House than they are to the masses of people who want to vote for them as an alternative to Bush’s wars.

This underlines a fundamental fact that goes unstated, by the candidates and their staff, as well as the mainstream media--that the Democrats and Republicans, for all their rhetorical differences, share a fundamental agreement on the aims and methods of the U.S. imperial project around the world.

Obama and Clinton may say one thing to win votes. But as leaders of one of the two mainstream parties that control U.S. politics, their loyalties lie not with the antiwar sentiments of the majority of the population, but with the interests of the U.S. government in projecting its power around the globe.

Millions of people are planning to vote for Clinton or Obama out of the hope that their talk about wanting peace is genuine. But Clinton and Obama belong to a party that has always waged war as enthusiastically and ruthlessly as the Republicans--and will continue to do so unless it faces the mobilized resistance of a mass antiwar movement.





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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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