

**GI SPECIAL 7D9:**

# SOMETIMES DREAMS COME TRUE



**Soldiers and Thai demonstrators fighting corrupt Thai government put in power by Generals together on an Army armored personnel carrier near the Foreign Ministry Sunday, April 12, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)**

**[There is no assurance whatever that the Generals who run Thailand and its government of corrupt scum won't find some troops to use to hold power. That said, there is no assurance that they will, either. If the Generals order their soldiers to open fire on their own people, and the soldiers refuse, the Generals are dead men. T]**



Revolutionary forces celebrate on top of a tank [An APC, not a tank. T] sent against them in Bangkok on April 12, 2008. Soldiers inside made no effort to stop them. AFP/Pairoj)



Revolutionary forces celebrate on top of an armored personnel carrier sent against them in Bangkok on April 12, 2008. Soldiers inside made no effort to stop them. AFP/Pairoj)  
(AP Photo/David Longstreath)



Happy anti-government demonstrators with soldier, left, on top of a Thai Army armored personnel carrier near the Foreign Ministry April 12, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)



Anti-government demonstrators cheer on top a Thai Army armored personnel carrier Sunday, April 12, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand as a tide of anti-government protest sweeps across the country. (AP Photo/David Longstreath)

# Soldiers Receive An Escort Back To Base



Anti-dictatorship motorcycle patrol escorts an armoured personnel carrier returning to a military base in Bangkok April 12, 2009. Soldiers agreed to go back to their base after being ordered onto the streets against the people by the Thai government dictatorship. Photo: REUTERS/Sukree Sukplang



Anti-government motorcycle patrol escorts an armoured personnel carrier returning to a military base in Bangkok April 12, 2009. Soldiers agreed to go back to their base after being ordered onto the streets against the people by the Thai government dictatorship. Photo: REUTERS/Sukree Sukplang

## Perfect Tactics: Appeal To The Soldiers



An anti-government protester kneels down to plea for Thai soldiers not to use violence against protesters on the street near government house in Bangkok, Thailand April 12, 2009. (AP Photo/Apichart Weerawong)



Anti-dictatorship demonstrators appeal to soldiers to join their cause near the Foreign Ministry April 12, 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

## Payback Comes For The Thai General's Pet Politicians



Anti-dictatorship protesters pull Nipon Promphan, secretary of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, center, out of his car at Interior Ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, April 12, 2009. Nipon, who works for the dictatorship put in power by Army Generals after overthrowing elected government, was seriously injured in the attack and is in hospital. (AP Photo)



Protesters surround and beat the car carrying Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva at the interior ministry in Bangkok April 12, 2009. (Photo: REUTERS)

MORE:

# THIS JUST IN FROM THAILAND WITH THE PHOTOS THAT FOLLOW:

**“As of around 21:00 (local time), it seems there’s no order to shoot according to extremely freindly middle ranking officer”**

12. April 2009 Lee, Yu Kyung (journalist); <http://penseur21.wordpress.com> Via Max Watts. Australia





**MORE:**

**“An Old Lady Atop One Of The Vehicles Screamed ‘Democracy!’ Before The Protesters Directed The Soldiers To Drive Them Back To A Military Camp”**

**“Some Danced On Top Of An Armored Personnel Carrier”  
Thais “Are Furious Over The Way They Say Thailand’s Courts And**



# **Armed Forces Have Denied Them A Voice By Dissolving Political Parties” “What’s Important Is That If We Don’t Do Something Now, My Son Will Never Live To See A Proper Democracy In Thailand”**

APRIL 12, 2009 By JAMES HOOKWAY, Wall St. Journal & By GRANT PECK, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BANGKOK -- Sunday thousands of flag-waving protesters reacted to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's declaration of a state of emergency by taking to the streets and seizing military vehicles in the heart of Bangkok while Mr. Abhisit's arch-rival, ousted leader Thaksin Shinawatra, called for a people's revolution.

Police and army officers did little to stop the protesters, stirring fears that Mr. Abhisit, like other Thai premiers before him, isn't fully in control of the country's armed forces.

**Associated Press reporters saw demonstrators swarm over two of three armored personnel carriers outside a shopping mall in downtown Bangkok, waving flags in celebration.**

**An old lady atop one of the vehicles screamed "Democracy!" before the protesters directed the soldiers to drive them back to a military camp.**

Mr. Abhisit, a 44-year-old Oxford-educated economist himself fell victim to the demonstrators after announcing a state of emergency in Bangkok.

**Outside the Interior Ministry, furious Thais attacked Abhisit's car with poles, stones and even flower pots as it slowly made its escape. Mr. Abhisit sustained an injured arm while leaving from a back entrance.**

**Police in riot gear nearby did nothing.**

Other protesters commandeered buses and used them to block several intersections, making a mockery of the emergency decree banning public gatherings of more than five people.

Some danced on top of an armored personnel carrier outside the glitzy Paragon shopping mall in the center of the city while a famous astrologer, Luck Rakhanithes, leaped onto a makeshift stage to predict that Mr. Abhisit would dissolve parliament by April 20 and hold fresh elections. Police estimated around 30,000 demonstrators were spread out around the city.

"Now that the military has tanks out on the streets, it's time for the people to come out in revolution," Mr. Thaksin, 59 years old, said in a telephone message relayed to

demonstrators who have been camped out around the main government building in Bangkok for over a week to press for Mr. Abhisit's resignation. As many as 100,000 people joined the rally on Wednesday.

**Local Thai media reported that red-shirt protesters had already taken to the streets Sunday in Chiang Mai, Mr. Thaksin's home town, and other parts of the country in support of the Bangkok demonstrators.**

**Protests were reported in areas of northern and northeastern Thailand, with one group threatening to blockade the main bridge linking Laos and Thailand across the Mekong River.**

Thailand's growing urban-rural divide helps explain the potency of protests and also provides a warning shot for other countries which also rely on pliant populations not to rock the political boat. Like China, India and other developing nations, Thailand has seen a wide crack open between relatively wealthy people in Bangkok and surrounding industrial area on one hand, and the millions of rural Thais who have long missed out on the benefits of Thailand's rapid modernization over the past three decades.

When Mr. Thaksin accused the chief adviser to ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej of helping to plot the 2006 coup, it was seen as a war-cry in a country where any criticism of anybody associated with the royal family is extremely provocative.

But Mr. Abhisit's government also failed to anticipate that the red-shirt movement would become a magnet not just for Mr. Thaksin's followers, but for other Thais who thought that staging a coup was too great a price for removing Mr. Thaksin.

**Many in the crowd Sunday and in previous rallies say they aren't concerned about Mr. Thaksin's fate, but are furious over the way they say Thailand's courts and armed forces have denied them a voice by dissolving political parties linked to the former prime minister.**

"I'm not a Thaksin-lover," says Thanong Gulyanamitta, a 47-year-old computer store owner who joined the Bangkok protests Sunday.

"Mr. Thaksin isn't the issue here. What's important is that if we don't do something now, my son will never live to see a proper democracy in Thailand."

Says Mr. Thitinan, the Bangkok university professor, "We're witnessing the birth of a new phenomenon here and there's not telling where it will end."

**MORE:**

## **Who Are The "Redshirts?" "A Movement Of The Urban And Rural Poor, People Who Have Had**

# **Their Democratic Rights Stolen From Them”**

## **“The Military Have Never Been Punished For Their Illegal Coup Or Their Rampant Corruption”**

12. April 2009 By Giles Ji Ungpakorn and Watana Ebbage, on behalf of Thai Red U.K.:

### **No To The State Of Emergency! No To The Military Crack-Down! Return Thailand To Democracy Now! Thai Red U.K. Condemns The Arrest Of Redshirt Leaders**

Thai Red U.K., the association of Redshirts in Britain, condemns the declaration of a State of Emergency by the illegitimate government of Abhisit Vejjajiva. We condemn the Military's use of tanks and live ammunition against protestors.

We say no to another coup.

We also condemn the arrest of Redshirt leaders and demand that all of them be released.

We are concerned by the creation, by pro-government politicians, such as Newin Chitchorp, of armed Blueshirted thugs, who have attacked pro-democracy demonstrators. The government should resign immediately to allow genuine democratic elections to be held as a matter of urgency. This would be a first step in allowing for a peaceful resolution of the long-running crisis.

#### **Why The Redshirts Are Not Merely A Mirror Image Of The Yellowshirt Royalists:**

It is tempting for those watching the Thai events to merely conclude that the Redshirt protests are merely a mirror image of the Yellowshirt Royalists who seized the international airports late last year. There can be nothing further from the truth.

#### **The Yellowshirts:**

The Yellowshirt Royalists built the PAD, a movement with worrying fascist tendencies.

Since 2006, they have demanded that Thai Democracy be scrapped in favour of a “New Order” dictatorship.

They have consistently claimed that the majority of Thais, especially the poor, are too ignorant to be allowed the right to vote.

They welcomed the 2006 military coup, seized Government House and blocked Parliament with armed gangs claiming to be “fighting for the King”.

Late last year, with the collusion of the Army, they took control of Thailand’s international airports and nearly caused a war with Cambodia. They are an integral part of the present (mis-named) Democrat Party government.

This government does not represent the democratic wishes of the majority of Thais.

It only came to power after the courts were used as political tools of the Yellowshirts to twice dissolve the most popular political party.

The Army then bribed and threatened shady politicians like Newin Chitchorp to change sides. (This politician was named after the Burmese military dictator Newin!)

**The Yellowshirts represent an elite, reactionary, alliance between the Army, the Palace and Privy Council, the PAD and the Democrat Party.**

**They are fearful that their privileges will be jeopardised by further empowering the poor, who make up most of the electorate.**

**The Democrat Party has never succeeded in winning a majority of the popular vote.**

**Unfortunately the majority of Middle-Class academics and many N.G.O. leaders also support the Yellowshirts and welcomed the 2006 coup which ripped up the democratic Constitution of 1997.**

**During the violent Yellow shirt protests of 2008, the entire Thai state apparatus and media supported them.**

The PAD wrecked the interior of Government House, staged violent attacks on the police and created much damage to the economy by blockading the airports. Yet no PAD leader has been punished for this use of violence and none have been condemned by the Thai mainstream media or by academics and N.G.O. leaders.

**The Military have never been punished for their illegal coup or their rampant corruption.**

Talk now of “respecting the law” by Thai PM Abhisit, is therefore hypocritical nonsense.

#### **The Redshirts:**

The Redshirts are a pro-democracy movement.

Many support the policies of former PM Thaksin Shinawat because his government provided the first ever Universal Health Care system and other pro-poor measures. His party has repeatedly won elections, even after the coup.

**However, the Redshirts are not just supporters and puppets of Thaksin.**

**They are ordinary citizens, most of whom believe passionately in freedom and democracy.**

There are many Redshirts who are not supporters of Thaksin.

**It is also a movement of the urban and rural poor, people who have had their democratic rights stolen from them by the Yellowshirts.**

Today, in addition to fighting for democracy, the Redshirts are starting to question the “silent dictatorship” of the King’s advisors in the Privy Council.

They have broken a decades old taboo about the Monarchy.

Significant numbers are also becoming Republicans, while many still want a genuine Constitutional Monarchy which is not involved in politics.

The Redshirts do not have an armed guard like the Yellow or Blue shirts.

They are not rich people who can protest for days on end without going to work. They have made great efforts to avoid violence, despite being attacked. The behaviour of Redshirts in surrounding the Prime Minister’s car or breaking into the hotel in Pattaya to close down the Asian Summit, did not result in serious injury or serious damage to property. This is in contrast to the actions of the Yellowshirts.

Both in terms of “Means” and “Ends” the Red and Yellow shirts are opposites.

We call on all freedom-loving people throughout the world to support the fight for Democracy in Thailand.

We support the recent comments by Redshirt Jakrapop Penkair, when he says that the Thai people have the right to mount a Peoples’ Struggle for Democracy.

## **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**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

## **IED Kills U.S. Soldier In Salah-ad Din**

Apr 12, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20090412-02

TIKRIT, Iraq – One U.S. Coalition Soldier died of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated in Salah-ad Din Province, April 12.

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## **Four U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Taji IED**

April 12 (Reuters)

BAGHDAD - Four U.S. soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Taji, just north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement.

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## **U.S. Military Dictator Says Combat Troops “Might Have To Stay” In Mosul And Baqubah: Odious Odierno Prepares To Ignore June 30 Deadline For Withdrawal From Cities**

April 9, 2009 Deborah Haynes in Baghdad, Times Newspapers Ltd. & AP [Excerpts]

The activities of al-Qaeda [translation: Iraqi patriots fighting a foreign occupation] in two of Iraq's most troubled cities could keep US combat troops engaged beyond the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal, the top US commander in the country has warned.

**Odierno did not specifically say whether U.S. troops would leave Iraqi cities by the deadline, which is part of the plan for the gradual drawdown of American forces.**

US troop numbers in Mosul and Baqubah, in the north of the country, could rise rather than fall over the next year if necessary, General Ray Odierno told The Times in his first interview with a British newspaper since taking over from General David Petraeus in September.

Combat troops are due to leave all Iraqi cities by the end of June. Any delay would be a potential setback for President Obama, who has pledged to withdraw all combat forces from Iraq by August 2010 as he switches his focus to Afghanistan.

The ultimate decision on keeping or withdrawing troops would be taken by Nouri al-Maliki, the Iraqi Prime Minister, handing him a big dilemma, given the desire by most Iraqis for the US military to leave the country.

The US commander was confident that the overall timetable for the US pullout would be met.

But he added that US combat troops might have to stay beyond June 30 in Mosul and Baqubah, where al-Qaeda [translation: Iraqi patriots fighting a foreign occupation] retains an active presence. "The two areas I am concerned with are Mosul and then Baqubah and parts of Diyala province," he said. "We will conduct assessments and provide our assessments when the time is right."

He added that over the next 12 months "we won't see a large reduction in any forces in Mosul or Diyala. In fact we might see reinforcements in those areas if we continue to have issues".

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**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:  
PACK UP  
GO HOME  
FUCK ODIERNO:  
THIS IS STUPID BULLSHIT**



U.S. troops take up position on a major street after a gunfight between Iraqi militias at the neighborhood of Fadhil in Baghdad, March 29, 2009. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Village Remembers Fallen Soldier**



March 26, 2009 By Vinde Wells, Sauk Valley Newspapers

MOUNT MORRIS – The widow of a soldier killed last week in Afghanistan would like him to be remembered as a family man.

Brigette Cain, 26, said her husband, Spc. Norman Cain III, always put his family first.

“I want him to be remembered not only as a hero, which he was, but also as a devoted husband and father. He was our world,” she said.

Cain, 22, and two other Illinois soldiers, Sgt. Christopher Abeyta, 23, of Midlothian, and Spc. Robert Weinger, 24, of Round Lake Beach, died after a roadside bomb exploded March 15 near their vehicle in Kot.



The Cains married in July in Oregon. Brigette Cain, their son, Toryn, 1, and her daughter, Fallon Speilman, 3, were living in Oregon when Cain left in October on his first deployment.

She and the children moved to an apartment in Mount Morris in mid-February.

Cain will be greatly missed by his family, said Brigette, who is originally from Kansas City, Mo.

“This family will never be the same,” she said. “He was absolutely my soul mate – I was lucky to have him in my life as long as I did.”

Cain’s is a 2006 graduate of Freeport High School. His stepfather, Mark Otto of Freeport, is a part-time Polo police officer.

Cain, Abeyta and Weinger were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team out of Woodstock. Brigette Cain said she plans to attend their funerals this weekend.

Condolences for Spc. Norman Cain III’s family can be sent to the Family of Spc. Norman Cain III, 1301 N. Sunset Ridge Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

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## **As Usual Again One More Time: Resistance Attacks Destroy More Occupation Supplies**



A burnt out military vehicle at a terminal on the outskirts of Peshawar April 12, 2009. Taliban militants set fire on Sunday to container trucks carrying supplies to U.S. forces in Afghanistan in a pre-dawn attack near the Pakistani city of Peshawar, police said. REUTERS/Ali Imam

Apr 12 (AFP)

Suspected Taliban militants destroyed 11 parked trucks loaded with supplies for NATO forces in neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan police said Sunday, the latest in a string of attacks.

As many as 60 rebels swarmed two truck terminals outside the northwestern city of Peshawar armed with petrol bombs, police officials said, starting off huge blazes at both points.

Another police official, Mohammad Javed, said "the militants were 50-60 in number", adding they had over-powered and beaten security guards before starting the fires.

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## TROOP NEWS



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## County Dumps KBR Construction Contract After Protest By Iraq Veterans



**[Somehow the reporter forgot to mention that the two "Iraq War veterans" are organizers for Iraq Veterans Against The War. T]**

April 09, 2009 Knight Ridder; Tribune [Excerpts]

SAN MARCOS, Texas -- Hays County Commissioners on Tuesday rescinded a contract for engineering design on the first portion of the San Marcos Loop that they had previously awarded to KBR.

The move came one week after Iraq War veterans Gregory Foster and Bryan Hannah spoke of the company's record in that country in less than glowing terms.

On a motion by Commissioner Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe, the court decided to give the contract to S&B Infrastructure LTD.

In making her motion, Ingalsbe noted that the commissioners "need to be good stewards" of taxpayer money. In remarks before the meeting, she noted a "number of concerns" that residents had brought up in phone calls and e-mails. "Certainly the court holds the responsibility to listen to concerns of our constituents in determining what's best for our community."

Just prior to Tuesday's vote, Foster told commissioners that if they rescinded the contract it would "resonate with people" and "send a message to companies like KBR."

"It's setting a precedent for the country," Hannah said before Tuesday's vote.

Commissioner Jeff Barton thanked the veterans for showing up, and acknowledged that while rescinding the contract could be the beginning of a "slippery slope," there are thresholds "particularly with professional firms."

"Sometimes it does matter who you associate with and what's going on in your company," Barton said.

The vote was unanimous; however Commissioner Will Conley noted that his vote was not a reflection of an "anti-war sentiment" but instead because of new investigations the federal government has undertaken against the firm.

"It's important that we go through the processes at the federal level," Conley said. "In the meantime we have a road to build and we have a lot of firms that are very capable of doing this work."

He said the vote to rescind the KBR contract allows the county to "move forward with a clear conscious."

Though the company won't be associated with the first phase of FM 110, from IH-35 to Hwy. 123, KBR is involved in the city's Wonder World Drive extension project. The city had also turned to KBR three years ago when the old Rio Vista Dam was transformed into Rio Vista Rapids.

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# **Michigan Army National Guard Home From Iraq: “I Guess Officers From The Army Couldn’t Be Bothered To Come Talk To Their Own Guys” “Next Month We Actually Go Out Into The Woods And Pretend To Train”**

April 9, 2009

By Joe; Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too; Kbrsecurity.blogspot.com/

Age: 23

Gender: Male

Industry: Military

Occupation: Ice Cream Man

Deployments: An Nasiriyah, Scania, BIAP, TQ, Taji, Balad, Mosul, Baqubah: Iraq

Current Location: Michigan National Guard

Another drill come and gone this past weekend.

Saturday we had a TA-50 (gear) layout and inspection to find out who didn't have their shit.

Some guys never got some shit, some guys lost their shit in country, some guys had their shit stolen in country, and some guys (like me), had their shit lost/stolen between placing the shipping containers on the ship and the ship arriving stateside.

My tough box full of gear had a padlock on it that I placed on it myself as I was on the detail to inspect tough boxes with Naval customs before they were sealed into the containers and moved onto the ship. Between sailing on the high seas and arriving here, someone cut my padlock, ganked all my shit, and then resealed it with a zip tie.

Excellent.

This happened to other people as well.

I'm not one to blame the Navy for stealing our shit, the more plausible reason is that this crap sat in the basement of the armory in downtown Detroit for 3 months and people probably walked right in the front door and took their pick. Our armory has about 5 sets of double doors (used to be an old basketball arena back in the 1950s) with some company offices back in the corner. You can walk in and go down to the basement without being seen by anyone on most days.

Theoretically, I shouldn't have to pay for any of this stuff.

Realistically, I know I just bought all this crap.

I mean, shit, I paid for this shit once already; I was excused from our 2nd AT in 2007 so that I could not flunk out of college and that AT is when all the new high speed ACU-colored gear was issued.

When I showed up to the make-up AT in December, the people from CIF (Central Issue Facility, gear-hander-outers) charged me for not having any of the new stuff and took my old stuff.

**I paid \$600 or so for a rucksack and a set of webgear/pouches, plus all my old stuff is still on my clothing record even though I turned it in 1.5 years ago.**

**The supply SGT is "working on it."**

**The cadet in charge of inspecting my line didn't follow up on whether or not I took my signed statement of charges up to the table for turn-in, so I didn't. I hate cadets.**

After gear inspection, we stood and shot the shit for about 7 hours. Your taxdollars at work.

**I attempted to get my bonus issue resolved, but to no avail.**

**Our admin NCO can't even get ahold of the state bonus dude on the phone. My pay for February, March, and April is all \$0 due to my entire paycheck going to my debt payment that I don't owe.**

**I think 2 years is enough time to give finance to fix my issue and I plan on calling the Inspector General.**

Sunday we arrived at 0600 and stood around for 6 more hours.

We filled out 4100's again (promotion worksheets) for the June list. They are still fucked up. Some people were missing their PT score.

Now they have their PT score but their weapons qualification is not on there.

This is always an easy task for me. I check "Do not consider me for promotion" and sign it.

At 1100 we got cut loose for chow, thankfully.

Usually the FRG is there with white bread and wal-mart lunchmeat sandwiches for \$5, which is awesome if you have \$5 for a sandwich or you know where the FRG money goes.

Plus, it's 2009, what the hell is cash?

We drove around for 45 minutes looking for a place open on Sunday for lunch and finally found a Chili's. No amount of flirting or promises of cash could convince the bartender to serve us some brew before 1300 (local liquor law).

Upon arrival back at the armory, we had our wonderful Freedom Salute ceremony.

This ceremony used to be really nice, back when the state had money. It used to be a nice hotel in Lansing where we got served a nice dinner and senators and the governor spoke.

Now it's held on our drill floor, warped from water damage with big holes all over leading 30ft down into the basement.

Rear detachment guys stood around the holes so that no one's kid fell through one.

The biggest speaker was a one-star general from an MP unit in the Michigan AIR Guard.

I guess officers from the Army couldn't be bothered to come talk to their own guys.

If my mom hadn't found out about this, I would have cut out at lunch like all the other single guys.

I got a flag in a case, a national guard medal, some lapel pins, a certificate, and some more ribbons for my dress uniform. More crap to give to my mom for her to put all over her walls at her house.

After 20 min of speeches from the general, we were cut loose.

Next month we actually go out into the woods and pretend to train.

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## **Thieving Officer Stole \$690,000: West Point Graduate Mailed Home Boxes Of Money From Iraq**

April 12, 2009 By Kim Murphy, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAKESWOOD, Wash -- Capt. Michael Nguyen had a profitable tour of duty in Iraq -- so profitable, in fact, that soon after returning to this working-class neighborhood near the Army's Fort Lewis, he was parking a Hummer H3T outside his apartment.

Then a \$70,000 BMW M-3 showed up. People notice cars like that on a street filled with pickup trucks, old Chevys and low-end sport-utility vehicles.

"I spent 10 years in the military, and I can tell you, nobody's giving me bailouts like that," said Mark Smith, who lives across the street.

Federal investigators found Nguyen's \$6,169-a-month Army paychecks untouched in the bank since his return from Iraq in June 2008, while he was paying credit-card bills for three flat-screen TVs, two desktop computers, a laptop, iPods, video games, furniture, a camera and a pair of hand guns.

In a federal indictment in March, prosecutors alleged that Nguyen managed to skim more than \$690,000 in cash while acting as the civil-affairs officer responsible for overseeing millions of dollars intended for reconstruction projects and payments to private Iraqi security forces northeast of Baghdad.

Nguyen, 28, a West Point Military Academy graduate, is accused of mailing stacks of cash in boxes to his family's home.

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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 Douglass, 1852**

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# A Few Bad Apples



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 12, 2009  
Subject: A Few Bad Apples

## A Few Bad Apples

**An atrocity always begins by following orders.  
The order in itself is an authority decision.  
Which means those who carry out the atrocity,  
are not held responsible.  
But, if the atrocity is found out,  
the authority orders were never given.  
That gives birth to a "few bad apples."  
It's a fail-safe system.  
It always works, because the military always  
convinces the public of Geneva Convention Rules.  
In this case, a "few bad apples," committed murder.  
Things like this happen in war.  
But, it is incomprehensible that this would ever be  
anything but a very, very, rare occasion.  
When veterans die,  
they carry a lot of secrets to the next world,  
because it is only there that they can be healed.  
They can't be healed by a public who thinks it is  
only done by a "few bad apples."  
An apple a day keeps the truth away.**

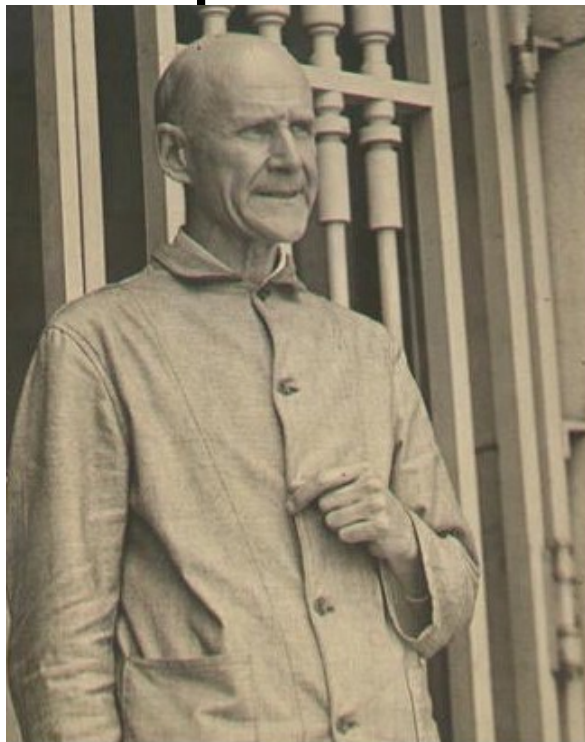


Thank God there is another world where veterans  
can make peace with their suffering.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
April 12, 2009

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

## April 13, 1919 A Hero Imprisoned For Opposing Imperial War



Eugene V. Debs when he was a prisoner at the Atlanta  
Federal Penitentiary, sentenced for opposing U.S. entry  
into World War I.

U.S. Department of Labor, "Labor Hall of Fame Honoree"  
<<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/laborhall/evd.htm>>

Carl Bunin Peace History April 13-19

Socialist and labor leader Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned for opposing U.S. entry into  
World War I.

While in prison, he received nearly one million votes for President in the 1920 election (as he had in 1912).



## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

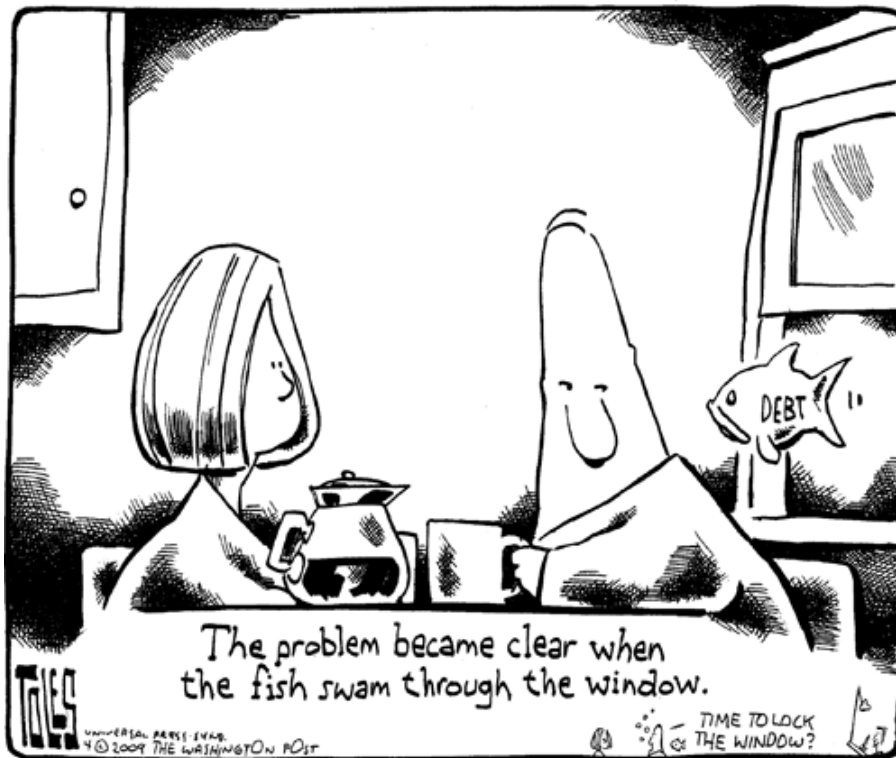


### Troops Invited:

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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Time to change the system.]

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res2&mod=newse&lan=1>

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THE BLOODSHED**

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

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