

GI SPECIAL 7F2: NATIONAL GUARD ISSUE

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

**Behold The Dawn Of Day
That Breaks Upon The
World:
Fort Hood Active Duty Soldiers
March Against The Wars:**

**“There Are Thousands Of Guys
Who Are Not Coming Home To
Their Mom And Dad”
“I Lost Three Buddies In My Platoon
In Iraq And For What?
“Why Lose More When We Don’t Have
To?”**

May. 26 2009 By Rebecca LaFlure, Killeen Daily Herald

“Get up. Get down. There’s an anti-war movement in this town.”

A group of active-duty Fort Hood soldiers and nearly 70 other anti-war protesters took to the streets of Killeen Monday afternoon in the city’s first peace march since the Vietnam War.

Toting picket signs that read, “War is not the answer,” and “Blessed are the peacemakers,” the demonstrators gathered for one common purpose – to call for an end to the wars in the Middle East.

The action, held on Memorial Day, was organized to honor the nation’s fallen soldiers, and help prevent the further loss of lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We’re paying homage to the ones we’ve lost. We don’t want to lose anymore,” said Chris Saylor, an Iraq War veteran who traveled from Detroit to participate.

The protest was organized by Under the Hood Cafe – a local outreach center for soldiers. Members from peace organizations across Texas as well as college students, active-duty soldiers and veterans came out to show their support.

The march began at the cafe house at 17 College St. and continued down Veteran’s Memorial Boulevard to Fort Hood Street and then up to Fort Hood’s East Gate.

The demonstrators waved colorful flags decorated with peace symbols and chanted slogans like, “They’re our brothers, they’re our sisters. We support war resisters,” and “What do we want? Peace! When do we want it? Now!”

Many people honked their car horns as they drove by. Not all the responses were positive, however. One man shouted, “You don’t have the right to do this!” as he drove by.

Ben Fugate, an Army specialist who returned from Iraq two months ago, was one of several Fort Hood soldiers who came to the event. Wearing a black T-shirt with the slogan, "Got rights?"

Fugate called the Iraq war "unjustified" and recently decided to speak out against it.

"They say they're there to build up Iraq, but all you see is destruction of Iraq," he said.

"There are thousands of guys who are not coming home to their mom and dad. I lost three buddies in my platoon in Iraq and for what? Why lose more when we don't have to?"

Cindy Thomas, manager of Under the Hood Cafe and the protest's organizer, said she hopes the day's action will influence other military community members to speak out.

"We want to let the soldiers out there know that we're here. They have somewhere to come to," she said.

"A lot of them don't know that they actually have rights. You're allowed to speak out. You're allowed to march."

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-handler-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.

Class 3 Dental Work “Guardsmen And Reservists Have To Pay Their Own Way And Fuck That”

March 30, 2009

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

Age: 23

Gender: Male

Industry: Military

Occupation: Ice Cream Man

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

Well I finally got in to see a dentist after 3 years of being in the military. It only took a deployment to Iraq to make it happen.

Up until this point, every military dentist looked in my mouth for about 5 seconds, wrote all my issues down as class 2 (go to your own dentist) and sent me on my way. Easy enough when you have your own dentist, I suppose.

Active duty is easy; everyone has Tricare.

Guardsmen and Reservists have to pay their own way and fuck that.

To say that I am disappointed with VA care is an understatement, especially after reading that they probably gave people AIDs with the endoscopy machine because they didn't sterilize it properly. Your tax dollars at work.

Love, Dad

From: Dennis Serdel

To: GI Special

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

Love, Dad

Son, we can't send you
any packages
like we have sent you before
because the shop
that I worked for for 27 years
has just went bankrupt
my pension money is gone
didn't get severance pay
after all those years
and I would have to pay
Cobra for health care but
I don't have money for that
they didn't even give me
my vacation pay
they gave me nothing
nothing at all
I took our savings and paid off
our home but now all I get is
unemployment checks
and food stamps
that will stop in months
I don't know what I will do then,
I'm old and nobody will hire me
but even the young
can't find any jobs
Soon they will take our car
turn off electricity
and turn off the heat
Son, I know you have troubles
of your own in Iraq
but I think you are fighting
the wrong enemy over there
I think all of you should come home
fight the government
the corporations
and defend us from
the bill collectors
kill the white shirt bank criminals
the oil company criminals
kill all the Madoof's
that have taken over our country
because nothing works
over here anymore.
Love, Dad



Memorial Day:

05/22/2008 By Michael William [Iraq Veterans Against the War]

Silence breaks upon each thought in passing
marked by the quiet bugling of despair -
as we pause to raise our eyes to the heap
of the dead silence ever amassing

can we not be led to scream? To so rage
upon our chests as if we could exhume
thoughts lost in the welter of dust and time?
Will we continue to deploy, engage,

and destroy our innocent thoughts? and sigh
for their quiet passing? There, another
and yet another dragging toward their tomb.

Those shamelessly servile to fear will reap
nothing, for they sow nothing to the air
and mute will they remain until they die.



“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

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

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

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

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