

## GI SPECIAL 7E23:



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

# **“Most Soldiers Know” “There’s Stupid” “And Then There’s Army Stupid”**

June 1, 2009 By Tony Lombardo, Army Times [Excerpts]

Most soldiers know: There’s stupid, and then there’s Army stupid.

When Maj. Gen. Michael Oates got on his blog and asked soldiers: “What is the stupidest rule or policy you have seen in the Army?” he essentially was throwing them red meat.

After all, soldiers labor under rules and regs laid out in more than 100,000 Army documents.

The 10th Mountain Division commander simply titled his entry, “Stupid rules.”

Following are a few of their entries:

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'How about some common sense?'

My vote for stupidest rule is that you can't have sweaty PT clothing on in the chow hall. Honked me off a little at Camp Victory, but it really honks me off here in Basra.

How about some common sense here?

— Basra Homey

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I would add how stupid the "no umbrella" rule is. Just allow a professional-looking, simple black umbrella.

— Mike

\*\*\*\*\*

We ask our soldiers to go to war, but we make them request a pass to drive beyond a 70-mile radius off the base?

They should be able to drive wherever they want just as long as they are back by the next duty day.

— Traveler

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I've seen two rules in recent years that are tied for the most stupid rules that I've ever seen in my 21 years of military duty.

1. The mandatory wear of a reflective belt while wearing the Army physical fitness uniform. Hello, the APFU has been specifically designed to omit the requirement of additional reflective accessories.
2. The ridiculous policies that exist at the Army's current mobilization platforms. Not allowing soldiers to go off base during non-duty hours, except under limited and restrictive circumstances, and not allowing soldiers to consume alcoholic beverages, etc.

— APFT Guy

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Just one?

■ The new "Mall Cop" dress uniform. Oh my God, what the hell is this clown suit? Why in the middle of two wars are we doing this?

■ Rolling up our BDU sleeves so the camo part shows. Calling that stupid is an insult to really stupid things.

- The M9 pistol. With all of the outstanding handguns on the market, the Army still issues this piece of junk.
- Fifteen-month combat tours. Hey, there's a recipe for enhancing readiness, recruiting, retention and well-adjusted Army families. Absolutely disgraceful.
- The "Army values" tag. Here, put this around your neck. OK, now you're moral, ethical and all that. Good work, soldier.

— Mountain Soldier

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Beret backlash, uniform unrest

Worthless as headgear. Offers no protection from rain or sun. Bring back the cap.

— Sam Verbeck

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We spent millions on berets at a time when we did not have money for spare parts for vehicles or ammo for ranges.

— Rob

\*\*\*\*\*

The beret is an absolutely useless piece of gear. Sure it looks good, but it's pretty obvious that the ones who made it policy to wear this piece of gear in an everyday work uniform sit in an office and don't see the light of day.

— Joe Snuffy

\*\*\*\*\*

You should never have to wear the helmet if you're not in a combat zone.

— roger spencer

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Heavy-handed policy

If a soldier can pass the PT test, and has a good standing PT history, then he should not be scrutinized or started on a chapter.

— Sgt Jones

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The tape test that the Army uses to determine if a soldier is within tolerance for body fat percentage is wildly inaccurate and can vary wildly depending on who does it.

— Thomas

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R&R from red tape

How much paperwork really needs to be submitted with a DA31 leave request?

At one point to submit a DA31, one would have to attach a separate leave request, privately owned vehicle online risk assessment, a detailed rest plan, POV inspection form (flying or not), plane reservations (if flying), a safety pledge, strip map to the leave address (even if not leaving post), another personal risk assessment sheet, and finally, a leave and earnings statement, all to ask to go on leave.

Ahh, vacation was needed after rounding up all of that.

— Ja Red

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## **ACTION REPORTS**

**FLEET WEEK - MIDTOWN, NY:  
“One Marine Sergeant Said After  
Taking The Package He ‘Just Wanted  
To Be Home’”**

**“Invariably, Polite Responses Were  
Received And Often Interested Military  
Started Reading The Material On The  
Street”**

From: Alan Stolzer, The Military Project  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 27, 2009  
Subject: Fleet Week - 2009

The Fleet may have left NY on 5/27 after its weeklong stay, but scores of sailors and Marines will be carrying publications opposed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and DVDs of "Sir! No Sir!" a film documentary about resistance to the Vietnam War by members of the armed forces that most probably did not know about before they got here.

Thanks to dedicated members of the Military Project and Iraq Veterans Against The War plus allies who wanted to outreach, midtown was accessed every day after the military opened its annual visit to New York City designed for tourists and patriotism.

But as in the last two years, sailors and Marines they also received news and expressions of support for anti-war organizing activities they may be practicing now or in the future.

There's no exact count of material distributed, but certainly 125-150 packages containing a special Fleet Week wrapper, the latest Traveling Soldier, a pamphlet with information about the rights of members of the armed forces, and a letter to the troops from Iraq Veterans Against The War and Military Project member Fabian Bouthillette.

Approximately 75 DVDs of Sir No Sir were handed out along with the information packages.

As per usual the reception was good. Invariably, polite responses were received and often interested military started reading the material on the street.

One Marine sergeant said after taking the package he "just wanted to be home."

Other Marines, very young privates, told of their coming deployment. These were especially reminded of the support that awaits them.

Last year one sailor joined IVAW because of this outreach.

Hopefully, this year's will yield more but if there are none, there's always next year.

**MORE:**

## **ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!**

**An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.**

**If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.**

**Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.**

**They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.**

**If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.**

**If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.**

**NOTE WELL:**

**Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.**

**Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.**

**If accidentally included, that information will not be published.**

**The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Soldier Killed By Grenade In Ninewa**

May 29, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20090529-03

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – A Coalition forces Soldier died after a grenade detonated near a patrol in Ninewa province, May 29.

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### **MND-B Soldier Dies In Combat-Related Incident (Baghdad)**

May 27, 2009 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20090527-01C & AFP

A roadside car bomb blast targeting a US patrol killed five people, including a Multi-National Division–Baghdad Soldier, west of the Iraqi capital on Wednesday, an interior ministry official and the US military said, as the patrol passed in the town of Abu Ghraib, 15 miles (25 kilometres) from the capital.

“The blast killed one US soldier,” a US military spokesman said.

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# Three U.S. Occupation Staff Killed By Fallujah IED; Two More Wounded

May 26, 2009 (AP) & 5.27 AFP

The U.S. military says three Americans have been killed by a roadside bomb that struck a convoy carrying soldiers, government employees and contractors west of Baghdad.

A military statement says a state department official and a civilian who worked for the Department of Defense were killed in the bombing in Fallujah Monday.

**The US embassy named the slain State Department employee as Terrence Barnich, deputy director of the Iraq Transition Assistance Office.**

The statement Tuesday said two other people were wounded.

**MORE:**

## Republican Politician Blown Up After Visiting Sewage Plan

May 26, 2009 Associated Press

CHICAGO - Former Illinois Commerce Commission Chairman Terry Barnich was killed Monday by a roadside bomb while traveling in a U.S. convoy in western Iraq, according to the State Department.

Barnich, 56, was hired in 2007 as deputy director of the Iraq Transition Assistance Office in Baghdad, said deputy State Department spokesman Robert Wood.

He was returning from an inspection of a U.S.-government funded wastewater treatment plant under construction in Fallujah, Wood said.

Barnich, who served as the ICC's chairman from 1989 to 1992, also had worked as chief counsel to former Gov. Jim Thompson and a campaign manager for Republican candidate Judy Baar Topinka when she ran for governor in 2006.

He took a leave from his job as CEO of Chicago-based New Paradigm Resources Group to work in Iraq.

**MORE:**

# **Navy Commander Blown Up After Visiting Sewage Plant**

May 27, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 365-09

Cmdr. Duane G. Wolfe, 54, of Port Hueneme, Calif., died May 25 from injuries suffered as a result of an improvised explosive device attack on his convoy southeast of Fallujah. Wolfe was assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Division in Iraq.

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**“Officials Cited Security Concerns As The Reason For Not Visiting The Same Region It Says Is Safe Enough For Refugees To Return To”  
“Here Is An Enormous Risk Of Being Bombed Or Attacked”**

05/28/09 The Copenhagen Post

Danish officials cited security concerns as the reason for not visiting the same region it says is safe enough for refugees to return to. Security concerns kept Danish officials on a fact finding mission to Iraq in March from travelling to parts of the central region of the country deemed unstable, reports Politiken newspaper.

Instead, the Immigration Service officials chose to visit northern Iraq. Information about the central and southern regions was obtained by speaking with UNHCR officials in Amman, Jordan.

However, the Immigration Service is due to send nearly 300 Iraqi refugees whose requests for asylum have been rejected back to Iraq in the coming weeks - some 119 of whom come from central Iraq.

Andreas Kamm, of the Danish Refugee Council, who was a part of the group travelling to Iraq, said that normally as many as eight heavily armed body guards per individual are required when international organisations visit central Iraq.

'There is an enormous risk of being bombed or attacked,' he said.

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## **Resistance Action**



May 23 KUNA & May 24 (Reuters) & 5.25 By Laith Hammoudi and Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & May 26 (Reuters) & May 27 (Reuters) & May 28, 2009 DPA & May 29 (Reuters) & SAMEER N. YACOUB Associated Press Writer

Five Iraqi police officers were killed and four others were injured in two separate incidents in the northern city of Mosul on Saturday. Police sources told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that four police members were killed and three others were injured in an explosive device blast in western Mosul. The sources added that another police member was killed and one was injured in armed attacks in eastern Mosul.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol wounded one policeman and two civilians in Adhamiya district, northern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents opened fire on a U.S.-allied militia checkpoint on Saturday night, wounding one fighter in Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Four policemen were injured by a roadside bomb north of Baquba city around 9 a.m.

An Iraqi soldier was killed by a sniper in Tahrir neighborhood in eastern Mosul on Monday afternoon.

Around 4 p.m. a roadside bomb targeted a police commando's patrol on the high of southern Falluja on Monday. One vehicle was totally damaged, but no further information released of the number of casualties as the area was blocked by police till the having this report.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it struck their patrol in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi army officers and a soldier when it struck their convoy in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles), north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol killed one soldier in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

A local official was gunned up near the central Iraqi city of Diwaniya on Thursday, police there said. Jawad Khaled, a member of the local municipal council and the local leader of Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim's Supreme Islamic [Collaborator] Council of Iraq, was fatally shot north of Diwaniya, 280 kilometres south of Baghdad, police told the German Press Agency dpa.

Friday, a local leader of a U.S.-allied paramilitary group was killed when a bomb hidden on a motorcycle exploded as he opened his butcher store on the outskirts of the Diyala provincial capital of Baqouba, police said. Khazal al-Sammaraie was the leader of a local chapter of the so-called Awakening Council. Maj. Derrick Cheng, a spokesman for U.S. forces in northern Iraq, said the military had an initial report of at least five people wounded in the attack.

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

# END THE OCCUPATIONS

## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### **Kapisa Province Bomb Attack Kills Three U.S. Soldiers**

May 26 AFP & By VOA News

A bomb attack on US troops north of the Afghan capital Tuesday killed three soldiers and three Afghan civilians, military and Afghan officials told AFP.

“Three International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service members were killed and one injured after an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan this morning,” ISAF said in a statement.

The attack took place in Kapisa province, about 10 kilometres northeast of Bagram.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday's bombing but the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency reported that the Hezb-e-Islami faction of former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said it had carried out the attack.

A Taliban spokesman told AFP that it was not the work of his group and also pointed to Hezb-e-Islami, which is active in the area in Kapisa where mainly U.S. and French troops are deployed for ISAF.

Authorities said the blast occurred Tuesday when the driver of an explosives-laden Toyota Corolla rammed the vehicle into a NATO convoy.

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### **Bagram IED Kills Pentagon Lt. Col. And Senior Airman**

May 27, 2009 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 363-09

The Department of Defense announced today the death of two airmen who were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. They died May 26 near Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device.

Killed were:

Lt. Col. Mark E. Stratton II, 39, of Houston. He was assigned to the Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Senior Airman Ashton L. M. Goodman, 21, of Indianapolis. She was assigned to the 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

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## **Lance Corporal Kieron Hill Killed Near Garmsir**

29 May 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that Lance Corporal Kieron Hill from 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters) was killed in Afghanistan on 28 May 2009.

Lance Corporal Hill died as a result of an explosion that happened whilst on a deliberate operation near Garmsir in Helmand province.

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## **Lance Corporal Robert Martin Richards RM Dies Of Wounds Sustained In Nad e-Ali, Another Soldier Wounded**

29 May 09 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the MOD must confirm that Lance Corporal Robert Martin Richards from Armoured Support Group Royal Marines died in Selly Oak Hospital on Wednesday 27 May 2009, from wounds sustained in Helmand five days previously.

Royal Marine Lance Corporal Rob Richards (his family know him as Martin but his friends call him Rob) was serving as Second-in-Command of a Viking All-Terrain Vehicle Section in 3rd Armoured Support Troop of the Armoured Support Group Royal Marines (ASGRM) when he was mortally wounded in the Nad e-Ali district of central Helmand, Afghanistan, on 22 May 2009.

Lance Corporal Richards was evacuated to the UK but despite the best efforts of medical staff and his own extraordinary fight he died of his wounds on 27 May 2009.

LCpl Richards died while supporting the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was given immediate first aid at the scene and evacuated to medical facilities in Kandahar before being flown back to the UK.

Many would not have survived the flight home but, testament to his character, LCpl Richards battled against his injuries for five days.

A second operator driving the vehicle was also injured and is still receiving medical treatment.

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## Dutch Soldier Wounded Near Deh Rawod

25 May 2009 Radio Netherlands

A Dutch military vehicle has hit an improvised explosive device (IED) in the Afghan province of Uruzgan. One soldier was slightly injured in the blast. The explosion occurred near Deh Rawod, which is home to a small Dutch base.

The homemade bombs manufactured by the Taliban pose a major threat to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. The bombs are detonated by remote control when a convoy passes by.

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## Resistance Attack Destroys Occupation Troop Supply Convoy In Shinkai District

May 29 by Bronwen Roberts (AFP) & (Xinhua)

In an attack claimed by the Taliban, a convoy ferrying logistics to foreign troops was halted in Shinkai district in the southern province of Zabul on Friday.

Ten of the vehicles were burned and four drivers killed, provincial police chief Abdur Rahman Sarjang told AFP.

A Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi in talks with media from an undisclosed location claimed that 15 drivers and guards of the convoy were killed in the attack.

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## Resistance Action

27 May 2009 DPA & May 29 by Bronwen Roberts, (AFP)

**Nader Khan, the district governor Umni district in south-eastern Paktika province was en route to Yahyakhel district on Wednesday afternoon when his vehicle was attacked by Taliban militants, Daulat Khan Zadran, the provincial police chief, said.**

He said the district chief along with his three sons and a civilian, who was passing by the area, were killed and the Khan's fourth son was wounded in the attack.

Taliban militants claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted at their website and said the rebel fighters seized weapons and other “important documents” from the dead official's vehicle.

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**On Friday there was a fierce, nearly two-hour battle in the northwestern province of Badghis which borders Turkmenistan, the provincial governor said. Afghan troops were ambushed as they entered a village to which they had been invited by elders for a meeting, governor Delbar Jan Arman told AFP. Six of the soldiers died and five were wounded, he said.**

In the eastern town of Khost, a candidate for provincial council elections due in August was killed late Thursday by a bomb that had been magnetically fixed to his car, said provincial government spokesman Khochai Nasiri.

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

**BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG:  
COME ON HOME, NOW**



A U.S. Marine patrols in Golestan district of Farah province, May 1, 2009.  
REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

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**SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# Insurgents “In A Fresh Push Toward Mogadishu”

MAY 28, 2009 By SARAH CHILDRESS, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

Stepped-up attacks by Somali militants are challenging the new president's campaign promises to bring peace and order to this war-torn country.

Those plans are on hold, however, amid strife in Mogadishu. In recent weeks, Al Shabab and another militant group, Hisb-ul-Islam, banded together to overturn the government, clashing with Somali forces in a fresh push toward Mogadishu.

The African Union's mission in Somalia has slightly more than 4,000 troops charged with establishing peace in Mogadishu [translation: charge with occupying Somalia to keep the pro U.S. government regime in power].

These troops have become a target for insurgents, who lay roadside bombs for their tanks.

Nicolas Bwakira, the special representative for the mission, said the recent attacks included some of the worst violence he had seen in the country since March 2007, after the Ethiopians invaded [after George W. Bush asked the Ethiopian dictatorship to invade] and Somalia had no effective government [translation: no pro-Washington DC government].

## **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**



Aya Keene, right, with her son Ian, as her husband deploys with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade to Afghanistan from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune at Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 30, 2009. The brigade will conduct counter-insurgency operations. (AP Photo/Jim R. Bounds)

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

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

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

# ONLY 110,000 MORE TO COME HOME; FROM IRAQ THAT IS



Sgt. Glenn Caramba, center, of Manhattan is hugged by daughter Yema Caramba, 11, as he is greeted by his family including, mother, Elizabeth Caramba, left, wife Lynda Caramba, and daughter Samia Caramba, right, Monday, May 25, 2009, at the U.S. Army's Fort Dix in Wrightstown, N.J. Caramba is one of nearly 400 New Jersey Army National Guard soldiers of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team returning on the Memorial Day holiday from duty in Iraq. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

## **GI SPECIALS BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS**

**IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: [CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG) OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA. 917.677.8057**

Please say how many you wish sent.

**NOTE WELL:** They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

**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**

**“Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.”  
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**“While there is a lower class I am in it; while there is a criminal element I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free”  
-- Eugene V. Debs**

**“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.**

# May 27, 1963: One For Our Side “Masters Of War Released”



The record album, “The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan,” with the song “Masters Of War,” was released.

Masters of War  
By Bob Dylan

Come you masters of war  
You that build all the guns  
You that build the death planes  
You that build the big bombs  
You that hide behind walls  
You that hide behind desks  
I just want you to know  
I can see through your masks

You that never done nothin'  
But build to destroy  
You play with my world  
Like it's your little toy  
You put a gun in my hand  
And you hide from my eyes  
And you turn and run farther

When the fast bullets fly

Like Judas of old  
You lie and deceive  
A world war can be won  
You want me to believe  
But I see through your eyes  
And I see through your brain  
Like I see through the water  
That runs down my drain

You fasten the triggers  
For the others to fire  
Then you set back and watch  
When the death count gets higher  
You hide in your mansion  
As young people's blood  
Flows out of their bodies  
And is buried in the mud

You've thrown the worst fear  
That can ever be hurled  
Fear to bring children  
Into the world  
For threatening my baby  
Unborn and unnamed  
You ain't worth the blood  
That runs in your veins

How much do I know  
To talk out of turn  
You might say that I'm young  
You might say I'm unlearned  
But there's one thing I know  
Though I'm younger than you  
Even Jesus would never  
Forgive what you do

Let me ask you one question  
Is your money that good  
Will it buy you forgiveness  
Do you think that it could  
I think you will find  
When your death takes its toll  
All the money you made  
Will never buy back your soul

**And I hope that you die  
And your death'll come soon  
I will follow your casket  
In the pale afternoon**

And I'll watch while you're lowered  
Down to your deathbed  
And I'll stand o'er your grave  
'Til I'm sure that you're dead

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## May 29, 1932: Betrayed Veterans March On Washington DC



The St. Louis contingent of the Bonus Expeditionary Force is pictured here as it starts for Washington, D.C., in May 1932.

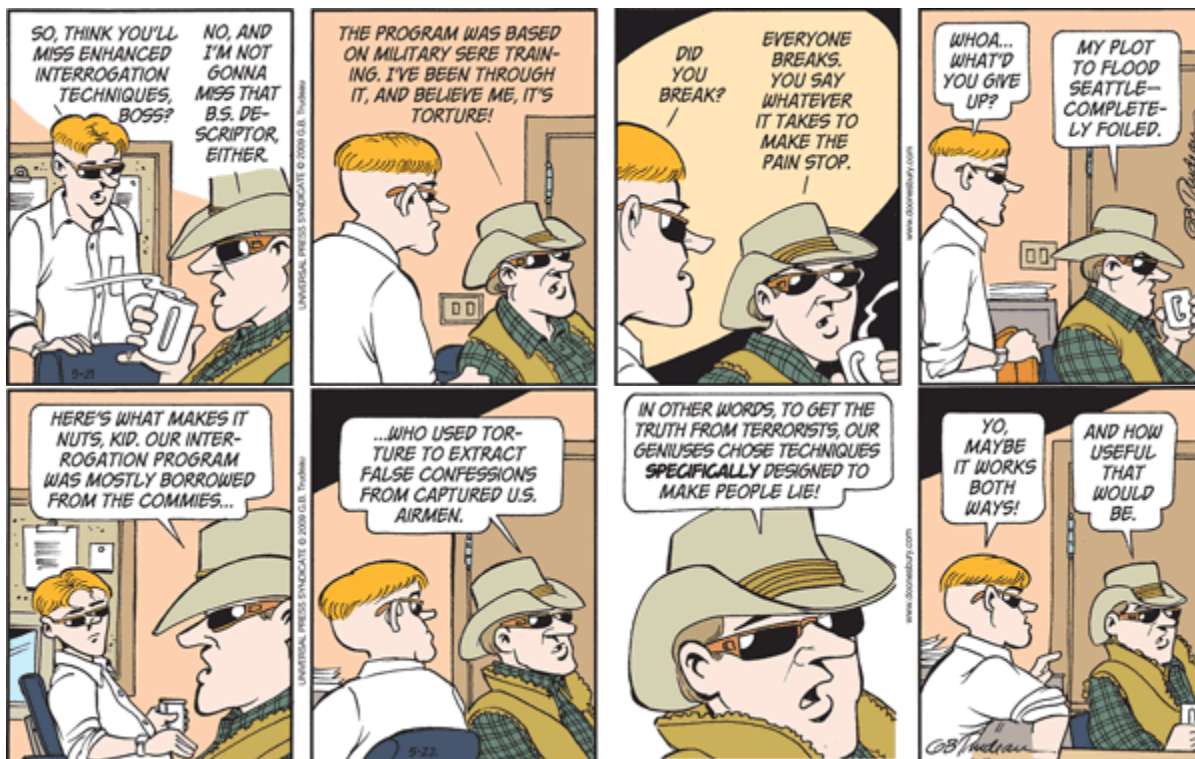
Carl Bunin Peace History May 28-June 3

**In the depths of the Great Depression, the “Bonus Expeditionary Force,” a group of 1,000 World War I veterans seeking cash payments for their veterans’ bonus certificates, arrived in Washington, D.C.**

By mid-June, they had set up a massive “Hooverville,” a contemporary term for an encampment of the homeless.

One month later, other veteran groups made their way to the nation’s capital, swelling the Bonus Marchers to nearly 20,000 strong, most of them unemployed veterans in difficult financial straits.

**In direct violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, they were violently disbanded by the Army in July.**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

**Got an opinion? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request identification published.**

**GI Special Available In PDF Format**

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**The Mask Comes Off:**

# “When It Comes To The Pursuit Of U.S. Imperial Aims, Human Rights Are Expendable”



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

May 20, 2009 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

[T]he Obama administration broke its promise to shut down the military tribunal system at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and grant detainees the right to a trial in U.S. courts or under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Instead, the White House will adopt some kind of modified military commissions to try detainees at Guantánamo.

Unlike the commissions planned under Bush, these proceedings will supposedly exclude evidence obtained through torture or other harsh interrogation methods, and limit the use of hearsay as evidence.

But the problem isn't the way the commissions are handled--it's the commissions themselves. Like its predecessor, the Obama administration plans to subvert the law by creating its own unconstitutional court system for detainees.

The Obama administration plans to retain military commissions not out of some worry about “terrorists” being tried in civilian courts, but because it is in the interest of the U.S. government to keep such a weapon in its arsenal.

So Obama orders the Guantánamo prison closed down, but keeps open the option of “rendering” prisoners to other countries.

He publicly denounces torture, but protects U.S. officials who crafted torture policies from being prosecuted.

He claims the mantle of civil liberties, but defends the right of the government to eavesdrop on citizens without a warrant.

He travels to Egypt to further a U.S. “dialogue” with the Arab and Muslim worlds, but prevents victims of CIA kidnapping from getting their day in court.  
All this is part of the logic that comes with running the world's only superpower.

When it comes to the pursuit of U.S. imperial aims, human rights are expendable.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS



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**May 2008: Auto Workers  
Words Of Prophecy:  
“Now Is The Time Of The Assassins”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran & United Auto Workers GM Retiree, Perry, Michigan, who sent this in.]

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5.21.08 By Gregg Shotwell, Soldiers Of Solidarity, United Auto Workers

## **A Line From Rimbaud (French Poet, 1854-1891) — or Tell the FBI, “Art’s Dead”**

**We can take it out  
on our wives, our  
teenage sons, the neighbor's  
dog.**

**We can speed, get  
drunk, break glass,  
smoke three cigarettes in a  
row.**

**We can sabotage a  
machine, poke  
fun at a spineless  
boss.**

**But how does one confront  
a Battenberg, a Wagoner,  
a Miller, or Dick Dauch  
when**

**They announce to the press  
on the nineteenth green  
they intend to cut thousands of  
jobs?**

**As if a job didn't  
mean a husband, a father,  
a wife, a mother, a home, a  
family.**

**How does one  
confront the corporation  
that cuts retiree health  
care?**

**And demands wage cuts  
that condemn employees  
to a life of  
poverty?**



**Bottom feeders like Wilbur Ross  
who call bankruptcy success,  
trash pensions, and  
celebrate?**

**Or change company names and  
resurface making the same  
product for higher  
profit**

**And lower wages,  
no pensions, or health  
care for surviving  
spouses?**

**We won't win at the bargaining table  
where negotiators on both sides all  
wear ties and play golf  
together.**

**We won't win in court where judges  
dine elbow to elbow with donors who  
pay more per plate than we make in a  
week.**

**We can only win in the streets  
with hands and arms and legs and feet.  
We can't win unless we beat the bastards  
senseless.**

**Then maybe we can talk sense.  
Then maybe they will listen.  
But first we have to teach them a  
lesson.**

**Arm yourselves to the teeth.  
Abandon the hideouts.  
Take the war to the  
streets.**

**Make the sons of bitches pay.  
We have nothing left  
to lose but our  
dignity.**

***"Now is the Time of the Assassins."***

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## RECEIVED

### **“It Takes Me Back. I Can Hear The Music And See The War On The News”**

From: viola ransel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 22, 2009  
Subject: GI SPECIAL 7E16

I saw “GI SPECIAL 7E16” posted on Uruknet a couple of days ago. In the process of trying to copy something some of the members of congress said, I got caught up in the newsletter itself.

I was especially “spoken to” by the picture Mark Shapiro sent in of the soldiers in Vietnam. I cut it out and put it on my bulletin board.



There's just something about those faces, especially the two smiling guys with their fists raised and the guy in front making a peace sign.

I find it hard to look away from them.

It takes me back. I can hear the music and see the war on the news.

I wonder where they are now and if they're OK.

I wondered if you might post these poems for them in the next newsletter, and also if I could subscribe to it.

## **In Memoriam: Two For The Troops**

### **ECHO TAPS**

**One by  
one by  
one by one  
by one,  
eight hundred  
sixty-six individual  
renditions  
of "Taps" reverberated  
in a cascade played  
by trumpeters, buglers  
and other horn players  
who tapped out  
the 24-note refrain.**

**From a circle of wind-whipped American flags  
at the center of Woodlawn National Cemetery's heart,  
41 miles to the National Cemetery at Bath  
and 2900 white-stoned Confederate P.O.W. graves  
it started**

**down Routes 415 and 352 it went  
echoing the sad fact that "Taps",  
which has sent  
thousands of vets  
to their eternal rest,  
has not been played  
at recent military funerals  
which expresses  
the shortage of buglers available to play,  
but no shortage of American soldiers who've paid  
the ultimate price for their patriotism.  
"Echo Taps" respectfully  
redressed this omission.**

**Following the final  
rendition  
of the final salute  
866 horns glistening  
in the sun  
rose  
in simultaneous tribute,**

**Ten-HUT!!!**

Syracuse Post-Standard, Sunday, May 22, 2005  
"41 Miles of Echoed 'Taps'  
Armed Forces event stretches from Elmira to Bath"

"The idea for Echo Taps, was the result of two buglers, Les Hampton and Gerald McDonald, joking with each other. 'They had come to Bath to play for a funeral and later got talking,' said Wesley Jones, director of Bath/Woodlawn National Cemeteries. 'They said,' What about a mile of buglers? What about two miles?'"

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mass Production**

**Records confirm C-141 Starlifters  
ascend from Ramstein on well-timed flights  
arriving ten hours later at Dover Airbase  
under cover ----- of the night.**

**There will be no national day of mourning.  
The Capitol will not dim its lights  
to show respect for almost 4300 returned  
under cover ----- of the night.**

**Stricken citizens will not line a cortege route  
as flag-draped coffins proceed for interment  
past a full-dress military honor guard  
to the embrace of Arlington's earth.**

**No lone bugler will bid them rest well with "Taps".  
They will receive no twenty-one gun salute.  
It is presidential policy not to attend  
the military funerals of our fallen youth.**

**There is no public visitation  
of our fallen fighters in repose.  
They are honored only by survivors  
who are left to grieve alone.**

**Parents ask no elaborate state funerals,  
but only the public recognition  
that America acknowledges and values  
the sacrifice of their beloved children.**

**The Starlifter war-machine conveyor belt goes on  
dumping our war dead unceremoniously after each flight.  
I can hear them calling "Don't forget me here  
under cover ----- of the night."**

**If the ideals for which we sacrifice  
our youth reflect a truly noble fight  
and we truly appreciate our military's valor**

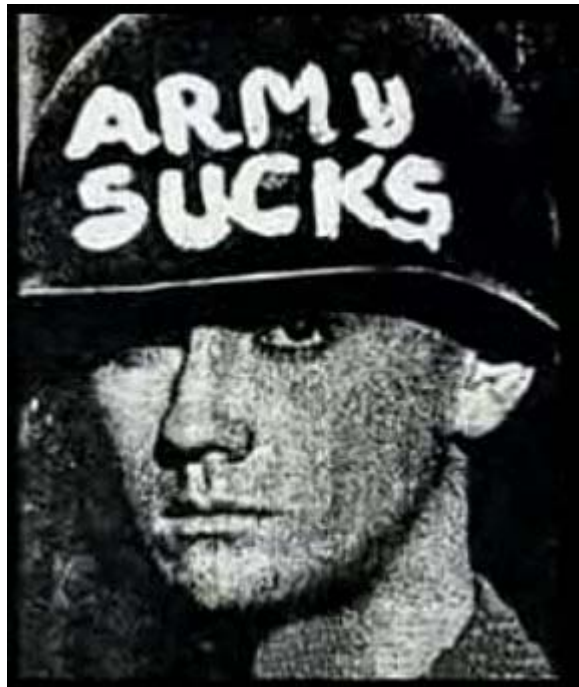
**and truly grieve as they pay the ultimate price,  
why are our fallen soldiers smuggled home  
under cover ----- of the night?**

(I have been upping the number of those killed in action since 2005, when I first wrote the poem and the body count stood at approximately 1400.)

Thanks for plugging me back into those times.

Best regards,  
Vi Ransel

**REPLY:** Yes; received with thanks and memories. T.



Vietnam Days: [Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

**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**

### 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



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

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

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/); [news@uruknet.info](mailto:news@uruknet.info);

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

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