

GI SPECIAL 6G12:



" I CANNOT TELL THE TRUTH... "

Iraq Veterans Against The War Launching Second Annual National Base Tour:

**"During The Month Of August
We Will Travel To 8 Military
Bases, To Do Outreach"**

“We Will Need Organizing Support From People Like You”



Date: July 17, 2008
From: Marlisa Grogan
Subject: IVAW Base Tour- Ally support needed!
Via: Veterans For Peace

Dear Friends,

This summer, Iraq Veterans Against the War is launching its second annual National Base tour.

During the month of August we will travel to 8 military bases, to do outreach to active duty soldiers and Veterans.

We will be sharing Winter Soldier testimony, informing GIs of their rights to speak out, and offering legal information as well as guidance on how to navigate the Veterans Administration.

In addition to recruiting new active duty members to IVAW, one of the main goals of this tour is to set up networks of GI support near Military bases.

In order to make this tour a success the local chapters of IVAW in each base town, we will need organizing support from people like you.

Some of our chapters are very small and have yet to build relationships with allies in their areas.

Our primary needs are:

1. A host for a house-party fundraiser at each tour stop.
2. Support for IVAW members coordinating outreach and logistics for events for service-members, particularly a private BBQ, and a public concert at each tour stop.

If you are able to assist in any aspect of this, please let us know and we will connect you with the local IVAW organizer.

We hope this can be the beginning of strengthening alliances between IVAW and your organization on the local level. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Thanks!

To host a fundraiser or offer fundraising support contact:

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IVAW Base Tour 2008
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To offer organizing or outreach support contact:

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IVAW Base Tour 2008
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Each base tour stop will span 3 or more days and consist of events such as:

- 1) Outreach activities
- 2) A private BBQ for active duty troops (in a nearby park).
- 3) A possible public concert at a local venue (free for troops w/military ID. At-cost for everyone else)
- 4) A private house party fundraiser hosted by local allies
- 5) A private fundraising event hosted by AFL-CIO locals

Tour Schedule:

Ft. Drum, NY (Aug 1-3)
Ft. Bragg, NC (Aug 5-7)
Camp Lejeune, NC (Aug 8-9)
Ft. Stewart, GA (Aug 10-12)
Ft. Hood, TX (Aug 14-16)
Ft. Sill, OK (Aug 17-19)
Ft. Carson, CO (Aug 23-25)
Democratic National Convention: Denver, CO (Aug 26-27)
IVAW Convention: Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Aug 29-30)
Camp Pendleton, CA (Sep 3-5)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

Are You Ready For *This*?

**[http://youtube.com/watch?v=XxZXqYPo
KtY](http://youtube.com/watch?v=XxZXqYPoKtY)**

[By Iraq Veterans Against The War]

**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. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Lockport Marine Falls In Iraq

July 19, 2008 Daily Comet

A Marine Corps sergeant killed in Iraq Tuesday came home Saturday to Lockport, where the grandparents who raised him along with other family members will lay him to rest.

Staff Sgt. Danny Dupre, 28, was on a classified mission in Ramadi, about 70 miles west of Baghdad, a Marine Corps official said, when he was struck behind the ear by a sniper's bullet.

"He was the glue that kept his squad together," said Gunnery Sgt. Damien Martin, a marine deployed in New Orleans who knew Dupre during his 10-year career, and who

was in charge of escorting the fallen fighter's remains in Louisiana. "Gaining intel to provide to his marines was what got him killed."

Dupre grew up in Lockport, raised by his grandmother, Hilda Triche Dupre. While a student at Central Lafourche High School he knew early on that he was headed for a military career. He was an active member of the school's Junior ROTC.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion 9th Marines out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Fallen SD Soldier Remembered As A Family Man



Jeremy Vrooman with his wife Latrecia, their five-year-old son Xavier and one-year-old daughter Jade.

Jul 17, 2008 By Drew Sandholm, KSFY

A Sioux Falls soldier has died while serving in Baghdad, Iraq.

28-year-old Army Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Vrooman suffered wounds when an improvised explosive device detonated while his unit was conducting combat operations. He died Tuesday.

KSFY spoke with his grandfather Danny Vrooman of Sioux Falls, who remembers him as a happy, fun loving, family man who made a career out of serving his country and died while doing so. "I don't think he would have any misgivings about the way he spent his life," said Danny while sitting at his kitchen table. On the wall behind him hangs a service picture of Jeremy and his brother Justin, who is also in the military.

Jeremy had been stationed in Germany with his wife Latrecia and two kids. Danny had been looking forward for them to come home to Sioux Falls for Christmas. He and his wife Hazel hadn't seen them in over a year, but then the phone rang. Letrecia and a relative called the house with bad news.

Jeremy had passed.

"It's a real shock, but it was nice to be able to hear it from people you love," said Danny.

In his nine years in the military, Jeremy had served across the U.S. and completed on full tour in Iraq. He was working on a second. Danny says his grandson knew the dangers, but was proud to protect America. "His life was... meant something because there's people with a better life because he lived," said Danny.

The Vroomans say dates for their grandson's funeral services are still being finalized. However, they tell KSFY that Jeremy will be buried at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. Sometime after the funeral, they plan to hold a memorial service in Sioux Falls.

U. S. Patrol In Baghdad Attacked; Casualties Not Announced

07/20/08 Xinhua

A roadside bomb went off near a passing U.S. patrol in the al-Qanat Street in eastern Baghdad. It was unclear whether the U.S. patrol sustained any casualty as the troops immediately cordoned off the area, preventing the Iraqi police from approaching the scene, he said.

U.S. Death Squad Murders Unarmed Son And Nephew Of Governor Of Tikrit: "U.S. Forces Usually Kill Wanted People, Rather Than Arrest Them" [Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Ever More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops]

July 20 (KUNA)

US soldiers killed Sunday the son and nephew of an Iraqi governor during an operation in Tikrit, an official said.

Deputy Governor of Salahiddin Abdullah Jebara told KUNA US forces broke into the home of the sister of Governor Hamad Al-Kashti and killed the two teenagers.

He added that the two boys, who died of direct gunfire, did not have any weapons on them.

The names of the owner of the house was similar to the name of a wanted person, he pointed out.

Jebara said US forces called the governorate, admitted and apologized for the mistake, and stressed that they would investigate the incident.

The bodies of the two boys are now at the US base north of Tikrit and a delegation headed there to receive them, he noted. Jebara condemned the incident as an example of use of excessive force by US troops in Iraq.

He stressed proper procedures will be taken soon, pointing out that such incidents during operations became frequent and that US forces usually kill wanted people, rather than arrest them.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers at the scene of a car bomb in Baghdad April 3, 2008. A parked car bomb targeted a police patrol in western Baghdad, wounding three officers. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Khost; Nationality Not Announced

20 July 2008 FOCUS News Agency

A NATO soldier was killed in fighting in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, the alliance's International Security Assistance Force said, cited by AFP.

ISAF did not give the nationality of the soldier slain in Khost province, which adjoins Pakistan, or how they died. "One ISAF soldier was killed during fighting in Khost province earlier today," it said in a statement.

Dawsonville Man Remembers Son Killed In Afghanistan



Cpl. Matthew Phillips (U.S. Army)

July 18th 2008 Associated Press

Matthew B. Phillips had plans to go fishing with his dad when he returned from Afghanistan in a few weeks.

The 27-year-old Army corporal was one of nine soldiers - and one of two from Georgia - killed in an insurgent raid on an American outpost in eastern Afghanistan over the weekend. The Pentagon announced the deaths Wednesday.

Family members said Phillips spent Christmas planning his own funeral so his loved ones wouldn't have to worry about it. He had been married just two years to his wife, Eve.

"I'd always tell him, 'You're going to be fine, you're coming home, the odds are with you,'" his father, Michael Phillips of Dawsonville, said.

Matthew Phillips' sister, Mary Nix of San Antonio, gave birth to a son the day before she learned of her brother's death. She renamed the baby Matthew after hearing the news.

The Pentagon listed Matthew Phillips' hometown as Jasper. His wife lives in Cumming. But Phillips also has ties to Hall County.

His father said he attended both Flowery Branch Elementary School and Johnson High School, and his mother taught at Spout Springs Elementary School. "Words can't express how proud I am of him," Michael Phillips said. "Our family is devastated. But he felt he was doing the right thing. He was doing an honorable thing, and we supported him 100 percent."

Phillips was part of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Vicenza, Italy. His fellow soldier, Cpl. Jonathan R. Ayers, 24, also was scheduled to come home in just a few weeks.

Ayers' family already had started buying decorations for a party to welcome him back, said his father, Bill Ayers of Snellville.

Though Jonathan Ayers was unnerved about his assignment in Afghanistan, he was dedicated to the military, his father said.

"He liked spit-and-polish type things," Bill Ayers said. "He would fuss at us if our shoes weren't cleaned just right."

S.D. Soldier Killed

July 4, 2008 Melanie Brandert, Argus Leader

On a day that America celebrates its independence, a Sioux Falls woman and her family will be thinking of the sacrifice her husband made to ensure that freedom.

Spc. Estell "Lee" Turner, 43, of Sioux Falls died Wednesday at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., after being injured when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device Saturday in Afghanistan.

A crew of three was hauling water and fuel to another site, and Turner was the gunner. When the explosion occurred, he was thrown off and suffered severe head injuries, his wife said. When he flew in from Germany, he was in a coma.

"It's tough. We've lost our best friend," said Leah Turner, 44. "He was the love of my life."

Turner was a motor transport operator assigned to Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Support) based in Fort Campbell, Ky., according to the governor's office.

Turner spent six years with the Army after high school and sought to re-enter at age 42 once the age limit was raised.

"It was something he wanted to do," Leah Turner said.

Turner is the 29th person with South Dakota ties to die while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He comes from a military family in which his wife is an Army reservist and his younger brother, John, is in the Army stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

President Bush awarded Turner's purple heart to his wife and brother Thursday, said Mary Turner, Lee Turner's sister-in-law. He has received other awards.

After Turner finished his military service in 1989, he was a mechanic in Fayetteville, N.C., Mary Turner said. He and brother John raced and fixed cars together, and Lee also played guitar.

"That's how I remember him," Mary Turner said. "He and his friends would get around and play guitar."

The dirt track is where he and Leah met. They would have celebrated their fifth anniversary Aug. 5. Her daughter, Lyda, 22, took Turner's last name, and they were quite close, her mother said.

"He was a hard worker. When it came to family, he was totally different," Leah Turner said. "His family came first."

The couple moved to Sioux Falls in 2006 for Leah Turner's transfer. Lee worked as an installer for DirecTV.

When the Army raised the age limit to 42, Turner knew it was his last chance, his wife said.

He started a four-week refresher course in White Sands, N.M., in March 2007, then did eight weeks of advanced training in Missouri a month later. He was assigned to Fort Campbell in June 2007.

Lee Turner had looked forward to being deployed to Afghanistan - his first tour in the war on terror - in March. But he knew the potential dangers of his convoy missions.

"He never seemed to be worried about it," Leah Turner said. "This is something he believed in. He thought it was right."

Survivors include his wife, Leah; his daughter, Lyda, of Broadway, N.C.; his mother, Gloria Turner, and sister, Gloria "Gucci" Turner, both of Jackson, Ky.; and his brother, John, of Fayetteville, N.C.

Services are tentatively set for Friday in Kentucky.

Roadside Blast Kills Meyers Grad



July 18, 2008 SHERRY LONG, The Times Leader

WILKES-BARRE – A Meyers High School graduate died Tuesday from injuries he suffered in a roadside bomb blast while serving in Afghanistan, his mother, Mary Rambus said Thursday.

U.S. Army Sgt. Douglas John Bull, 29, died at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan a few hours after the vehicle he was riding in was struck by improvised explosive device in Chow Kay Valley, Afghanistan, according to Army records.

He's the seventh soldier from Luzerne County to die in Iraq or Afghanistan since the war on terrorism began in 2001.

Bull, a member of the 1st Infantry Division stationed at Fort Hood near Killeen, Texas, was the only soldier to die in the bombing, Army records indicated.

"He was only over there for maybe two weeks. They were on a routine patrol," his mother said, her voice cracking.

Enlisting after his high school graduation in 1997, he was a career military man with nine years in the Army.

This was his third time to serve overseas. His mother said he previously served in Iraq for one year and three years in Germany.

She said he will be deeply missed.

“Everybody loved him. He was well-known. He had a great personality,” she said of her oldest son, who she said enjoyed playing paintball and football with friends.

Bull has a younger brother, Jacob, and three younger step-siblings, including John, Erica and Amanda.

Bull will be laid to rest in a veterans cemetery near Fort Hood, his mother said. Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery is in Killeen.

His body is expected to be returned stateside today and to Texas by Tuesday, his mom said.

She expects a memorial service will be held locally within a couple of weeks, but the details are still pending.

Even though Bull was not a Pennsylvania National Guard member, those soldiers also felt the loss of a brother in arms, said Sgt. 1st Class John Paul Karpovich of 109th Field Artillery of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Many soldiers from the 109th knew Bull’s father, Chris Bull, who served with the battalion’s service battery.

The Pennsylvania National Guard followed Army guidelines when notifying Bull’s family locally, Karpovich said.

A chaplain and casualty notification officer were sent to Rambus’ home and the soldier’s father Chris Bull’s home in Wapwallopen, Karpovich said.

Bull leaves a wife and two children, 6-year-old daughter Arianna and 3-year old son Jaden.

Resistance Action

July 19 (Xinhua) & Alexander Panetta, THE CANADIAN PRESS & (AFP)

A mine planted by militants in Dawamanda district of Khost province left one soldier dead and injured three others in military vehicle this morning, Lutfullah Babakarkhil the district governor told Xinhua.

A bomber blew himself up just several hundred metres away from the main coalition base in Kandahar. The bomber was spotted by an Afghan policeman on the main road

to Kandahar Airfield, tried running away, and detonated himself with nobody close by. One policeman was injured, while the bomber's body was ripped to pieces by the force of the blast.

Four Afghan police officers were killed in a bombing Saturday, police said. The Taliban said they had carried out the attack in Kandahar's Maiwand district. "A police vehicle which was on a routine patrol struck a roadside bomb. Four policemen were killed and another one was injured," police official Khan Mohammad told AFP.

Four police officers were killed when militants stormed their outpost in the eastern province of Paktia on Friday, the interior ministry said. Two other officers were missing, it said in a statement.

Another police officer was killed Friday when a roadside bomb hit the convoy of the police chief of central Ghazni province. The police chief survived the bombing, the ministry said.

It also reported that seven Afghan security guards working with NATO-led forces were killed in two separate bomb explosions Friday in the southern province of Helmand.

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

TROOP NEWS

**“No One Wants To Admit That The
Human Lives Lost So Far Were
Lost Over Something That
Shouldn't Be Going On In The
First Place. They Were”
“Saying This Does Not Disrespect
The Dead”**

“On The Contrary Admitting This Means Less Dead In The Long Run Which Is Something Soldier’s Generally Prefer”



An Exercise In Logic Or Why Republicans Have No Sense Of Reality:

July 18, 2008 By Phil C - Secretary IVAW Ventura, Angryveteran.blogspot.com; Open Source Revolution

One of the things I hear the most from the right about anti-war veterans goes something along the lines of "They joined after the war started. They knew what it was going to be like. They should just stop whining."

Note that this is the same logic that one would use to say that a man who had been in gang in his youth shouldn't speak out against gang violence. "He knew the gang was violent when he joined it. He should just stop whining."

See the similarities.

According to many Republicans you aren't allowed to decide that you made a bad decision, or that you've changed your mind.

Doing so makes you either a coward or a flip-flopper or both.

It seems odd to me that people from this right leaning side would read this and say "Oh no, that's not the same." Isn't it?

The examples given use identical logic. Both involve someone joining an organization prone to violence where exposure to death and injury is likely. Both later decide that what that organization is doing/did is wrong. Both decide to speak out against it.

The difference that Republicans would most likely quote is that the 'war' in Iraq isn't about crime like being in a gang is.

Well that of course just starts an endless debate (endless because anyone left supporting this war must be insane or stupid or both, and you can't argue with a stupid crazy person) over the legality of the 'war.'

Ok fine, let's pretend that the war is perfectly legal and we as a country are not just a lumbering giant of an asshole.

The logic is still identical between the two. Right and wrong are purely subjective concepts.

So whether or not you happen to think that gangs or the 'war' or anything else is wrong, it is up to the person making the decision to speak out to figure that out for themselves. This right to freedom of thought can not be suppressed.

So what do we learn from example one?

That Republican's don't think it's ok to change your mind or reform a decision based on environmental input. Interestingly enough this also contributes to an explanation of the right winged resistance to evolution and similar concepts that require analyzing information rather than being spoon fed it by a minister.

This also suggests that the far right prefers to have other people think for them.

The second example goes along similar lines.

They say "We have to finish what we started. We can't cut and run because then everything would be a waste."

This is argument compares to "I can't stop doing cocaine. I know it's damage my body and costing thousands of dollars that should be going to food shelter medicine and education, but if I stop using now then everything would be a waste."

Note again how similar these arguments are. I know that this is causing harm but if I stop then I'll have said that all the harm already caused didn't matter.

No cocaine addict trying to quit is going to make suggestions like "Well I'll consult with my dealer and we'll start negotiating a time table for me to stop using, but expect it to be gradual and happen over the next five to ten years. During this time countless more damage will be done and money wasted, but if I quit all at once then my dealer may have a hard time finding new clients."

Anyone saying that would be thrown into rehab faster then he could blurt out the entire paragraph. So why should this logic be reasonable when dealing with something that impacts millions of lives rather than just a handful?

No one wants to admit that the human lives lost so far were lost over something that shouldn't be going on in the first place.

They were.

Saying this does not disrespect the dead.

On the contrary admitting this means less dead in the long run which is something soldier's generally prefer.

So who are we helping by staying in this mess?

The estimated cost of the war is over five hundred billion dollars and growing by the day. That's one pricey addiction.

And that's only the financial side, which frankly isn't what bothers me. Money is money. A plaything for the rich and a drug for the poor.

No, the thing that concerns me is the over 1.2 million lives lost and the countless millions affected by this ordeal. Imagine a country occupied by drug dealers running around injecting people with heroin. No one would allow that to happen. In this case however, we have a few men at the top injecting the proverbial heroin into millions of people in three different countries.

There is no strictly logical refute to these analogies. Any argument would have to be based on either lies, mis truths, or subjective statements. When you can no longer provide a concrete logical argument based on fact (i.e. no subjectivity or opinion involved. So no exclaiming moral rights and wrongs.) then it is time to admit a wrong and cease activity.

We are not going to cause further damage by stopping the 'war.'

This is the same as saying a coke addict would only be hurting himself if he stopped using as soon as physically possible.

Leaving Iraq quickly won't cause a seizure. It may cause a semblance of peace, however, and we all know that peace is not in the best interest of the 'dealers' of the United States. i.e. Haliburton, GE, Texaco, Bush et all, etc.

The question basically comes down to this.

Are we as a nation willing to take care of ourselves and dictate our own futures based on logic and reason, or are we going to let the king think for us?

No one tells me how to think and I highly recommend it. Thinking for yourself is better then cocaine and best of all it doesn't cost a dime.

75% Of Americans For Gays Serving Openly In The Armed Forces

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

July 19, 2008 By Kyle Dropp and Jon Cohen, Washington Post Staff Writers

Public attitudes about gays in the military have shifted dramatically since President Bill Clinton unveiled what became his administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy 15 years ago today.

Seventy-five percent of Americans in a new Washington Post-ABC News poll said gay people who are open about their sexual orientation should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military, up from 62 percent in early 2001 and 44 percent in 1993.

Majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents alike now believe it is acceptable for openly gay people to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

Today, Americans have become more supportive of allowing openly gay men and women to serve in the armed forces.

Support from Republicans has doubled over the past 15 years, from 32 to 64 percent. More than eight in 10 Democrats and more than three-quarters of independents now support the idea, as did nearly two-thirds of self-described conservatives.

Furthermore, large majorities across age and education categories now support allowing openly gay individuals to serve in the military.

U.S. Army Recalls Thousands Of WWII Vets To Active Duty



Newly Recalled soldier Harold Roberts waits in line for his uniforms outside an Army personnel processing facility

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

17 July 2008 Written by Travis Higgins, TheSpooof.com

The U.S. Army announced today that it would be recalling thousands of aging WWII veterans to active duty over the next few months amid recent recruiting shortfalls and troop retention troubles.

With Iraq violence at a four year low and talk of Troop drawdowns as soon as September some lawmakers questioned the army's decision.

When asked about the move, Joint Chairman of the chief of staff for the Army General Dickey Hertz responded, "we are simply running out of time to utilize the experienced combat vets, they are dying off at an unprecedented rate and we need to utilize them before there gone".

Hertz continued by explaining the roll these aging seniors will play in the conflicts. "our studies have shown that these vets make excellent candidates for lead military drivers on convoys.

The are less likely to see hazards such as IED's that may scare a much younger driver and are more willing to dive through right them, and hell, who is really gonna miss a truck full of 80+ year old men? Most of these folk's friends and family are long gone anyways. It really clears the way for our younger, more capable soldiers"

While discussing to the conflict in Afghanistan the chairman remarked "most of these men are on oxygen anyway, this makes them ideal candidates for the high altitude operations we face in the mountains of Afghanistan.

"A challenge for younger soldiers, these men are already used to carrying around that heavy bottle and besides most of them already have it so it really cuts down on cost"

The Army announced the first round of recalled soldiers will report for in processing as soon as next week where they will be fitted for uniforms and sent to units with shortages after a two week military refresher course.

OOPS

July 21, 2008 Army Times

Watch out for munitions at the ninth hole.

Duffers at a Jackson, Tenn., golf course have extra incentive to keep their drives straight and stay out of the rough.

A man driving a bulldozer on the course uncovered a military-style rocket about 3 feet long and weighing 20 pounds, according to news reports.

A bomb-disposal team from Fort Campbell, Ky., removed the rocket from Hidden Valley Golf Course, took it to a nearby farm and destroyed it.

Investigators are trying to determine the source of the rocket and whether there could be other unexpected hazards on the course.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Hideous Anniversary

[Thanks to David McReynolds]

One week from today, Monday July 21, the United States will have been engaged in Iraq War II for a period exceeding that of our involvement in WW I and WW II combined.

Re: Extreme Discontent At Fort Carson: Remembering Jeneth

From: Marco, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: July 17, 2008
Subject: Re: GI Special 6G9: Fort Carson - "Extreme Discontent"

Really glad to see the tradition is carrying on there in my old stomping grounds.

The last few months of deserts storm/shield I remember camping out on I-115 (Nevada Ave) with just one other GI (he an E5 and me E3) while still on duty.

Every night camping with about 300 [anti-war] college students and community people there on that grassy median.

Every morning I'd get on base at sunrise as quick as I could and change into BDUs, etc.

I really should write up my experiences there and find a place to publish it in print.

Especially the time when Fort Carson's brass paid vacation time to anyone who wanted to spend an afternoon and evening across the street from us and protest us.

When it got dark and cold a lot of the army wives with their miniskirts started wrapping themselves in their american flags.

Jeneth, a 15 yr old daughter of an Air Force commissioned officer got so pissed off to see that she started crying.

But then tears quickly changed to action and she brought the 20 or so blankets across the street to them that we weren't using at the time asking them, "Please, use this instead of a flag, my daddy's over in Iraq and I know everything about that flag, it shouldn't be covering your miniskirt!"

I'd love to report that she converted everyone instantly, but she did make 5 new friends who all took turns coming over and hanging out with us long enough to ask us more complicated questions than "if you don't love it, why don't you leave..." etc.

It was chillingly profound to watch her work.

She was magic. I wonder if she's still like, teaching at Colorado College or something.

I bet she's a part of all that.

A Point Of View Expressed

July 18, 2008 Via REDVET

The man was fighting foreign invaders in his country of residence, and the Taliban were the government of Afghanistan with the inherent authority to defend their country before any other considerations.

The Taliban, detestable as they are, were no less legitimate rulers of Afghanistan than any other non-democratic rulers of the world.

That man is no less of a POW than any Nazi soldier who killed an American in Germany and was captured.

What do you know about the Geneva Convention anyway other than how wet it gets when you piss on it?

Mene Mene, Tekel, Upharsin

7.19.08 James Grant, Wall St. Journal [Excerpt]

In June 2007, Treasury securities constituted 92% of the Fed's earning assets.

"Nowadays, they amount to just 54%.

“In their place are, among other things, loans to the nation’s banks and brokerage firms, the very institutions whose share prices have been in a tailspin.

“Such lending has risen from no part of the Fed’s assets on the eve of the crisis to 22% today.

“Once upon a time, economists taught that a currency draws its strength from the balance sheet of the central bank that issues it.

“I expect that this doctrine, which went out with the gold standard, will have its day again.”

[WTF Is Mene Mene, Tekel, Upharsin?]

Wikipedia & Jewish Encyclopedia

Words written by a mysterious hand on the wall of Balthazar’s palace, and interpreted by Daniel as predicting the doom of the king and his dynasty.

Daniel read it "Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin" and explained it to mean that God had "numbered" the kingdom of Belshazzar and brought it to an end; that the king had been weighed and found wanting; and that his kingdom was divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Belshazzar is the last King of Babylon before the advent of the Medes and Persians.

The Medes were an ancient Iranian people.

“Later Usage”



In *The Hand-Writing upon the Wall* (1803), James Gillray caricatured Napoleon in the role of Belshazzar.

The phrase the writing on the wall has come to signify a portent of doom—or the end of an organization or activity.

To attribute to someone the ability to "read the writing on the wall" has come to signify the ability to foresee (not necessarily supernaturally) an inevitable decline and end.

The Oxford English Dictionary entry on writing has literary references to this phrase in English, including the following verse from the poem "The Run Upon The Bankers" by Jonathan Swift:

A baited banker thus desponds,
From his own hand foresees his fall,
They have his soul, who have his bonds;
'Tis like the writing on the wall.

TIME FOR IRAQ WAR OIL PROFITS TAXES

“Cash Flow For The Oil Companies Skyrocketed With The Iraqi Invasion”

Oil Companies Get No-Bid Contracts Back in Iraq



From: Nick Mottern
To: GI Special
Sent: July 17, 2008
Subject: WAR TAX

The top priorities in the use of revenue generated by these taxes should be: the restoration of human services to the Iraqi people; the rebuilding of the Iraqi economy; aid to families of Iraqi war victims; and providing U.S. veterans and their families, particularly the families of war casualties, with adequate income, health care and jobs.

By Nick Mottern, Director, ConsumersforPeace.org

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY - The reality of U.S. troops killing and dying for Iraqi oil hit U.S. public consciousness hard on June 19, 2008 when it was announced that the occupied government of Iraq intended to award no-bid oil service contracts to ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron and Total.

Political cartoonist Jeff Danziger deftly captured the contradiction of great wealth being amassed by giant oil companies in the midst of great suffering in a drawing showing celebrating, self-indulgent oil executives riding on the backs of two U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

One soldier says to the other: "This is what they really mean by 'Mission Accomplished.'"

Danziger hit not only the essence of the U.S. occupation in Iraq, he touched a deep vein in U.S. political history of revulsion against war profiteering.

In World Wars I and II and the Korean War, the United States imposed excess profits taxes on corporations not only to raise money to pay for the wars but also as an expression of simple decency, captured in a much-quoted statement of President Franklin Roosevelt in 1940: "I don't want to see a single war millionaire created in the United States as a result of this world disaster." Stuart Brandes describes the political climate for the World War II excess profits taxation in *Warhogs: A History of War Profits in America*:

"As Americans debated participation in what would become the most expensive war in their history, circumstances were uniquely favorable for a successful campaign against war profiteering. The social memory of profiteering during the Civil War and the Great War still gripped the popular imagination. The anti-profiteering constituency was large, determined, and well organized in Congress. The White House was occupied by an experienced, able, and popular leader who spoke eloquently and often against profiteering. The reservoir of support for anti-profiteering measures was therefore broad and deep."

Brandes also points out that economists and politicians had gathered knowledge of how to control war profits through the experience gained in World War I and further advanced in the years just prior to and into World War II.

The result was a series of excess profits laws starting in 1940 with rates below 50 percent, rising to 90 percent in 1942 and finally in 1943 a 95 percent tax on profits on earnings above a firm's average earnings for 1936-1939; or an alternative tax based on revenue compared to investment.

These excess profits taxes are credited in The Cambridge Economic History of the United States with generating two-thirds of the tax revenue from business between 1941 and 1945. Congress repealed the excess profits tax in 1945, effective January 1, 1946.

Now, more than two generations later, with national memory of war profits taxes faded, the U.S. and world economies reel under \$140/barrel oil prices - at their current levels in significant measure because of the Iraq War – while major privately-held oil companies pile up record profits in the midst of gross suffering on and off the battlefield.

Congress' Joint Economic Committee noted in a November 2007 report that the Iraq War has affected the world oil price by stunting Iraqi oil production and creating fear that the war will spread and further disrupt oil shipments. Nobel Laureate in economics Joseph Stiglitz and public finance expert Linda Bilmes report in The Three Trillion Dollar War that: "ExxonMobil and other oil companies have been among the few real beneficiaries of the (Iraq) war, as their profits and share prices have soared. Meanwhile, the economy as a whole has paid a high price."

ExxonMobil has accumulated \$163 billion in record profits in the five-year war period, not only because of the increase in oil prices but because of increased sales of petroleum products to the Pentagon, which amounted to \$4.2 billion from 2003 to 2007.

Shell and BP compete with ExxonMobil for leadership in Pentagon sales.

ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron and ConocoPhillips, the so-called Big Five oil producers, have benefited far more than their smaller American competitors during the war years. A study from the James W. Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University reported in 2007 that the profits of the Big Five in 2006, combined, amounted to \$120 billion compared to \$31 billion for the next 20 largest American oil firms, combined.

The Rice report shows that as cash flow for the oil companies skyrocketed with the Iraqi invasion and the rise in world oil prices, the Big Five used the increased income not so much for development, exploration, acquisitions or increased dividends as for buying back stock, increasing the wealth of management and large shareholders.

Excess war profits taxes are warranted now for the reasons they were imposed during previous wars, in the interest of decency and to capture revenue needed to respond to the demands associated with war. Part II will outline specific excess war profit tax proposals.

MORE:

TIME FOR IRAQ WAR OIL PROFITS TAXES – PART II

By Nick Mottern, Director, ConsumersforPeace.org

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY - Based on an analysis of economist Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, we estimate that about

25 percent of oil company profits since the 2003 invasion of Iraq can be traced to the war's impact on world oil prices.

On this basis the excess war profit for ExxonMobil alone between 2003 and 2008 would amount to about \$40 billion.

A 25% excess war profits tax imposed on the Big Five oil companies – ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron and ConocoPhillips - covering the first five years of the war would capture almost \$90 billion. This estimate takes into account that Shell and BP are not American companies and that excess profits taxes would be only on profits from their U.S. operations.

As discussed in Part I, there is justification for focusing the tax on the Big Five because of their size compared to their smaller competitors. The Big Five had combined profits of \$120 billion in 2005 compared to about \$31 billion for the next 20 largest oil firms combined, according to a 2007 report from the James W. Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. The report noted that the Big Five “also dominate the U.S. gasoline market with roughly 62% of the retail market and 50% of refining capacity.”

The Rice report found that the Big Five, unlike the smaller firms, have been spending a high proportion of their windfall profits on stock buybacks to enrich management and large stockholders. They were spending less, compared to their smaller competitors, on dividends, exploration, development and acquisitions.

The Big Five and other oil companies have been anxious for passage of an Iraq oil law that could lead to very favorable long-term production agreements, dramatically expanding their oil reserve holdings, the basis of their profit and survival. The prize in Iraq is the third largest proven oil reserve in the world under the control of an occupied government compliant to Western oil companies.

The U.S. Energy Information Agency notes that extraction costs for Iraq are among the lowest in the world. The Big Five and other oil companies have been importing oil from Iraq since before the invasion, purchasing it through that nation's oil company. Indeed in late 2002, just prior to the invasion, U.S. oil companies doubled their Iraqi imports to compensate for a drop in Venezuelan shipments. In April 2008, imports from Iraq to the U.S. were slightly below the level at the time of the invasion.

The following companies, along with the Big Five, imported Iraqi oil into the U.S. in January 2008: Flint Hills Resources, Koch Supply & Trading Company, Marathon Petroleum, Tesoro, Total and Valero. The Big Five and Valero are constant importers of Iraqi oil, month to month; imports by the other firms are less regular.

While the current oil imports are simply an extension of pre-invasion business, the fact of the invasion raises significant ethical, legal and war profit issues, particularly because the invasion was a violation of international law.

The invasion and occupation mean that oil that was being legitimately purchased from an independent Iraqi government entity prior to the invasion has become oil being purchased from an occupied government by firms in league with the occupier, raising questions about fairness in terms and price.

The invasion also means that U.S. military forces have been and continue to be used to secure Iraq's oil fields for exploitation by major oil companies that might otherwise not been given these rights.

The ethical and legal issues are brought into sharp focus by the controversy that has arisen around the occupied Iraqi government's announced intention to award no-bid oil service contracts to ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron and France's Total, clearly a sign of favoritism.

The wide publicity given to the sweetheart deal appears to have caused some Iraqi politicians to stall the awarding of the service contracts.

Reuters reported that Ali Hussain Balou, head of the Iraqi Parliament's oil and gas committee "demanded an explanation from Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani on plans to offer a series of short-term technical support contracts worth \$500 million each to a handful of Western oil majors without competitive bidding."

One could argue, therefore, that imports of oil from Iraq to the U.S. should be barred on ethical grounds.

However, another approach, which recognizes the pre-existing oil trade between the two countries and the mutual benefit of that trade, would be to impose a 95% excess war profits tax on all oil imported from Iraq for as long as any U.S. military forces, including military contractors, are on Iraqi soil.

Following a precedent in World War II excess profits tax law, a base line for measuring profit on the oil imports could be an average of profits over several years prior to the invasion.

This tax would cover oil now being imported into the U.S. from Iraq and any expansion of imports. For the Big Five this tax would be added to the excess war profits tax applied to their annual profits across the board.

The top priorities in the use of revenue generated by these taxes should be: the restoration of human services to the Iraqi people; the rebuilding of the Iraqi economy; aid to families of Iraqi war victims; and providing U.S. veterans and their families, particularly the families of war casualties, with adequate income, health care and jobs.

Troops Invited:

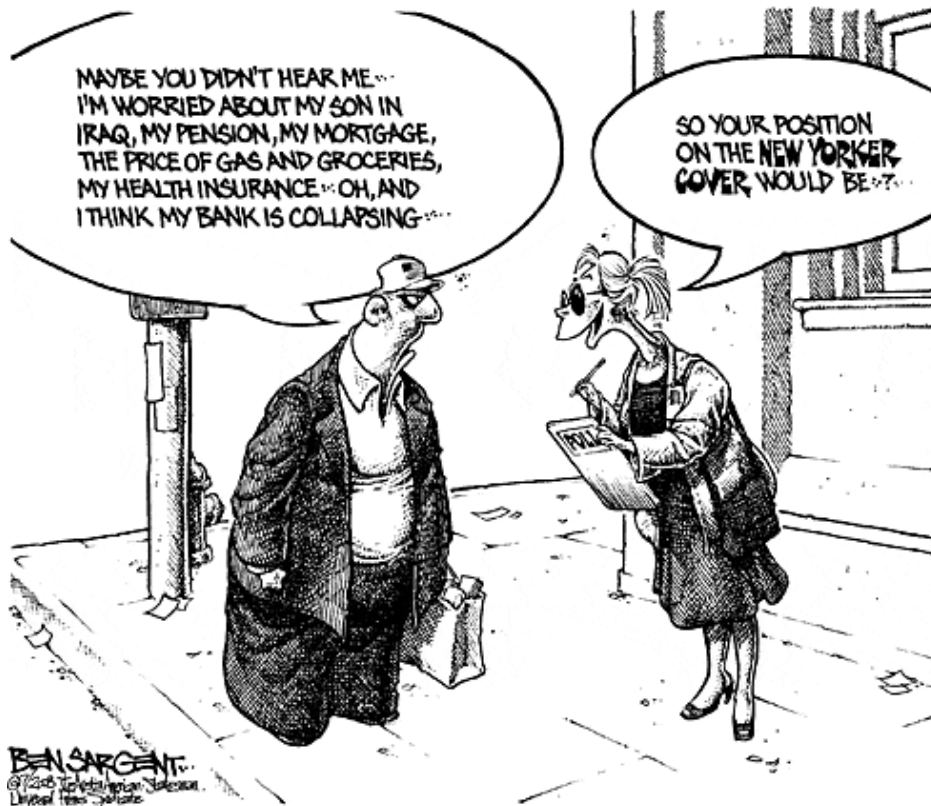
What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



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NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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