

GI SPECIAL 6K13:



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

**“From Karachi To Kabul
There Is Trouble”**

**“The Whole Route Is
Insecure”**

**Afghan Resistance Cutting Off
Supplies For U.S. Forces:**

“The Taliban, They Tell Us, ‘These Goods Belong To The Americans. Don’t Bring Them To The Americans. If You Do, We’ll Kill You’”
“Heavy Security Along The Pakistan-To-Afghanistan Route Has Slowed NATO Supply Traffic To A Trickle At Torkham”

Rahmanullah, 28, said the attacks have become so commonplace in recent months and so costly for NATO suppliers that Taliban raiders have begun issuing receipts to drivers when they strike. “The Taliban give us letters to give to the Americans that say that the Taliban has taken the truck, because otherwise no one would believe us and they would think we destroyed it ourselves.”

Nov. 19, 2008 By Candace Rondeaux and Walter Pincus, The Washington Post

TORKHAM, Afghanistan

A rise in Taliban attacks along the length of a vital NATO supply route that runs through this border town in the shadow of the Khyber Pass has U.S. officials seeking alternatives, including the prospect of beginning deliveries by a tortuous overland journey from Europe.

Supplying troops in landlocked Afghanistan has long been the Achilles’ heel of foreign armies here, most recently the Soviets, whose forces were nearly crippled by Islamist insurgent attacks on vulnerable supply lines.

About 75 percent of NATO and U.S. supplies bound for Afghanistan -- including gas, food and military equipment -- are transported over land through Pakistan.

To get here, they start in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi and move north through Pakistan’s volatile North-West Frontier Province and tribal areas before arriving at the Afghan border.

The convoys then press forward along mountain hairpin turns through areas of Afghanistan that are known as havens for insurgents.

Drivers at this busy border crossing say the death threats from the Taliban now arrive almost daily.

Sometimes they come in the form of a letter taped to the windshield of a truck late at night. Occasionally, a dispatcher receives an early-morning phone call before a convoy sets off from Pakistan.

More often, the threats are delivered at the end of a gun barrel.

“The Taliban, they tell us, ‘These goods belong to the Americans. Don’t bring them to the Americans. If you do, we’ll kill you,’” said Rahmanullah, a truck driver from the Pakistani tribal town of Landikotal.

“From Karachi to Kabul there is trouble. The whole route is insecure.”

The growing danger has forced the Pentagon to seek far longer, but possibly safer, alternate routes through Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, according to Defense Department documents.

A notice to potential contractors by the U.S. Transportation Command in September said that “strikes, border delays, accidents and pilferage” in Pakistan and the risk of “attacks and armed hijackings” in Afghanistan posed “a significant risk” to supplies for Western forces in Afghanistan.

A reliable supply route is considered vital to sustaining the approximately 67,000 foreign troops stationed in Afghanistan, including 32,000 Americans.

A week ago, a bold Taliban raid on a NATO supply convoy on the Pakistani side of the pass forced authorities to temporarily close traffic through Torkham. For days after the attack on the 23-truck convoy, many of the hundreds of truckers who regularly traverse this treacherous route were stranded as they watched their profits dwindle.

Pakistani authorities reopened the NATO supply route through Torkham on Monday after assigning extra security to the convoys.

But on Tuesday, a day after the reopening, dozens of truck drivers seemed far from certain that their troubles were over.

The attack in the Khyber tribal area on the Pakistani side of the border last week was one in a series in recent months that has cost NATO suppliers millions in losses this year.

In March, insurgents set fire to 40 to 50 NATO oil tankers near Torkham. A month later, Taliban raiders made off with military helicopter engines valued at about \$13 million.

NATO and U.S. military officials have said raids on the supply line from Pakistan to Afghanistan have not significantly affected their operations. Yet the scramble to find new routes appears to indicate the attacks have had some effect.

Meanwhile, heavy security along the Pakistan-to-Afghanistan route has slowed NATO supply traffic to a trickle at Torkham, according to Afghan customs officials and drivers here.

To the east, more than 1,000 trucks waited at a near-standstill on the Pakistani side of the pass on Tuesday, engines idling in an hours-long purgatory of dust and unmet deadlines.

To the west, a thin stream of tractor-trailers lurched toward the Afghan customs office, churning slowly through an unceasing throng of merchants, day laborers and refugees.

Security restrictions forced customs officials to slow the flow of traffic to 25 trucks every few hours.

Before the Taliban raid and border closure last week, an average of 600 to 800 tractor-trailers moved through Torkham a day, according to Afghan customs officials. Customs officials said they hoped at best to see 200 trucks pass through on Tuesday.

Yet many expect raids on the convoys to continue.

Rahmanullah, 28, said the attacks have become so commonplace in recent months and so costly for NATO suppliers that Taliban raiders have begun issuing receipts to drivers when they strike.

“The Taliban give us letters to give to the Americans that say that the Taliban has taken the truck, because otherwise no one would believe us and they would think we destroyed it ourselves,” Rahmanullah said.

“No one would question a letter like this from the Taliban.”

MORE:

[And Now For The Good News] “At Least 28 Locations Across The Country Are Reachable Only By Air”

11.24.08 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The Army is assessing a new type of parachute that will better enable it to deliver bigger loads of much-needed supplies to troops stationed in austere, remote locations in Afghanistan.

At least 28 locations across the country are reachable only by air, said Maj. Jay Schroder, services chief in the logistics shop for Combined Joint Task Force-101.

“Everywhere else it’s emergency supply,” he said about aerial delivery of supplies. “Here it’s regular supply.”

The most commonly dropped supplies include ammunition, construction materials, food and water.

So far this year, more than 7 million pounds of supplies, or almost 5,800 bundles, have been delivered from the air to troops in the field, said Capt. Christian Patterson, a spokesman for CJTF-101.

“The system was designed as an emergency resupply,” Schroder said. “It has become a critical piece of our resupply.”

He added that many platoon-level combat outposts would not receive the necessary supplies without the LCLA.

MORE:

[And Now For More Good News] “It Can Take As Long As Three Hours For An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle To Reach Battlefields”

Nov 11, 2008 By Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today [Excerpts]

The Pentagon is building a series of air bases in eastern Afghanistan as part of its massive expansion of a system that uses drone aircraft to spy on and attack Taliban insurgents, according to interviews and documents.

In Afghanistan, harsh winters and a lack of airstrips near the fighting can hinder drone flights. It can take as long as three hours for an unmanned aerial vehicle to reach battlefields, particularly in the rugged mountain area near the border with Pakistan.

That area has seen some of the toughest fighting for U.S. troops. By contrast, it can take as little as 10 minutes for a drone to reach hot spots in Baghdad because the Iraqi capital has more air bases, said Dyke Weatherington, deputy director of the Pentagon’s un-manned aerial systems task force.

“What the (Pentagon) is trying to do is go in and develop bases closer to those areas that we know we’re going to have a sustained presence after a long period of time,” Weatherington said.

“In fact, recently we set up a couple of additional bases closer to the Pakistan border that cut down those transit times.” Col. Greg Julian, a military spokesman in Afghanistan, said in an e-mail that the military is adding more bases to accommodate drones and additional troops.

The military is developing drones with better deicing systems to help deal with the Afghan winters, he said.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Death Of Local Soldier

11/13/2008 By Kiri Lanice Walton, WILLIAMSON HERALD

Timothy Walker recalled as 'country, Middle Tennessee' guy

Veterans Day had even more meaning for one Franklin family this year.

Staff Sgt. Walker Timothy, a 38-year-old combat medic and Williamson County native, was killed Saturday when a roadside bomb hit his convoy in Iraq.

He was assigned to the 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colo. He would have returned home in February and had a year and a half left before he retired.

Barbara Shearer described her son as a big old guy with a big old heart. He was 6'7".

His stepfather, Gary Shearer, manager of the Franklin Elks Lodge, remembers his son as a man who loved his children, his family, his country...and cooking ribs.

"He was a country, Middle Tennessee kind of guy," Gary said.

He played basketball during his junior and senior years of high school at Fairview High, where he graduated in 1988.

"He always had a smile on his face. He was one of those guys that would do anything for you. He just had a great disposition, always smiled whenever you talked to him," Assistant Principal Ricky Jones said. "I really appreciate what he's done for the country."

Timothy was married to wife, Dawn, and they had son, Gregory, 7, and daughter, Madison, 3.

"Those children meant more to him than anything," Gary said. "And he loved his mother, Barbara."

Barbara flew into Fort Carson on Wednesday, and Gary will fly in Thursday. The last time she talked to her son was the Sunday before he was killed.

Her husband had purchased a laptop so that she could communicate with her son, who she calls Timmy.

She joked that she did not know how to send e-mails and that she and her husband lived in a cave. However, she learned to use e-mail and messaged her son.

He replied that he loved them and replied, "Have fun with your new computer. Thank God you finally got out of the cave."

His family learned of his death on Sunday, but the Army will not release if any others were killed from the bomb explosion.

This was his second tour of Iraq, where he deployed in November 2007. His first tour was from November 2005 to November 2006.

In Camp Taji, Iraq, Walker would train medics and then observe as they taught classes until they were fully competent. He provided coordination and oversight.

The process was called a “train the trainer” method, which allows Iraqis to maintain training after Walker’s brigade redeployed.

Walker arranged for the Iraqi Army brigades to attend a medical supply class at Camp Taji, which allows each unit its own qualified and trained medical supply personnel.

“In the end this will allow these medics to be more self-sufficient while gaining the respect of their peers in the Iraqi Army. We have also taken pressure off our NPTT/MiTT’s allowing them to concentrate on other areas of instruction,” Walker said in an article published in September by Blackanthem Military News and written by Capt. David Mitchell 64th BSB, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B).

Walker received many awards, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal during his 18 years of service in the Army.

Currently, Walker’s unit is helping secure Sadr City in northeast Baghdad. Walker is the first Fort Carson soldier killed in about a month, and his death marks the post’s 244th casualty in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The funeral will be held on Friday in Fort Carson, Colo. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be given to Dawn Walker, care of Elks Lodge, 485 Oak Meadow Drive, Franklin, TN 37064.

“It Seems To Me That Things Are Getting Worse”

“It Was Not Like This Even Two Weeks Ago”

November 14, 2008 By Anwar Ali, The New York Times [Excerpt]

BAGHDAD – It seems to me that things are getting worse.

This week I was at the scene of a bombing, reporting a news story about three explosions in Adhamiya.

I remember the smell of the blood, the flies all around and the injured people, the broken glass and the destruction.

I still remember the face of the restaurant's owner who was sitting in the middle of the wreckage looking at Joao, our photographer, who was taking his picture. There was nothing on his face, no expression.

I noticed he was framed by the damage to his restaurant. All around him lay the shawarma meat and broken tables and awning of the building, and I don't know how many of his workers and customers were killed in the explosion. I know one of his workers was an Egyptian, and he became a piece of ash near the shawarma machine.

The place was a very easy target for anyone who wanted to explode themselves or fire mortars, but I kept on interviewing people and then we went to the nearest hospital to meet the wounded.

It was horrible to see them all bloody and some of them said, "please don't take photos" They thought that we were a TV channel. One man said: "I don't want my wife and children to see me in such a condition, lying in a hospital bed with blood on my shirt and wounds on my face."

I do not think I am more cautious or worried than most people. In Adhamiya I was the only woman on the street while the police were clearing away the remains of the explosion, the glass, blood, clothes and the pieces of meat left over from restaurants.

But it seems to be that things are getting worse, and I am now being more careful to avoid crowded places and bazaars.

Yesterday I went home before sunset, which means I still have an hour to take my daughter to a nearby bazaar, or to walk to a small park near our apartment. My mother refused to let us do so because she expects explosions any time and because she was so worried by the explosions in Adhamiya.

I was surprised at my mother's reaction because I am a journalist and I am in touch with what is going on in Baghdad, with the explosions and shootings.

In The New York Times's office I am the one who sits next to the whiteboard where we record explosions, shootings and other deaths in Iraq.

Since two days before Barack Obama's victory I started to notice the board filling up again.

There are many explosions. Many of them are small, but some days we have to start a new column.

It was not like this even two weeks ago.

But my mother lives in a safe, Shiite neighborhood, and always sticks to her house. The reason she thinks the situation is becoming worse is because of what she hears speaking to friends and neighbors whose relatives were killed or injured.

Some people are saying that the Americans are making the bombings to make Iraqis believe that it is very important for them to stay in Iraq, that they are still needed.

The Americans say that when they withdraw from Iraq violence will increase.

Is that a threat? You can read it as a threat, or you can read it as an expectation.

Some Iraqis take it as a threat.

Some people are asking: "Are the Americans punishing us with bombings because Iraq has refused to sign the SOFA?" (Status of Forces Agreement)

Here that is a reality, people think it.

I can see it in people's eyes when they say it to me.

Real belief in what they are saying.

MORE:

**"It Seems Like More Than Some
People Think All These Bombings
Are From The Americans"
"At Times It Seems Like Everyone
Thinks So"
"We Are Occupied"**

November 14, 2008 By Campbell Robertson in Baghdad, The New York Times [Excerpt]

It seems like more than some people think all these bombings are from the Americans.

At times it seems like everyone thinks so.

Just two days ago I went to cover a car bombing in what had been a relatively peaceful part of eastern Baghdad. The bomb exploded in a parking lot surrounded by doctors' offices and pharmacies. My colleague, Mudhafer, and I searched for one of the doctors, walking through bombed-out buildings filled with broken glass and overturned furniture. Finally, in one of the pharmacies we found Dr Daniel Khafaji, a clean-shaven man in a pin striped suit.

"It is only the SOFA," he said casually, referring to the contentious security agreement being negotiated between the Americans and Iraqis.

"This is all in the interest of the Americans. We are occupied."

He said that American troops were seen near the bomb only 10 minutes before it went off, a line that you hear so often it has almost become a formality, and he repeated the usual theory: the Americans said there would be violence if the SOFA, which sets the conditions for the Americans' continued presence in Iraq after the end of the year, didn't pass.

It hasn't passed so here's the violence.

If it makes sense it must be true.

Once we left the pharmacy I expressed my frustration to Mudhafer. Don't they realize it's in the interest of the Americans for everything to be quiet right now? That all of this violence actually makes the Americans look bad? That the Bush administration above all wants its last months to be uneventful ones?

Mudhafer astutely suggested that the insurgents are savvy enough to understand how this thinking works and could be taking advantage of it to cause chaos.

Later I brought it up to some other colleagues in the bureau and they said they had been hearing the exact same theory — word for word almost — at just about every attack they went to cover.

Forget theory: this is now received knowledge. These next few months are not going to be easy.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: HOME, NOW



A U.S. soldier in a village near Baquba in Diyala province October 23, 2008.
REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

First Fatal Attack On Warrior Personnel Carrier

November 18, 2008 The Sun Online

A woman Army officer's legs were shattered in the giant blast that killed a Gurkha sniper in the Afghan badlands, it has emerged.

The dead Nepalese soldier was named yesterday as dad-of-two Colour Sergeant Krishna Dura, 36, of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Two more soldiers were seriously wounded in Saturday's attack, which left the woman — a captain in the Royal Artillery — with both legs broken.

A huge homemade Taliban bomb tore the side of their 25-ton armoured Warrior personnel carrier.

It was the first fatal attack on a Warrior in Afghanistan, and took the Brit death toll in the country since 2001 to 125.

Three Czech Soldiers Injured In Logar

18.11.2008 ČTK

Kabul/Prague - Three Czech soldiers were injured in the Afghan province Logar today when their vehicle drove over a home-made bomb, the Czech general staff said.

In the morning one of the American Humvees that was part of the Czech Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) convoy drove over an improvised explosive system and the front of the vehicle was damaged in the explosion.

Three soldiers in the car suffered bruises and lacerations, Jana Ruzickova from the general staff said.

After receiving treatment on the spot, the soldiers were moved to the Czech PRT base in Shank where doctors are attending to them.

Such incidents involving Czech soldiers are frequent in the turbulent Afghan province Logar where the Czech soldiers operate as part of the PRT.

The Czech military command is also seeking to quickly re-equip the soldiers in Afghanistan with new technologies.

By the end of this month the military will receive 15 German armoured vehicles Dingo 2 which provide increased protection against mines and improvised explosive systems.

How Many Different Ways Can You Spell Fucked? Here's #1:

November 19, 2008 By Julian E. Barnes, Los Angeles Times

U.S. troops in Afghanistan will continue pursuing extremists in the eastern part of the country over the brutal winter months, *but lack the forces in southern areas to mount the same offensive, the top U.S. commander there said Tuesday.*

U.S. efforts in eastern Afghanistan ***could be*** helped by pressure on extremist groups from Pakistan, said Gen. David D. McKiernan, the U.S. and NATO commander.

But U.S. and allied commanders in the south must await the arrival of extra troops sought by McKiernan.

Southern Afghanistan includes Helmand province and the city of Kandahar, traditional areas of greater Taliban strength.

In an address to the Atlantic Council of the United States think tank in Washington, McKiernan said that his standing request for about 20,000 additional troops would be approved -- ***"hopefully quickly"*** -- by U.S. officials.

McKiernan is seeking combat brigades, aviation support and logistics specialists.

One brigade already approved is scheduled to arrive by February.

MORE:

Here's #2: "Extraordinary" Stress On Combat Troops Produced By Endless Iraq And Afghan Wars "A Little Worse" Says JCS Chief

11.19.08 By ROBERT BURNS (AP) [Excerpts]

Stress on U.S. troops from repeated combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan is “extraordinary” and may be worsening even as fighting eases in Iraq, the military’s top officer says.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Adm. Mike Mullen expressed *hope* that the strain will be relieved *gradually* as the Marine Corps and Army expand the pool of available forces.

The Army, while also growing, will take longer to put additional combat units into the pipeline for fighting wars, he said.

When he became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff a little over a year ago, Mullen made much of his concern that stress on the force — and on troops’ families — could undermine military readiness.

Since then, improved security in Iraq has opened the door to a withdrawal, or at least a slowdown in troop rotations there.

But at the same time conditions in Afghanistan have worsened and commanders there are calling for substantially more troops.

Thus, slack in Iraq is being taken up by the push into Afghanistan.

He was asked whether he has seen any easing of stress in recent months.

“I still think it’s probably about where it was — it may be a little worse,” he said.

Pentagon officials, including Mullen, have consistently rejected timelines for pulling troops out of Iraq, saying any withdrawal must be based on security conditions in Iraq.

At the same time, military leaders have said they need 15,000 to 20,000 more troops in Afghanistan — including four more combat brigades.

Resistance Action

November 17 (RIA Novosti) & The Associated Press & 11/18/08 (RTTNews) & 11.19.08 AFP

The U.S. Bagram Air Base came under rocket attack on Sunday, but no damage or casualties were reported.

Afghani militants have also fired projectiles at several administrative buildings in the southeastern province of Ghazni. Again, no one was killed or injured in the attack.

Two police officers and a civilian died Monday when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a government office in Kandahar’s Dand district, Ayubi said. Three other

police were wounded when officers tried to stop the bomber from entering the offices of the district chief, he said.

Tuesday, six Afghan soldiers were injured, when their patrol vehicle hit a roadside mine in Kandahar province, the defense ministry said.

Six Afghan soldiers were killed, one of them beheaded, in a battle with Taliban insurgents, authorities said on Tuesday. Five of the soldiers were killed in a gunfight that erupted after Taliban militants ambushed an army patrol late on Monday in the Bala Buluk district of Farah province, military Corps Commander for western Afghanistan Fazal Ahmad Sayar told AFP.

TROOP NEWS

War Profiteer Filth At Lee Dynamics Got Fresh \$1 Million From Pentagon Crooks After Bribing Army Officers

11/17/08 By Matt Kelley, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — A firm suspended from U.S. government contracts for bribing Army officers was awarded a new contract in Iraq two days after the suspension was imposed, government investigators found.

The Pentagon paid the suspended company more than \$1 million under the new contract.

Contracting officers gave Lee Dynamics International a new contract in July 2007 despite warnings from military lawyers, according to a report issued by Stuart Bowen, special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction (SIGIR). The Joint Contracting Command-Iraq did not return calls on why Lee Dynamics was awarded the new contract.

The new, one-year contract allowed Lee Dynamics to continue operating warehouses for the Iraqi security forces.

Army Maj. Gloria Davis, who was involved in awarding the company's initial contract in 2005, killed herself in December 2006 after telling investigators that she took \$225,000 in bribes from company founder George Lee, federal court records show. Another Army officer, Lt. Col. Levonda Selph, pleaded guilty last year to taking \$9,000 in bribes.

Neither Lee nor his company has been charged with a crime.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Nov 15 (KUNA) & Nov 17 (Reuters) & 11.19 Reuters

Three policemen were severely injured Saturday when an improvised explosive device blast targeted their patrol at Al-Otaifiyah intersection in Baghdad, police sources said. The explosive device went off as a police patrol passed by Al-Otaifiyah Bank, western Baghdad.

A car bomber killed 7 policemen in Jalawla, 115 km (70 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed two U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol members and wounded five in northern Baghdad's Shaab district, police said.

A parked car bomb wounded 17 people when it blew up near a the headquarters of Iraqi and U.S. forces in Amara, capital of Maysan province, 300 km (185 miles) southeast of Baghdad, said Latif al-Tamimi the head of the security committee on the provincial council.

A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded three others when it struck their patrol on Sunday in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Police said they found the body of a member of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol in Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad. The body bore gunshot wounds.

A bomb carried on a handcart killed one policeman and wounded three policemen when it detonated near a checkpoint in central Mosul, police said.

A parked car bomb wounded 17 people when it blew up near a the headquarters of Iraqi and U.S. forces in Amara, capital of Maysan province, 300 km (185 miles) southeast of Baghdad.

Two roadside bombs exploding in quick succession wounded two police in Baghdad's southwestern Dora neighbourhood, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded one Iraqi soldier in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber hit an Iraqi army patrol, wounding two soldiers in eastern Mosul, police said.

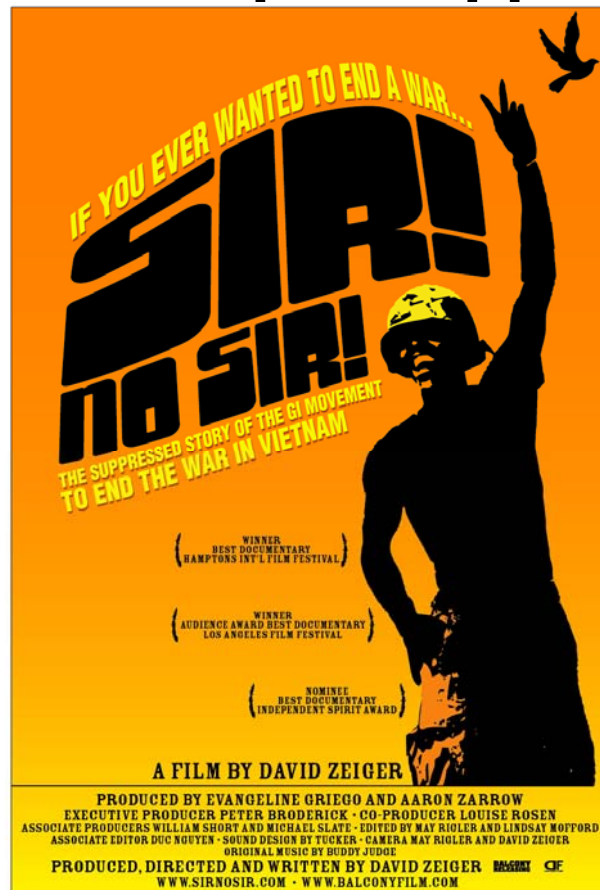
<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS</p>
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FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

When The Troops Stopped A War:



Sir! No Sir!:
At A Theatre Near You!

To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.**

Also available is a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

**BUY SIR! NO SIR! FOR ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS
NOW**

**HELP GET SIR! NO SIR!
INTO THE HANDS THAT NEED IT MOST**

Since Sir! No Sir! opened in theaters last April, many activists and friends of the film have argued that it should be made available to everyone for free. I couldn't agree more. In the world I want to live in, films like Sir! No Sir! and, in fact, all art would be free to everyone.

But in that world, films would not cost hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to make. In that world, artists could survive and continue making the films people need.

That's not the world we live in. In this world, we need your direct support.

The best way to both support and spread Sir! No Sir! is to buy and help distribute the DVD, especially the new "Director's Edition" that includes 1 1/2 hours of incredible new stories from the GI Movement both then and now.

This DVD is available at www.sirnosir.com and in stores and websites everywhere. If you've already bought one, buy another for a friend.

Or buy several to hand out--and play an important role in getting this long-suppressed story into everyone's hands.

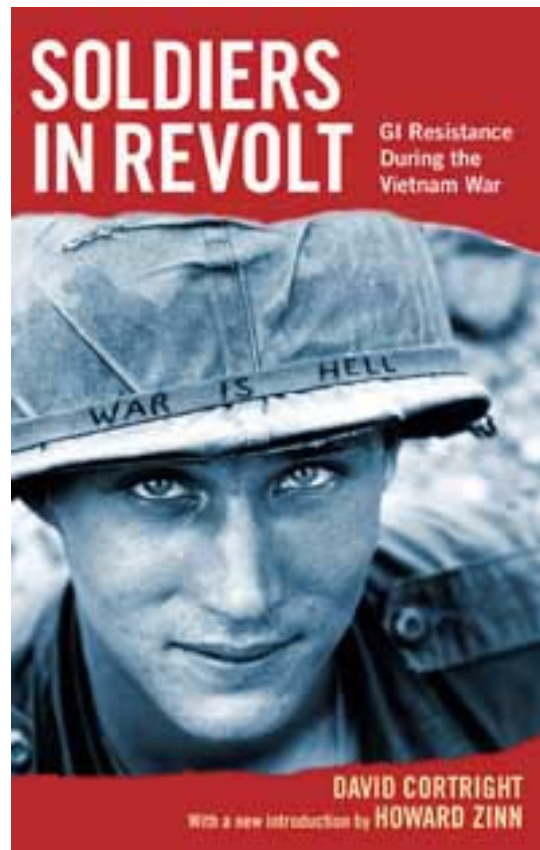
David Zeiger and Jade Fox
Displaced Films
jadefox@sirnosir.com

**"To Avoid An Embarrassing Public
Confrontation, The General Was**

Forced To Sneak In The Back Entrance Of His Hotel”

“Nearly One Hundred GIs Boldly Gathered Across From The Reviewing Stand Behind A Huge Banner Reading ‘GIs For Peace’”

“The Response From Soldiers Forced To March In The Parade Proved Embarrassing To The Assembled Commanders: Hundreds Raised Clenched Fists In Solidarity With The Demonstrators”



[A quantity of stupid drivel has appeared in the past few years asserting that it was the civilian opposition to the Vietnam war that led the movement in the armed forces. As you will see below, the sweeping upsurge against the war revealed by

troops in 1969-1970 gave heart and leadership to the anti-war movement among civilians, whose public demonstrations were growing every smaller. Sound familiar? T]

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community. The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

From: SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books. [Excerpts]

On October 11 [1969] nearly one hundred Fort Bragg soldiers, mostly Vietnam veterans, marched in a Moratorium demonstration in Fayetteville. On October 15, protests occurred in San Antonio and Colorado Springs.

At Fort Sam Houston, approximately 150 soldiers signed a petition sponsored by the new paper Your Military Left, requesting facilities for a meeting on post. Their plea was rejected, though, and the Moratorium gathering was held instead in downtown San Antonio.

At Fort Carson, Vietnam veterans Tom Roberts and Curtis Stocker, editors of Aboveground, encountered a series of command restrictions aimed at preventing them from attending an evening demonstration in Colorado Springs. Despite the obstruction, later documented in an official Fort Carson memorandum leaked to the New York Times, the two managed to elude their would-be captors and joined seventy-five fellow soldiers for the anti-war observance in Acacia Park.

A few days later, on October 20, the ASU [American Servicemen's Union] chapter at Fort Lewis called a meeting at an on-post service club to discuss the war and the need for GI organizing; the gathering was broken up by MPs, however, resulting in the arrest of thirty-five GIs and three civilians.

As the country prepared for the second wave of Moratorium actions, in November, an extraordinary full-page ad appeared in the New York Times Sunday edition of November 9.

A statement calling for an end to the war and support for the planned November 15 mobilization in Washington, D.C., was signed by 1,366 active-duty servicemen. Included among the signees were 189 soldiers in Vietnam, 141 GIs at Fort Bliss, and people on over eighty additional bases and ships throughout the world.

The statement had a dramatic impact within the peace movement and was at least partly responsible for the success of the events on the following weekend.

The huge November 15 peace rally in Washington (attended by some 250,000 people) was led by a contingent of over two hundred GIs, many of them associated with the local GI paper, Open Sights.

The next day, fifty of the servicemen joined in a picket line at the Court of Military Appeals Building to protest the injustices of military law.

A simultaneous rally in Los Angeles on the fifteenth also was headed by active-duty servicemen, including fifty Marines from Camp Pendleton.

The November Moratorium also witnessed a series of important actions by one of the most dynamic new groups of the GI movement, Fort Bliss "GIs for Peace."

The organization was formally launched on August 17, 1969, when several hundred soldiers, many of them assigned to the Defense Language Institute (DLI), gathered in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon to proclaim the following purposes: to promote peace, secure constitutional rights for servicemen, combat racism, improve enlisted living conditions, and provide aid to the local chicano community.

Through Gigline, an unusually well-written and articulate GI paper, the activists quickly attracted widespread local support -- and as a result, encountered serious repression. Paul Nevins, a drafted Ph.D. student and the group's first chairman, was shipped out to Germany; Gigline's first editor received abrupt orders to Vietnam; and three other leading organizers were suddenly transferred to different bases, just hours before a scheduled Moratorium protest. In all, ten soldiers received transfer orders in the organization's first five months of existence.

New members always rose to fill the vacuum, though, and the group's activities proved remarkably successful.

One of their first actions involved an anti-war protest at the traditional Veterans Day parade in El Paso.

As weapons and marching units filed by in the November 11 pageant, nearly one hundred GIs boldly gathered across from the reviewing stand behind a huge banner reading "GIs for Peace."

The response from soldiers forced to march in the parade proved embarrassing to the assembled commanders: hundreds flashed the "V" for peace sign or raised clenched fists in solidarity with the demonstrators.

On Moratorium day, the group urged students at DLI to boycott the noon meal and gather for a period meditation at a nearby chapel. Nearly a dozen plain-clothes men and officers showed up at the church to intimidate the protesters, but sixty soldiers braved the threats and carried out the prayer meeting as planned.

The neighboring enlisted mess hall, meanwhile, was three fourths empty - despite the rare attendance of a huge contingent of officers.

The anti-war upsurge culminated the following Saturday, when several hundred Fort Bliss soldiers marched at the head of a peace rally in downtown El Paso.

The third series of Moratorium protests, scheduled for December, produced two additional GI demonstrations, including one of the largest and most militant gatherings in the history of the GI movement.

At Fort Bragg, a growing GIs United Against the War sponsored another rally in Fayetteville, this time attended by two hundred soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The more significant action, however, came on December 14 in Oceanside, California.

In the largest Moratorium demonstration in the country on that day, an estimated one thousand servicepeople joined a crowd of four thousand in a march and rally near Camp Pendleton.

The event united black, white, and chicano GIs behind a strongly anti-imperialist and anti-racist program and marked the founding of an important new GI organization, Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM).

Operating out of the "Green Machine" coffeehouse in Vista, Camp Pendleton Marines launched the paper Attitude Check and established MDM as an openly revolutionary organization.

Their program called for the right to collective bargaining, constitutional rights for all servicepeople, abolition of the court-martial system and its replacement with a jury and court of peers, the end of officer privileges, the elimination of racism, freedom for all political prisoners, and an immediate pullout from Vietnam.

During a visit to the area in February 1970, Marine Commandant General Leonard Chapman labeled MDM "a serious threat to the defense of this country."

Because of internal disputes, however, Pendleton MDM faltered, and by the summer of 1970 split into factions, with a new paper, All Ready on the Left, replacing Attitude Check.

Despite these difficulties at Camp Pendleton, the idea of MDM proved attractive to other radical servicemen. During the first half of 1970, the group's program and name were adopted at six other locations: San Diego, Long Beach Naval Station, El Taro MCAS, Fort Ord, Fort Carson, and Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

As GI organizing flourished, the factionalism that hindered MDM became evident at other bases, with several separate organizations often existing on one post at the same time.

No such divisiveness hindered soldier organizing at Fort Bliss.

By adopting a broad, non-partisan approach, GIs for Peace successfully united a large number of servicemen and, despite a lack of civilian aid, carried on an extensive program of anti-war activity.

One particularly effective demonstration occurred during a January 1970 visit to El Paso by Army Chief of Staff William Westmoreland. When the former Vietnam

commander arrived in the city on the fifteenth to deliver an address, he was greeted by a picket line of eighty local soldiers.

To avoid an embarrassing public confrontation, the general was forced to sneak in the back entrance of his hotel.

The largest GIs for Peace gathering, indeed one of the largest in the history of the GI movement, was a March 15 rally in El Paso's McKelligan Canyon. Approximately two thousand people, including more than eight hundred servicemen, came together for a festival of political speeches and rock music, in a massive display of local anti-war sentiment.

At Fort Devens, about twenty GIs join several hundred civilians for the first rally ever attempted at this base. The paper Morning Report appears for the first time.

Seventy-five soldiers and five hundred civilians gather for an anti-war march and rally outside Fort Meade.

The first anti-war demonstration in the history of Anniston, Alabama, draws fifty Fort McClellan service people and two hundred civilians.

At Fort Benning, one hundred GIs and some three hundred civilians attend a "people's tribunal" on American war crimes."

In Fayetteville, North Carolina, Rennie Davis, Jane Fonda, and Mark Lane address a crowd of 750 Fort Bragg soldiers and three thousand civilians in the largest Armed Forces Day rally in the country.

At Fort Hood, over seven hundred soldiers march through the streets of Killeen and rally in a nearby park.

At Fort Bliss, GIs' for Peace and local students, demonstrate against the war at the local University of Texas campus.

The first anti-Vietnam protest in Manhattan, Kansas, attracts over one thousand people, including four hundred soldiers from Fort Riley.

An MDM-sponsored rally in Colorado Springs draws thirty Fort Carson GIs and several hundred civilians.

Tom Hayden raps to approximately two hundred Marines and several thousand civilians in a rally near Camp Pendleton.

Fort Ord MDM sponsors a march and rally of more than three thousand people. Extra work assignments and riot duty mobilizations limit the GI contingent to only one hundred.

A festival and series of workshops near Fort Lewis draw sixty soldiers and two hundred civilians.

The events of Armed Forces Day not only demonstrated widespread anti-war sentiment within the ranks but sparked continuing political activity at many bases.

Several groups made their initial appearance during the time, and a number of others experienced an increase in active-duty involvement.

Perhaps just as importantly, the May 16 actions had great impact on the civilian community.

The spectacle of simultaneous soldier demonstrations at twelve separate bases finally convinced people that sweeping changes were occurring within the Army and aroused renewed appreciation of the potential of GI resistance.

As Abbie Hoffman quipped to the crowd at Fort Meade: “Behind every GI haircut lies a Samson.”

GIs United [military band] members participated in various peace demonstrations in the New York area. One of the group’s most unusual and daring activities occurred at a civilian-sponsored demonstration on October 31.

Led by Sp/4 Verne Windham, ten Fort Hamilton GIs marched up the streets of New York at the head of thousands of demonstrators -- undoubtedly the movement’s first anti-war Army band.

November 18, 1989: Honorable Anniversary



Carl Bunin, Peace History November 12-18

November 18, 1989:

More than 50,000 people have taken to the streets of Sofia in Bulgaria demanding political reform.

In the biggest demonstration in the country's post-war history, protesters held up banners and chanted: "We want democracy now."

Other demands included free elections, a new constitution and the dismissal of the remaining hard-line members of the Politburo.

The gathering, in the city's Aleksandr Nevsky Square, comes just eight days after the country's Communist leader, Todor Zhivkov, 78, was ousted from power following a 35-year regime.

He was replaced by the more moderate former foreign minister Petar Mladenov, 53, who has promised reform.

Most of Zhivkov's loyal supporters have already been dismissed and the newly-formed Parliament moved quickly to repeal a repressive law against freedom of speech which had previously led to the imprisonment of thousands.

Today's protest, organised by dissident political groups, included many of the country's academics and literary personalities who had been banished under the Zhivkov regime.

Radoi Ralin, a once-imprisoned poet, said: "We want democracy and pluralism.

"We want freedom of people's opinion, freedom of people's speech, freedom of people's will.

But he also signalled a note of caution warning that the new leader may not be as good as his word: "For years we have been promised radical changes in our society, but it always turned out to be a carnival in which masks were changed but policy remained the same.

"That is why we should not be too enthusiastic about the latest changes. We have to see what the new leaders have to offer us soon." Numerous similar demonstrations have taken place across Eastern Europe since the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria has been one of the countries most resistant to change. Just two weeks ago Mr Zhivkov issued a statement stressing that the Bulgarian Communist Party was still in total control.

But as the ideals of "perestroika" and glasnost" swept through countries including Poland, Eastern Germany and Hungary, Mr Zhivkov's grip on power became increasingly weakened.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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

November 20, 1816: Anniversary Of A Marvelous Creation



Carl Bunin Peace History November 19-25

November 20, 1816: The term “scab” was first used in print by the Albany (N.Y.) Typographical Society. A scab is someone who crosses a union’s picket line and takes the job of a striking worker.

“A Scab Is A Traitor To His God, His Country, His Family And His Class”

by Jack London, (1876-1916) [Dawn.thot.net]

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a scab.

A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue.

Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a scab comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out.

No man (or woman) has a right to scab so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in, or a rope long enough to hang his body with.

Judas was a gentleman compared with a scab. For betraying his master, he had character enough to hang himself. A scab has not.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage.

Judas sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver.

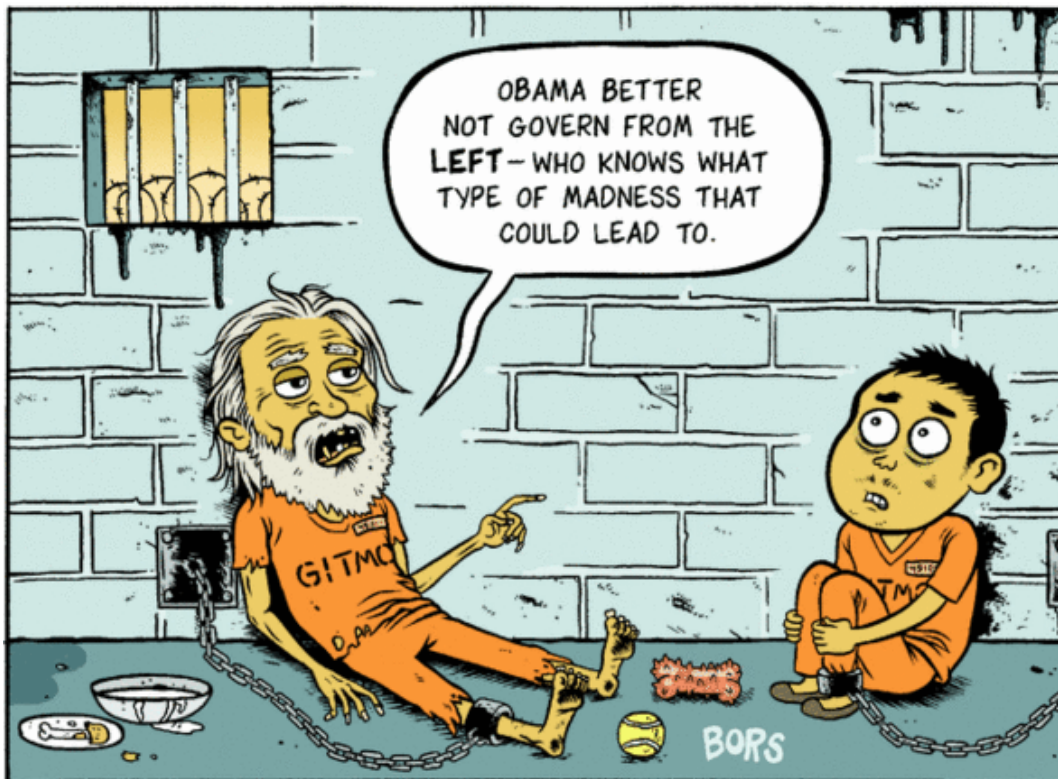
Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British army.

The scab sells his birthright, country, his wife, his children and his fellowmen for an unfulfilled promise from his employer.

Esau was a traitor to himself; Judas was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country.

A scab is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



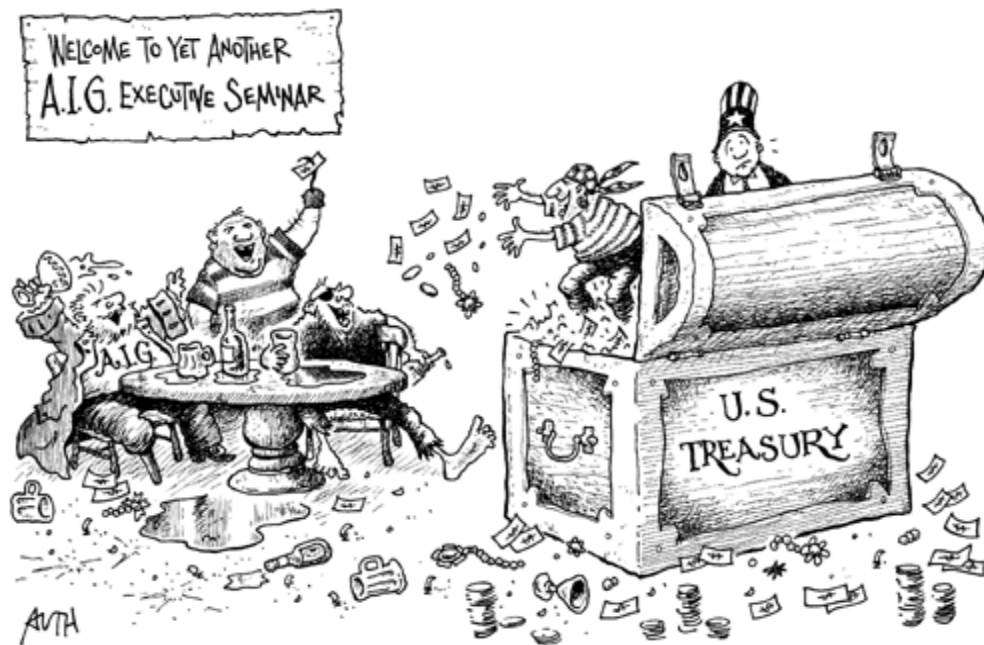
**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
MILITARY?**

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 wars, 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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

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

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

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



GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

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<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

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