

**GI SPECIAL 7B5:**

# Called Up From The IRR:



**“Senior Officers And  
NCOs Are Hiding Like  
Cockroaches In The  
Cracks Of TRADOC  
Posts And Non-  
Deployable Slots”**

**“Lower Level Soldiers March To  
The Steady Drumbeat Of  
Repeated Deployments, Failed  
Marriages And Ever-Mounting  
Cases Of Suicide”**

**“A Family In The Suburbs Of  
Chicago Is Contemplating What  
The Future Might Bring For Their  
Son”**

**“The Same Is Happening In The Hills  
Of Ohio And In Cities And Towns  
Across The Country”**

**“All It Takes Is One Envelope To Throw A  
Life Off A Path That Was So Delicately  
Created In The Humid And Dust-Choked  
Outposts Of Iraq”**

**It was nearly manageable to keep the thoughts of recall at bay before my friends started to get sucked in. The burden that veterans carry may lessen, but it comes back with a terrible vengeance.**

February 02, 2009 By Alex, Army Of Dude: <http://armyofdude.blogspot.com/>

## **Best of Friends:**

The two car convoy came to a stop at the departure section of the Seattle International Airport. With the engine running, I climbed out of the car and waited on the sidewalk as Steve grabbed his bags from the trunk of Chris' car. The loudspeakers reminded us to

make it quick - "This area for loading or unloading only" played on a constant loop as security guards leered in our direction.

After seeing Steve nearly every single day for three years, I was there to see him off on his one way trip back home to Chicago. The brisk December wind whisked around us as we cracked our final jokes together.

Being tough infantry types, I thought a couple of handshakes and a "Later, dude" would be enough before we parted ways.

Instead, Chris and Steve came together for an emotional embrace.

Then it was my turn to hug my best friend for the first and only time.

"Take it easy, man."

My voice cracked as the words came out. He turned and walked through the automatic door, leaving Chris and me on the sidewalk.

With a heavy heart, I got back into my car and headed back to Fort Lewis. In less than five minutes my pocket began to buzz. I pulled out my cellphone and saw a new text from Steve.

"I miss you guys already."

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nearly everyone I knew in the Army had one inseparable friend that they were around constantly.**

**Steve was that person for me.**

We grew up a thousand miles away from each other but our paths were nearly identical. We both came from working class families and grew up on Nintendo and action movies.

We joined the Army for many of the same reasons, mostly money for college that we didn't dare ask our parents for. What made us connect at the beginning was our intense love for debate and reasoning. For hours we could argue about anything.

On a train from Geneva to Rome during our two weeks of leave, we debated for more than an hour about the main ingredient of salad. Anyone from my platoon can attest to our spirited, three year long argument about which band was better, The Eagles or Led Zeppelin.

Of course it's Zep, but we're currently in a stalemate.

At the many combat outposts that we inhabited in Iraq, Steve and I talked about what we'd do after the Army.

We both decided that one tour was enough and that higher education would be the next chapter in our lives.

He wanted to be an architect and I wanted to write. We yearned to create something after wallowing in death and destruction for more than a year.

The plan was simple: take the GI Bill and run with it.

After coming home from Iraq we started the separation process together, running all over post to collect requisite signatures and dodge work at the barracks whenever possible.

**We sat through countless briefings that warned us about the perils of getting tossed into the IRR, a group of inactive soldiers that can be activated individually and mobilized for duty in Iraq.**

**To get out of it, one simply needed to join the Guard or Reserve and get exemption from deployments.**

**Steve and I both had a few promises broken by the Army, so we weren't going to be fooled once more.**

**We decided to take our chances, load up the IRR revolver, and pull the trigger.**

**There is no warning that a former soldier is about to be recalled.**

**There is no way of knowing that the game of Russian Roulette is over and your brains are splattered all over the wall.**

**There is only an unassuming brown envelope left on the front porch to say what is already known: Uncle Sam doesn't run out of bullets.**

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*Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in.  
-Michael Corleone*

**I was at work when my pocket sent out a cheerful tone alerting me of a new text message. I pulled out my phone to see a new message from Steve.**

**I figured it was some trivia question. I could tell he carried his debating persona back home from the messages he sent me. He asked about actors in movies and lesser known points of history that must have come up in discussions with his friends.**

**I opened it to see that it had nothing to do with trivia.**

**"I just got official orders to go back dude."**

My knees almost gave way after reading and rereading the message.

I called him right away to offer any kind of help I could.

As the phone rang, I looked down at my silver KIA bracelet and ran my fingers over the etched lettering - CPL BRIAN L. CHEVALIER 14 MARCH 2007 BAQUBAH, IRAQ.

A thousand miles away, Steve was wearing the same bracelet.

I relayed to Steve all the information I had gathered on the IRR.

**I spent countless hours hunched over my computer researching IRR callups, a challenge considering the intentionally scant information put out by the DoD and Army Human Resources Command.**

**I told him to sign up for any classes, get a doctor's note for any condition, anything that could delay or exempt him from mobilization.**

**There is no shame in it.**

**Steve volunteered during a war, knowing that he would be sent into combat.**

**Not only combat ensued, but the bloodiest fight in Iraq since Fallujah.**

**Steve did his time, and more.**

**His place is at home, not on the battlefield anymore.**

By way of Lt. Nixon, Thomas Ricks notes a Pentagon study that reveals troop levels have remained relatively the same since 9/11.

A more alarming statistic: 6% of active duty troops have served more than 25 months in a combat zone while 74% have less than twelve months in.

The study concludes that the lower to mid enlisted and company grade officers are carrying the most burden.

Senior officers and NCOs are hiding like cockroaches in the cracks of TRADOC posts and non-deployable slots while lower level soldiers march to the steady drumbeat of repeated deployments, failed marriages and ever-mounting cases of suicide.

On top of that, the IRR continues to mobilize soldiers that have moved on, going to school or beginning careers and families.

The only way to lessen the burden is to grow the size of the force.

One idea: take the database of the newly minted Red State Strike Force members and dump them into mobilization slots.

Those pathetic goons want to wear patches styled after special forces to fight on a battlefield of snark.

They want to organize.

I can think of no better way to organize than a shout of, "Dress right, dress!"

The slack has to be picked up somewhere, lest our forces remain so broken that we must rely on involuntary callups to get bodies to the fight.

Steve's future hangs in the balance.

School has been put on hold until a review board decides if he is fit to go back to Iraq.

I have described the looming threat of recall as an ubiquitous afterthought, constantly degrading the sense of normalcy and safety as the days pile on.

Now that recall has manifested itself as a clumsy destroyer of futures, the feeling has changed.

Not only mental, the dread has become physical, hanging in my stomach like a sharply cornered anvil.

My old infantry sore spots - back, knees and ankles - throb in a dull ache. The burden is back squarely on my shoulders, but I cannot imagine what Steve is feeling right now.

I just know that as his best friend, a thousand miles away, I must carry some for him.

**A few days after getting Steve's text, I got a call from our buddy Mark. We were the three biggest poker fiends in the platoon, always at the table no matter the time or the buy-in.**

**He said to me, "You better sit down before I tell you this."**

**"Is it about Steve?," I asked.**

**"What about Steve?"**

**"He got recalled a couple of days ago. Got his orders in the mail."**

**"Fuck, I did too!", he shouted into the phone. "They got me. They got me."**

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**As the weeks and months tick off the calendar, the game of Russian Roulette claims more soldiers foolish enough to play.**

**It was nearly manageable to keep the thoughts of recall at bay before my friends started to get sucked in.**

**Now, a family in the suburbs of Chicago is contemplating what the future might bring for their son.**

**The same is happening in the hills of Ohio and in cities and towns across the country.**

The burden that veterans carry may lessen, but it comes back with a terrible vengeance.

All it takes is one envelope to throw a life off a path that was so delicately created in the humid and dust-choked outposts of Iraq.

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### Fallen Pilot ‘Just Wanted To Fly’



Chief Warrant Officer Matthew G. Kelley poses in front of a Kiowa helicopter at Fort Rucker, Ala., in this undated photo. Mr. Kelley was killed in the line of duty Monday in Iraq, his family said.

January 28, 2009 by Marshall White, News-Press & Gazette

OSBORN, Mo. — A U.S. Army helicopter pilot from Osborn, Mo., died Monday while serving with the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, in Iraq. Chief Warrant Officer Matthew G. Kelley, 30, flew Kiowa helicopters, the Army's armed reconnaissance aircraft.

“He was born on a Monday and died on a Monday,” said Catherine Kelley, his mother. Family members said Tuesday that Mr. Kelley was killed in action.

“He really just wanted to fly,” said his father, Col. Stephen Kelley, who is retired from the Army. He made the decision to fly Kiowa helicopters because he’d get more flying time, Mr. Kelley said. Matthew had wanted to fly since he was 9, his father said.

His all-time favorite movie was “Top Gun,” said Chris Kelley, Matthew’s older brother, an Army Reserve veteran who returned in June from Iraq and is a firefighter with the St. Joseph Fire Department.

Matthew Kelley enlisted in 2003, joining the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. He already had completed a tour in Iraq, earning an Army Commendation Medal. Mr. Kelley also got a chance to earn Australian Jump Wings while assigned to the 82nd.

He earned the Combat Infantry Badge and always wore it above his pilot wings. When other helicopter pilots would razz him about the badge, he’d just tell them they were jealous, his brother said with a laugh.

A “military brat” born in Germany, Matthew moved with the family from base to base until his father retired. They settled on a farm southeast of Osborn when Matthew was 11.

Mrs. Kelley, the soldier’s mother, is a teacher, and home-schooled her two sons. He loved history, and both boys learned to memorize a lot of Scripture, Mrs. Kelley said. He read books about World War II with a voracious appetite, especially if they were about planes, his father said.

He married DaLana Wallace, from Cameron, Mo., in 2001, and they have two children. She was the only girl he ever dated, his brother said. And their first kiss was when they got married, because he stood for what he believed in, Mrs. Kelley said.

The soldier’s wife and children, Megan, 6, and Tyler, 4, live in New York near Fort Drum, where his brigade was stationed.

Chris Kelley said his brother was a hero, but “he’d lost a best friend.”

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## **El Salvador Withdraws From Iraq: All Troops Home Now**

2.8.09 (AP)

The last Salvadoran troops are home from Iraq, ending Latin America’s military presence there.

Five Salvadoran soldiers were killed and 20 wounded over the country’s five-year deployment.

Defense Minister Jorge Alberto Molina and relatives greeted 200 soldiers Saturday at an army base outside the capital of San Salvador. They had been based near the southeastern Shiite city of Kut.



President Tony Saca had said El Salvador's troops would leave after the Dec. 31 expiration of a U.N. resolution authorizing the international coalition in Iraq.

Saca's conservative government was a staunch ally of the Bush administration. Salvadoran troops stayed in Iraq years after Honduran, Dominican and Nicaraguan soldiers left.

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## **So Much For That “Sovereign Iraq” Bullshit: Reporter Fucks Up, Writes The Truth; “U.S. Army Brigade Controls Salahaddin”**

February 5 2009 By Anna Fifield in Tikrit, The Financial Times Limited

We have to figure out how to give people their lives back and loosen up the security posture, but we can't do it too much because it could create the space for the enemy to come back in," says Colonel Walter Piatt, commander of the US army brigade that controls Salahaddin.

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## **Not Much Oil For Blood: 6 Years Later, Iraqi Oil Output Still Below Pre-Invasion Levels**

February 3 Benjamin Morgan, AFP

Iraqi output is still below pre-2003 levels but could climb "dramatically" if plans for the industry are fully implemented

The pre-US invasion export ceiling was about three million barrels per day, but it now produces only 2.18 million bpd, of which 1.6 million is for export, according to figures on the OPEC website.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Slain Marine Lance Cpl. Julian Brennan's Wedding Secret



Lance Cpl. Julian Brennan

January 28th 2009 BY TRACY CONNOR, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A professionally trained actor before he joined the Marines, Lance Cpl. Julian Brennan had a gift for improvisation.

And before he shipped out to Afghanistan in November, he did something on the spur of the moment - he secretly married his fiancée.

"They were going to have a big family celebration when he returned," Brennan's father, Bill, said Tuesday.

Bill Brennan and his wife, Thya Merz, learned of the marriage only this week, when two Marines arrived at their Brooklyn home with news that their 23-year-old son was killed in action.

"One of the most heartbreaking things of all of this is they were really planning their life together," Merz said.

The young Marine and his bride met at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan in 2004.

Brennan graduated in 2006, got his Screen Actors Guild card and began lining up acting gigs while working as a carpenter on Martha Stewart's show.

He had always been interested in the military. His grandfather earned the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima during World War II, and he nearly enlisted after Sept. 11.

Still, when he sprung the news on his family one night in May, they were "speechless, which doesn't happen very often," said Merz, who runs a private school in Chelsea.

Julian and his father were playing dominoes and drinking beer when he said, "I have something to tell you." "And when a 23-year-old says that, it could be anything," said Bill Brennan, a children's entertainer. "But we did not expect, 'I joined the Marines.'"

Two months later, he was on his way to Parris Island boot camp, where he finished second out of 680 recruits. Then it was off to Afghanistan, where he served in a weapons unit. His mother last spoke to him on Inauguration Day - he was a Barack Obama supporter - and he expressed a "deep empathy" for the Afghan people.

His father called him a "happy and ethical warrior."

Brennan was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb while driving a Humvee. The family plans to bury him at Arlington National Cemetery with his grandfather. His wife, Bettina Beard, will join the Brennans there. They told her not to come up this weekend because she's in a show.

"Julian would want her to do the play," his mother said.

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## More Occupation Supply Trucks Attacked, Burned



Burned trucks, torched by militants on the outskirts of Landi Kotal, a town close to the Pakistani tribal area Khyber, Feb. 4, 2009. Assaultants torched 10 trucks stranded in Pakistan by the bombing of a key bridge on the main supply route for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, an official said. (AP Photo/Qazi Tariq)

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## Winter Soldiers Fight For Independence



January 17, 2009: Taliban resistance soldiers in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan  
January 16, 2009. (Stringer/Reuters)

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## Resistance Action



U.S. soldiers at a damaged police vehicle following an attack by Taliban militants on  
Jalalabad-Kabul highway, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Feb. 7, 2009. (AP  
Photo/Rahmat Gul)

Feb 6, 2009 AFP & Ahmad Omid Khpalwak, PAN & Feb 7 (Reuters)

A roadside bomb late Wednesday (local time) killed six bodyguards working for a controversial Afghan district governor in southern Helmand province, a provincial spokesman said. The bomb ripped through the bodyguards' vehicle and killed everyone inside, said Daud Ahmadi.

Three policemen were killed when a vehicle they were traveling in struck a mine in the Shahwali Kot district of southern Kandahar province, an official said Thursday. The roadside explosion took place on Kandahar Highway in Boragana area, a highway police commander Matiullah Popal told Pajhwok Afghan News. The official said that the blast killed three policemen and injured one while the vehicle was completely destroyed. Popal said the injured cop has been shifted to a hospital in Tarinkot and his condition was stated to be out of danger.

A roadside bomb killed the chief of Bati Kot district in Nangarhar province, 140 km (90) miles east of Kabul, Abdulzai said.

Taliban insurgents attacked a hotel on the main highway between Kabul and Jalalabad city overnight, 100 km (60 miles) east of the capital, killing a district police chief and his bodyguard inside, the provincial governor's spokesman said.

Insurgents killed the deputy head of the provincial council in eastern Nangarhar province overnight, 120 km (75 miles) east of Kabul, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, the provincial governor's spokesman said.

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## **SecDef Gates Says Afghan Occupation Doomed To Fail**

"[The] secret to success from a security standpoint is the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, and I might add, a more effective, Border Control Police."  
[Defense Secretary Robert Gates quoted by Michelle Tan, Army Times 2.9.09]

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

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

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE  
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK  
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE**

**PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE  
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO  
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:  
That is not a good enough reason.**



A US Marine and a soldier with the US Army's 6-4 Cavalry make their way patrol near Combat Outpost Keating in eastern Afghanistan January 21, 2009. (Bob Strong/Reuters)

**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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



A member of the Army's 4th Brigade Combat team (airborne) 25th Infantry Division, holds his wife Lisa during a deployment ceremony for the brigade in Anchorage, Alaska Feb. 3, 2009. The 3,500 soldier brigade from Fort Richardson, Alaska is being sent to Afghanistan for 12 months. The brigade returned for a 14-month tour in Iraq in November and December 2007. (AP Photo/AI Grillo)

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**Pentagon Brass Still Protect Rapists:  
Refuse To Pay For Forensic Kits To Help  
Convict People Who Rape Military Family  
Members**

**[The only possible logical explanation for refusing to provide funds to gather evidence that can be used to prosecute the scum who rape military family members is that the Pentagon brass involved rape military family members, or are buddies of the scum who rape members of military families. What else? T]**

2.9.09 Army Times Editorial

For all the Pentagon's efforts in recent years to confront the problem of sexual assault, some inexplicable blind spots remain.

Case in point: Tricare refuses to pay for forensic examination kits — "rape kits" — when military family members are treated in civilian health care facilities.

This is not the case for service members. Nor is it the case if family members are treated in military facilities.

Tricare, Pentagon officials explain, covers only "medically and psychologically necessary" services. And forensic exams "are not conducted for medical treatment purposes, but for preservation of evidence in any future criminal investigation and/or prosecution."

This has "presented a problem for beneficiaries in the past," the Pentagon says in a breathtaking bit of understatement.

Treating rape kits as purely evidentiary while glossing over the medical and psychological benefits to the victims is reprehensibly arbitrary and callous.

**Congress recognized this in late 2006, and ordered the Pentagon to authorize Tricare to cover the costs of rape kits. Now, more than two years later, the Pentagon has yet to comply.**

First they blamed the Office of Management and Budget, which didn't want to alter existing Tricare contracts. Now they're citing a freeze on changes to federal regulations imposed by the Obama administration.

Because military facilities already cover the costs of these kits, there is no reason Tricare should not cover them as well. This should have been fixed two years ago. The Pentagon needs to stop dragging its feet and find a way to expeditiously carry out the law. Now.

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**



# **War Profiteering Rat Of The Year, So Far: “Lured Employees To Jobs At Fort Drum, N.Y., Through False Promises Of Long-Term Employment And Health Benefits”**

2.9.09 Army Times

A Texas-based military contractor lured employees to jobs at Fort Drum, N.Y., through false promises of long-term employment and health benefits, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said in a lawsuit filed Jan. 28.

**Austin-based M&E Technical Services Inc. fraudulently induced more than 100 workers to accept jobs adding armor plating to military vehicles at Fort Drum, knowing the work would last only a few weeks and no benefits would ever be provided, Cuomo said.**

“METs used lies and deceit in order to obtain a commitment from employees who were just looking for a better job,” Cuomo said.

Fort Drum officials referred questions to the U.S. Army Sustainment Command in Rock Island, Ill., which secured the contract with METs.

METs President and CEO Michael Donnelly, who also was named in the lawsuit, did not respond to a telephone message seeking comment.

In a letter posted on the company’s Web site Nov. 6, Donnelly acknowledged that the employees were “universally misled” and that the “mission” was “cut short.”

**However, the attorney general’s lawsuit claims that METs and Donnelly always knew the “mission” would be for a short duration, and that the promises of restitution in Donnelly’s letter have not been fulfilled.**

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## **“Military Personnel Now Have Access To CozyTraveler Accessories For Use During Transport” [This Is Not A Satire]**



[Thanks to William Bowles who sent this in. Check out his terrific news roundups at <http://williambowles.info/>]

February 3, 2009 Phoenix, AZ (Vocus/PRWEB)

Military personnel require transport to far away (and often undisclosed) locations.

The transport is efficient. It is timely. It is effective.

There's really only one thing that it is NOT. And that is comfortable. Or you might say...cozy.

Our military is definitely not spoiled when it comes to traveling in comfort.

As of December 2008, the military exchange (PX) will offer an option for those who (while capable of enduring the trip in discomfort) would really rather not.

This option comes in the form of the CozyTraveler, an easy to use, portable travel accessory that enables the wearer to sleep comfortably no matter how uncomfortable their surroundings are.

As of December, 2008, CozyTraveler travel accessories are available to military personnel. CozyTraveler products are a new addition to the military exchange on base (often known as the PX, BX, etc. depending on the military branch) where military personnel and their families go to procure personal necessities from groceries to medicine to glasses to clothing.

One soldier suggested, "Traveling with the military is a lot like everything else about the military...it's just more intense." He was the recent recipient of a CozyTraveler (thanks to his wife who wanted to make him as comfortable as possible as often as possible while he was away from her on his third deployment to Iraq).

For More Information:

For more information on CozyTraveler and their recent agreement with the military contact Dave Broadbent, Founder, at d.broadbent (at) comcast (dot) net or by phone at: 801-597-4000. Or visit CozyTraveler online at [www.cozytraveler.com](http://www.cozytraveler.com).

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

### **Resistance Action**

Feb 7 (Reuters)

A roadside bomb in the Mansour neighbourhood of western Baghdad wounded two policemen, police said.

A militant wounded a policeman when he hurled a hand-grenade at a police checkpoint in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles), north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded a soldier when it struck his patrol in eastern Mosul.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police convoy east of Baqouba, 35 miles (60 kilometers) northeast of Baghdad, killed one and injured two others, said an Iraqi police official.

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

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION  
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

## 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 Douglass, 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.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"  
-- Camille Desmoulins**

**"When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, "No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country."  
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

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

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

## The Disability

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

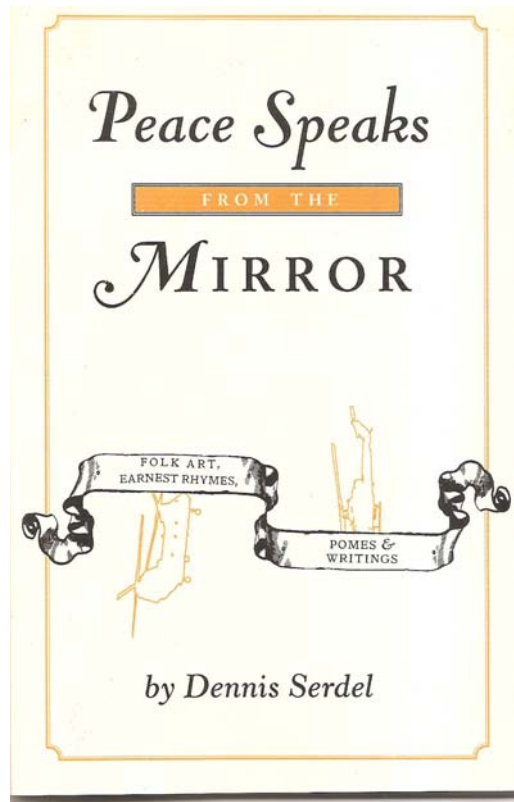
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### The Disability

Stan scribbled and typed, scribbled and typed, scribbled and typed, putting all these clawed emotions on paper, his masterpiece to be published, the definitive Vietnam book, filled with hapless war stories written by a jackass jerk in the night squeezing thought-felt tears from his fingertips. The insanity rages on as the wind and the rain swirling hurricane if God made man, he made a mistake, a man is just a more sophisticated killer ape. The abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz is just better cave art than the bison with the spear in it's side. In his old age home like urine smelling apartment, his anger raged like an atomic bomb, leaving him, the mushroom floating in the air somewhere between hell and nothingness. The best the Veteran can give is raw folk art, the worst earnest rhyme. With the wildness of a stereotypical Vietnam veteran deformed self, his lonesome eyes stared down the long war. But then, "The world's finally going to hear the truth," he shouted aloud at the walls with black typewriter ribbon coiled like a Texas rattlesnake in his lap where his penis and testicles used to be.

His new white page  
had black thumb and fingerprints on it as a criminal.  
With a nervous disorder,  
he pushed his wheelchair back away from the table  
and vowed never to write again.  
The bombing of Baghdad  
is screaming from his tv  
like a cartoon

## Get Some While There Still Are Some To Get:



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Dennis Serdel

**Walt Whitman  
Carl Sandburg  
Allan Ginsberg  
Now: Dennis Serdel  
T**

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## **February 8, 1968: KIA For Freedom The Orangeburg Massacre**



Carl Bunin Peace History February 4-10

Three black students were killed and 50 wounded in a confrontation with highway patrolmen at a South Carolina State rally supporting arrested civil rights protesters.

The town's only bowling alley, the All Star, was still segregated years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race in such public accommodations.

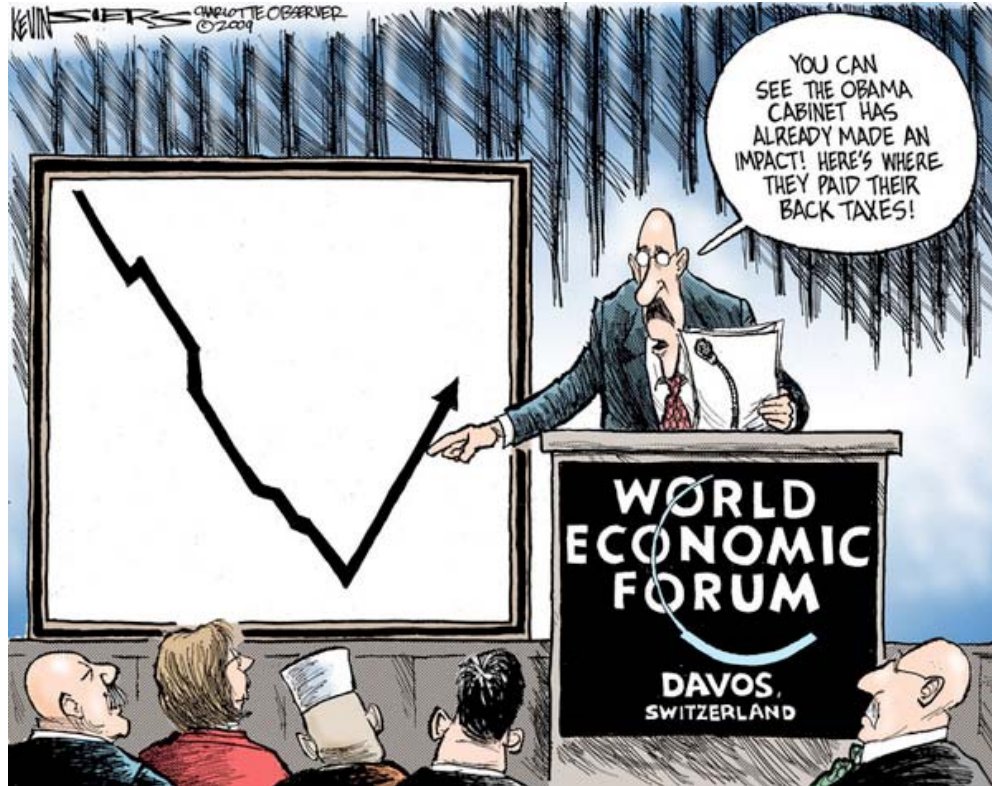
On the previous two days, college students had entered the bowling alley, refusing to leave after they were not allowed to bowl. Fifteen of the second group were arrested.

### **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**

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# Obama Considers Tax On Cabinet



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

February 3, 2009 The Borowitz Report

President Barack Obama is mulling a controversial new tax program that would require members of his Cabinet to pay taxes owed under the Federal tax code, the White House confirmed today.

While the unorthodox tax proposal is reportedly "only in the planning stages," it is being eyed as a possible way to balance the Federal budget.

"According to projections, if members of the Cabinet actually paid their taxes, we could wind up with a budget surplus in excess of \$18.2 billion," said Obama economic adviser Paul Volcker.

Mr. Volcker said he strongly favored the plan, but added, "Fortunately for me, I'm not officially in the Cabinet."

But imposing taxes on Cabinet members may be easier said than done, critics of the plan warn.



"Remember, these people are not used to paying taxes," said one White House source. "They are going to be hopping mad about this."

Another wrinkle in the plan is how the taxes would actually be collected, with President Obama reportedly favoring a cash-at-the-door entry fee for every Cabinet meeting.

"If they don't have the money, they don't get in," said the source. "They're not going to be able to just sail into the White House for free like the Jonas Brothers."

When told of Mr. Obama's plan to make his Cabinet members pay taxes, Fmr. Sen. Tom Daschle responded, "Whew! Sounds like I dodged a bullet."

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

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

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Resistance Wins One In Oakland: "When A Person Is Getting Evicted, We Have To Stop It"**

February 6, 2009 By Alessandro Tinonga, Socialist Worker

OAKLAND, Calif.--After two dozen activists prepared to prevent the eviction of Eddie and Martha Daniels from their home here, Citibank and the Alameda County Sheriff's Department backed down and granted the Daniels an extended stay.

Eddie and Martha have lived as renters in their West Oakland home for over three years. Both are on disability and have been serving their community for years working for homeless shelters.

After their landlord lost the house last July, the Daniels wanted to stay and asked the bank if they could buy the house.

The bank agreed to let them make the purchase, but during negotiations, Citibank's real estate broker told them they would have to surrender their rights under Oakland's Just Cause Eviction Ordinance, which gives tenants the right to stay in their homes if the landlord is foreclosed upon.

"We are in negotiations with Bank of America to get a loan to buy the house," explained Martha Daniels. "The broker told us we had to leave. We appealed to the court to get a 15-day stay and borrowed \$750 from our friends. Then the judge dismissed, our motion saying that we didn't give 24 hours notice (for a stay). We made the motion two days ago."

**The Daniels decided to fight back. ACORN members, neighbors and friends gathered on February 4 to stop the eviction.**

"They are good neighbors and always helpful," said Khalil Louis, who lives nearby. "We need to help them, because they would do the same for us."

That morning, the sheriff and the bank announced they wouldn't evict the family and would allow them a stay to get their loan in order.

Oakland has the country's 10th-highest foreclosure rate for a metropolitan area. The top two are also in California: Stockton and Riverside-San Bernardino. More than 2.3 million homes were lost in 2008, while banks got billions of dollars in government bailout.

ACORN has launched a national initiative to resist home foreclosure and evictions. The "Homesteading Campaign" is due to begin this month in more than a half-dozen cities around the country. ACORN members and home defender teams will support families who refuse to leave their homes.

Commenting on the campaign, Eddie Daniels said, "This shows that people want change to happen. If we continue to stand up, maybe we can make a difference. Now is the time to come together. When a person is getting evicted, we have to stop it."

As more people face a situation like Eddie and Martha Daniels did, opposition to foreclosures will become an important part of working-class resistance to the economic crisis.

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