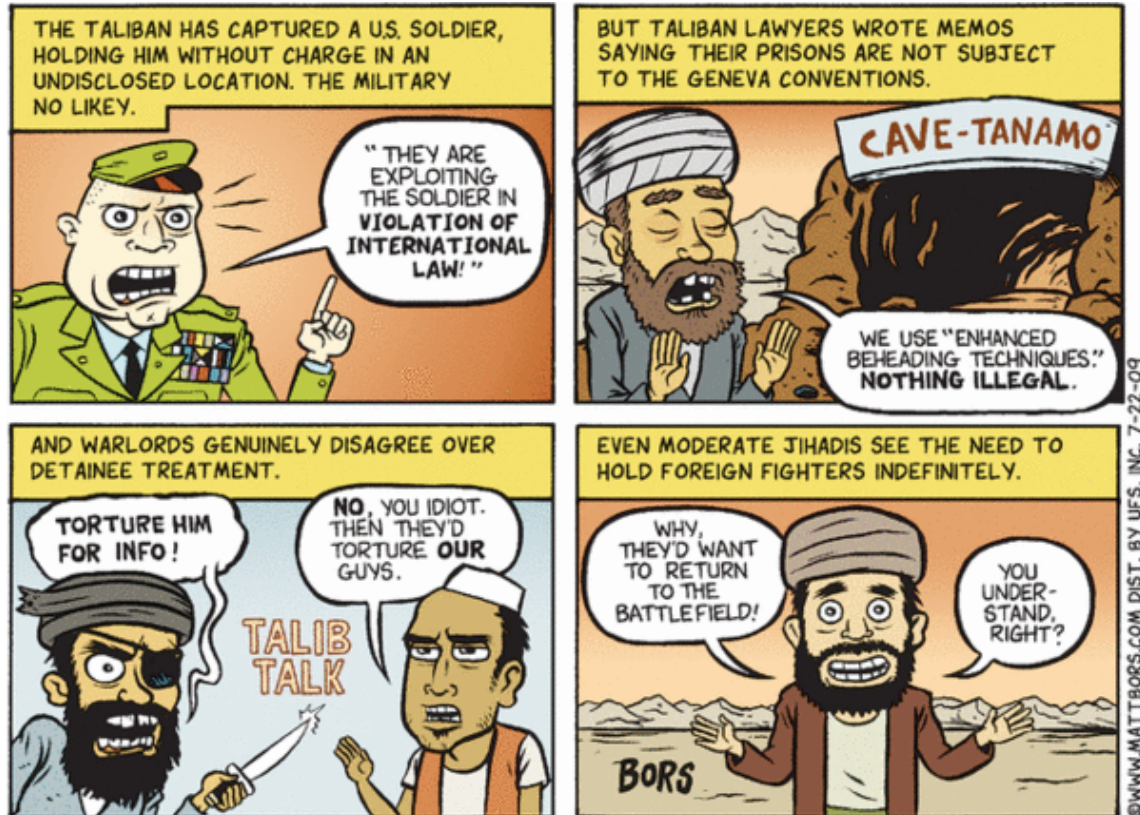


## GI SPECIAL 7G20:



**“Guerrillas Are Surprisingly Proficient At Tactics The Marines Themselves Learned In Infantry School”**

**“One Force Will Put Enough  
Fire Down So You Have To  
Keep Your Heads Down, Then  
Another Force Will Maneuver  
Around To Your Side To Try To  
Kill You”**

**“That’s The Same Thing We Do”**

**“They’d Flank Us, And We’d Flank  
Them, Just Like A Chess Match,”**

**Said Sgt. Jason Lynd:**

**“They Pressed The Fight, Laying  
Complex Ambushes And Then Cutting  
Off Marines As They Made Their Way  
Back To Base”**

What the Taliban lack in munitions they make up for in tactics, even practicing “information operations” and disinformation, Marines say. Knowing the Marines listen to their two-way communications, they say, the Taliban describe phony locations of ambushes and bombs.

“They’re not stupid,” said Lance Cpl. Frank Hegel. “You can tell they catch on to things, and they don’t make the same mistake twice.”

[Thanks to Clancy Segal, who sent this in.]

July 25, 2009 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., New York Times [Excerpts]

NAWA, Afghanistan — In three combat tours in Anbar Province, Marine Sgt. Jacob Tambunga fought the deadliest insurgents in Iraq.

But he says he never encountered an enemy as tenacious as what he saw immediately after arriving at this outpost in Helmand Province in Afghanistan.

In his first days here in late June, he fought through three ambushes, each lasting as long as the most sustained fight he saw in Anbar.

Like other Anbar veterans here, Sergeant Tambunga was surprised to discover guerrillas who, if not as lethal, were bolder than those he fought in Iraq.

“They are two totally different worlds,” said Sergeant Tambunga, a squad leader in Company C, First Battalion, Fifth Marines.

“In Iraq, they’d hit you and run,” he said. “But these guys stick around and maneuver on you.”

They also have a keen sense of when to fight and when the odds against them are too great.

Three weeks ago, the American military mounted a 4,000-man Marine offensive in Helmand — the largest since President Obama’s troop increase — and so far in many places, American commanders say, they have encountered less resistance than expected.

Yet it is also clear to many Marines and villagers here that Taliban fighters made a calculated decision: to retreat and regroup to fight where and when they choose. And in the view of troops here who fought intensely in the weeks before the offensive began, fierce battles probably lie ahead if they are to clear the Taliban from sanctuaries so far untouched.

“It was straight luck that we didn’t have a lot more guys hit,” said Sgt. Brandon Tritle, another squad leader in Company C, who cited the Taliban’s skill at laying down a base of fire to mount an attack.

“One force will put enough fire down so you have to keep your heads down, then another force will maneuver around to your side to try to kill you,” he said.

“That’s the same thing we do.”

In other parts of Helmand the Taliban have been quick to mount counterattacks.

Since the offensive began, 10 Marines have been killed, many of them south of Garmser in areas thick with roadside bombs. In addition, British forces in Helmand, who often travel in lightly armored vehicles, have lost 19 men, all but two from bombs.

All told, Western troops have died in greater numbers in Helmand this month than in any other province in Afghanistan over a similar period since the 2001 invasion.

For now, the strategy of the Taliban who used to dominate this village, 15 miles south of the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, is to watch and wait just outside, villagers and Marines here say.

“They all escaped,” said Sardar Gul, a shopkeeper at the Nawa bazaar.

Mr. Gul and others who reopened stores after the Marines arrived estimate that 300 to 600 Taliban fled to Marjah, 15 miles to the west and not under American control, joining perhaps more than 1,000 fighters.

When the full battalion arrived in Nawa in early July, the Taliban “knew we were too powerful for them” and left, said Staff Sgt. Michael Placencia, a platoon sergeant in Company C.

“They will come back, and they will try to take this back and pin us down,” said Maj. Rob Gallimore, a British officer who trains Afghan soldiers here. He hopes that the Marines do not spread themselves too thin and that they focus instead on building a deep bond with locals in places they occupy, a classic counterinsurgency tactic.

So Marines are bracing for a fight against guerrillas who, they discovered in June, are surprisingly proficient at tactics the Marines themselves learned in infantry school.

“They’d flank us, and we’d flank them, just like a chess match,” said Sgt. Jason Lynd, another squad leader in Company C.

In June the Marines ended up in sustained firefights the first four times they left their outpost.

The Taliban were always overmatched — attacking the Marines with only one-third the number of men — but they pressed the fight, laying complex ambushes and then cutting off Marines as they made their way back to base.

**One fight began after Marines stopped three vans, which they let go.**

**Fifteen minutes later they took fire from two homes near where they had been pursuing a suspicious man they wanted to question. They cleared both buildings, but were then attacked by insurgents behind the homes, some of whom, the Marines believe, had been in the three vans, a few disguised in burqas.**

**Somehow, none of the Marines were hit in the secondary ambush.**

**“They tried to suck us in, and their plan worked,” Sergeant Tritle said. “They just missed.”**

In contrast to Iraqi insurgents, the Taliban do not seem to have access to large artillery shells and other powerful military munitions that Anbar fighters used to kill hundreds of Marines and soldiers. The bombs found so far have been largely homemade with fertilizer, though they have still killed more than 20 British soldiers and United States Marines to the north and south of Nawa.

“If they had better weapons, we’d be in real trouble,” said Lance Cpl. Vazgen Matevosyan.

What the Taliban lack in munitions they make up for in tactics, even practicing “information operations” and disinformation, Marines say. Knowing the Marines listen to their two-way communications, they say, the Taliban describe phony locations of ambushes and bombs.

“They’re not stupid,” said Lance Cpl. Frank Hegel. “You can tell they catch on to things, and they don’t make the same mistake twice.”

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Resistance Action**

July 22 (Reuters) & July 23 (Reuters) & July 25 (Reuters) & July 26 (Reuters) & By ROD NORDLAND, New York Times Company

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol wounded two soldiers in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded one policeman in east Baghdad's New Baghdad district on Wednesday, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded four policemen in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

An attacker threw a grenade at an Iraqi police patrol, wounding one policeman in central Mosul, police said.

Insurgents opened fire on an Iraqi police checkpoint killing three policemen in Abu Ghraib in Baghdad's western outskirts, police said.

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Three mourners were killed by a bomber on Sunday at the funeral of an Iraqi police official killed by a roadside bomb the day before.

The bombings took place in Khaldiya, a town located between Ramadi and Falluja in Anbar Province. Long quiet since the expulsion of insurgents, Anbar in the past two months has experienced a string of attacks, mostly against civilians and Iraqi security forces.

Lt. Col. Salah al-Fahdawi of the Khaldiya police had been alerted Saturday to the possibility of a bomb in tomato basket at a roadside market. When he investigated, it was detonated, killing him, according to a police spokesman in Khaldiya, who spoke on condition of anonymity in compliance with his force’s policy.

On Sunday, friends and family gathered in a funeral tent for Colonel Fahdawi’s services when a youth, described by witnesses as about 17 or 18 years old, entered and

detonated an explosive-laden vest, the police spokesman said. In addition to the three dead, nine mourners were wounded. It was not known if they were relatives.

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

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

**FUCK THIS SHIT  
ALL HOME, NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment are inspected before a patrol in Baqouba Iraq, June 29, 2009. (AP Photo/ Maya Alleruzzo)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**Taliban Bomb Kills 20th British Soldier In  
A Month**

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

25th July 2009 By David Rose, Daily Mail

A soldier has become the 20th British serviceman to die in Afghanistan this month.

The trooper, from the 40th Regiment Royal Artillery - the Lowland Gunners - was killed in an explosion while on a patrol in central Helmand.

He was the 189th British soldier to die in Afghanistan since hostilities

**The death came as 125 extra troops were being airlifted to the war zone to replace those who have been killed or injured - the first time this has happened during the conflict.**

Normally, reinforcements are deployed for specific operations or as part of a planned increase. The MoD, however, said the influx was directly because of the high casualty rates.

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## Family Of Fallen Soldier Gathers, Prepares To Lay Him To Rest



Sgt. 1st Class Jason J. Fabrizi of Seffner was stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.  
[Department of Defense]

July 17, 2009 By LAURA FRAZIER The Tampa Tribune

COLORADO SPRINGS - Family and friends gathered today at the home of Sgt. 1st Class Jason J. Fabrizi to console his grief-stricken widow, Kristine Kool, who is expecting the couple's second child in October.

Fabrizi, 29, died Tuesday in Afghanistan when his mounted patrol was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, according to the U. S. Department of Defense.

The 1998 Armwood High School graduate was killed during his fourth tour in the Middle East.

He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Among his numerous medals were two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

Fabrizi's mother, Mary Hess, at her late son's house today in Colorado Springs, said he was honored to serve his country.

"He was proud to be doing what he was doing," Hess said. "He was just a wonderful person."

Fabrizi's aunt, Kathleen Friedrich, flew to Colorado from Ohio to be with Hess, her sister.

"You couldn't find a finer man, a finer father," Friedrich said.

Fabrizi married his first wife, Teri Anderson (now Bell), in 1999. The two met at his high school graduation party and have two sons, Jason Allen, 9, and Tyler, 6, said Dora Anderson, Teri's mother. The boys lived in Riverview with Teri. Fabrizio lived in Colorado Springs with Kool and the couple's 2-year-old son, Layne Timothy.

"Oh God, he was the best father there ever was, he was so good to these boys," Anderson said. "If my daughter needed anything, all she had to do was call him. And he constantly called them, he called almost every day."

Teri lost her second husband, also in the military, who was killed in Iraq in 2007, Anderson said.

"She took this really hard," Anderson said.

Kathleen Friedrich said the family would not finalize funeral arrangements until her nephew's remains arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Her son, Army Sgt. Zachary Friedrich, will accompany his late cousin's remains to Cleveland, where Fabrizio was born and will be laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery early next week.

Friedrich said, "You couldn't find a finer man, a finer father or a finer soldier. He protected his troops, always first. That was his priority."

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## **Western Alamance High Grad Killed In Afghanistan**



July 9, 2009, Keren Rivas, Times-News

GIBSONVILLE - A day after learning that her youngest son had been killed in action in Afghanistan, Elaine Hager was still trying to make sense of the tragedy on Thursday.

"He was my baby," she said amid sobs, her face buried in her hands. "Right now, I still don't believe it."

Sitting in the living room of the modest mobile home in Gibsonville where she, her husband, Donald Farren, and daughter, Faith Strang, live, she talked softly about her boy, Roger G.M. Hager, who was killed in Afghanistan Wednesday.

Two U.S. Marines came knocking on her door Wednesday night to give her the news, she said. She couldn't remember exactly what they told her about the circumstances surrounding his death. All she remembers is that they told her that her son was dead.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ron Polidora, a public affairs officer with the Marine Corps Greensboro office, confirmed that Roger Hager died during Operation Enduring Freedom, though he could not provide details of how he died.

Farren said the Marines told them Wednesday that Hager, a lance corporal, was a back-seat passenger on a vehicle that hit a homemade bomb. He didn't know where in Afghanistan the incident occurred.

Thursday morning, Elaine Hager received more details when she was told her son was killed in action at 19:26 hours while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan's Helmand Province. He was one of five military personnel who died.

HAGER WHO, PRIOR to being deployed about three months ago, had been stationed at Camp Lejeune, was attached to the Alpha Company, Special Forces Operations Area, 2nd. Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd. Marine Division. He was 20 years old.

"He was just a kid," his mother said with tears in her eyes. "He was not old enough to drink. He was just too young."

She said she doesn't understand why her son was in the field.

She thought he was supposed to be working with weapons in a base there.

She described him as a "happy-go lucky," funny young man who loved the outdoors and cared more about other people's needs than his own.

"My boy was a clown," she said with a smile. "He made everybody laugh."

Her son was a slow learner in school, she said, but he liked computers and video games. He graduated from Western High School last year. She said he wasn't a social person but he was faithful to those he considered friends.

The last time she spoke with her son on the phone was at the end of June. He was on guard duty and was proud of carrying a squad automatic weapon.

He told his mother that he might have to stay a bit longer than expected. She was still expecting him to be back by Christmas.

"I was proud of him," she said. "He was my boy."

ALL THREE OF ELAINE Hager's children are connected to the military. Her older son, Jeremy Scott Hager, 22, is a Marine who recently came back from a tour of duty in Iraq.

Her youngest daughter, Faith Strang, 18, is in the U.S. Army Reserve. Strang said she joined because she wanted to go to college. She will be going to Maryland in a couple of weeks to start advanced training.

Elaine Hager said her younger son joined the Marines to honor her father, Oscar Frederick Hebert Sr., who served in the Army. "He did it for my dad. He wanted to be like him," she said. "(Roger) wanted to follow in the family's footsteps and make his grandpa proud."

Unfortunately, she added, "He wasn't able to see him."

She said her son graduated from advance training four days after his grandfather died.

If coping with the loss of a child wasn't enough, Elaine Hager is terrified for her oldest son who is scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan in the coming months. The idea of losing another son is unbearable, she said.

"I can't lose another boy," she said. "He can't do that to me again."

Polidora said his office will be working with the Hager family to arrange the funeral for the fallen Marine. He said Hager's remains will be brought back to the United States within the next couple of days. Lowe Funeral and Crematory in Burlington will be handling the arrangements.

**Roger Hager is the fourth Alamance County resident and the second Gibsonville resident who has died since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.**

Lance Cpl. Alan D. Lam, 19, of Snow Camp, died during a training session in Iraq in April 2003. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Josh Flynn was killed Aug. 22, 2007, in Iraq while piloting a Black Hawk helicopter. He was the son of then-Gibsonville town manager, Deleno Flynn, and wife, Patsy.

More recently, Army Cpl. Pruitt Rainey, of Haw River, died July 13 2008 during an attack by Afghan insurgents at an isolated Army post near the Pakistani border. He was 22.

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## **Smithville Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Had Matured In Army, Family Says**

July 16, 2009 By Jeremy Schwartz, AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

A few days after Spc. Joshua Farris died in the mountains of Afghanistan, his books arrived at his mother's house. The 22-year-old, who had a deep love of music, had ordered a series of publications on how to build guitars.

"He wanted me to ship them to Afghanistan," Marla Farris-Calhoun said. "Josh's mind had expanded so much that he considered lots of different ideas. He was blessed with talent."

Farris, who was born in Austin and grew up in Smithville, was on his second tour in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division, which is spearheading the U.S. military's thrust into Taliban-controlled parts of the country. Farris was the topside gunner on a vehicle that was hit by a roadside bomb on July 9 in Wardak Province, his mother said.

Farris-Calhoun said she had e-mailed her son what turned out to be about three hours before he was killed.

"I told him I loved him that day more than I had ever loved him before," she recalled. "It breaks my heart that he may not have ever received it."

Relative said Farris had been a bundle of energy since he was a child, someone whose hilarious impressions made his friends laugh and whose inquisitive mind had many interests, chief among them music and motocross.

His MySpace page, which he updated before he left for what he called "Trashcanistan," is filled with videos of him on his motocross bike and photos of his electric guitar collection — sharply angled, lightning bolt-emblazoned creations that he dubbed "my ladies."

"He was always fun-loving and energetic," said his grandmother Nancy Thorp of Blanco. "As a child he couldn't sit still. He had an interest in life."

His page is also filled with images of his platoon in the bleak, rock-strewn mountains of Afghanistan. In one photo, Farris cradles his machine gun. "Learn to love the beast, cause you'll clean it more than your body," he wrote.

Family members say Farris, who graduated from Smithville High School in 2005, was planning on taking college classes after his scheduled departure from the Army next year. His mother said he eventually hoped to build guitars and be a sound engineer.

His relatives said they had seen a greater confidence, a deepening patriotism and a clearer vision of his future emerging in Farris. "The Army took him as a boy and he grew into a man we could all be proud of," Thorp said. "Even without this war incident, he was my hero," his mother said. "He inspired me, his family, his friends to pursue the good in life."

A funeral service for Farris is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at All Faiths of the Pines in Smithville, followed by burial at 2 p.m. at Miller Creek Cemetery in Johnson City.

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# **A Quick Summary Of The Military Situation In Afghanistan: Motorbike Bomb Attack On Tank “Damages” Tank And Wounds 4 Italian Soldiers**

July 26 (Xinhua) & Quqnoos.com

Four Italian soldiers sustained injuries as a roadside bomb planted by insurgents struck a military vehicle in Herat province, west of Afghanistan, a spokesman of the troops Marco Amorilo said Sunday. The troops were heading to a relatively unstable district of Shindand.

“The explosive device, planted on a motorbike, was detonated by remote control Saturday afternoon wounding four soldiers,” the spokesman told Xinhua.

Meantime, Ikramudin Yawar, the commander of police in western region, said that one tank was damaged in the blast.

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## **Afghan VP Candidate’s Convoy Ambushed In Kunduz**

Jul 26 by Sardar Ahmad, (AFP)

A controversial running mate of President Hamid Karzai escaped unscathed after a gun and rocket attack hit his convoy Sunday in northern Afghanistan, weeks ahead of the elections, officials said.

Dozens of vehicles accompanying vice-presidential candidate Mohammed Qasim Fahim were driving through Kunduz province -- which has seen soaring Taliban-linked attacks - - when an unknown number of gunmen ambushed the convoy.

Karzai's campaign office labelled the attack an assassination attempt, and said the campaign cameraman was injured as a hail of bullets hit the motorcade.

Officials said up to 50 vehicles were travelling in the convoy to neighbouring Takhar province after a campaign event in Kunduz.

Waheed Omar, spokesman for the Karzai campaign, said it was a fierce attack in Kunduz, where officials say security is deteriorating as Taliban militants try to disrupt supply routes for foreign troops stationed there.

"It was an assassination attempt, it was a real fight. Marshal Fahim's vehicle was hit by bullets but as it was armoured nothing happen to him. Our cameraman was wounded," he told AFP.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The remains of Army Spc. James David Wertish, July 18, 2009 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Wertish, 20, of Olivia, Minn. was killed in action July 16 in Basra, Iraq. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

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## **VA POLICE GROUP HACKS MEDICAL FILES: SEEKING JAIL TIME FOR PTSD VETS**

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,537th time, there is no enemy in Iraq or Afghanistan. Their citizens and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started these wars of conquest on a

**platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: U.S. Imperial wars are about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro and Sally Davidson, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

July 07, 2009 By Gordon Duff, VETERANS TODAY NEWS NETWORK

2000 disabled veterans are being prosecuted for filing PTSD claims.

Some are jailed now, some facing trial, some under review by mysterious VA "police group."

**Assisting the VA is the American Enterprise Institute, a "neocon" think tank working with regional directors, "Bush holdovers" who subscribe to Dr. Sally Satel's "Voodoo medicine" theory that all vets are fakers.**

**Even veterans with long histories of inpatient program treatment, 100% disability and well documented trauma face prison.**

Patient medical files, legally secure thru the HIPAA Act of 1996 are being "hacked" and VA doctors being intimidated by VA "inspectors" to release confidential information to investigators, all against federal law.

Doctors, themselves, face license suspension and civil action for criminal and ethics violations for submitting to inquiries by "unsworn" and improperly trained political police within the VA.

A recent case is most shocking, that of Robert Athlon in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is already famous for Keith Roberts, a PTSD vet doing 4 years in prison.

Athlon called me last night, terrified. "

**MR. DUFF,**

**I have made a decision. I WANT YOU TO RELEASE EVERYTHING..... I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH ATTENTION IT GETS!! MY STORY WILL SAVE VETERANS FROM LOSING THE BENEFITS AND SAVED FROM GOING TO JAIL. I WILL SIGN A RELEASE OF INFORMATION IF YOU NEED IT.**

**I AM VERY SERIOUS ON THIS. EVERYTHING NEEDS TO COME OUT. EVERYTHING. I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME. IF IT SAVES VETERANS, I WILL DO IT. PLEASE, I AM BEGGING YOU TO DO THIS.**

**Robert E. Anthon**

I don't even know where to start.

I called one of my good friends, retired FBI agent Frederick Coward of ISI-Corp, a top company that trains police forces around the world. Fred is one of the top people in his field, having worked in embassies around the world and co-founding the FBI Hostage Rescue Program.

**Special Agent Coward (ret) was shocked to learn that investigations of Federal crimes that were under the exclusive authority of the FBI were being performed by untrained and unsworn VA personnel who are not subject to the oversight and ethical review of FBI agents.**

We learned that the FBI had been approached by the VA but refused. The FBI is filled with military veterans and FBI agents and their retiree associations are among the strongest supporters of veterans in America.

**The most serious issue involves patient confidentiality and violation of state medical ethics and federal laws.**

**The VA seems to be functioning outside all legal guidelines by combining VA files with highly confidential medical records, which are legally protected and openly violating legal restrictions for the open misuse of these records.**

If psychiatric interviews are used without due process and legal protections, then every word said in front of a VA doctor is potential self incrimination, violating the 5Th Ammendment.

If veterans, as a group, are treated differently because of their status as veterans and not given legal protections afforded by law to all other citizens, then we have, not only issues of Equal Protection but the ADA (American with Disabilities Act) and the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

The American Enterprise Institute, working in conjunction with the VA has turned veterans into the new "N" word.

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## THE NEW ISSUE OF TRAVELING SOLDIER IS OUT!



Traveling Soldier Front Page Cartoon [Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project.]

## FEATURING:

1. "They helped kill my daughter" says a military mom.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.09.letter.php>

2. Soldier-Killing Toxic Burn Pits Unnecessary But Profitable

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.09.burnpits.php>

3. "I Lost Three Buddies In My Platoon In Iraq And For What?" says an Iraq vet.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/7.09.forwhat.php>

4. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS23.pdf>

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# 1 IN 3 WOMEN ARE RAPED IN THE MILITARY: "A Women In The Next Booth Selling Tupperware Came Over And Told Him She Had Been Brutally Raped In The Air Force"

From: Sandy Kelson, Veterans For Peace & The Military Project

To: GI Special

Sent: July 22, 2009

Subject: 1 in 3 women are raped in the military

### ESSAY ON THE COUNTY FAIR USED IN AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR VETERANS FOR PEACE

Protest marches, vigils, lobbying, leafleting, letters to the editors are some of the common ways members of Veterans For Peace effect American culture. Over time, VFP actions may help move our militaristic culture towards a culture of peace. Many people are opposed to war but believe that it would be unpatriotic to speak out. Our public efforts may help these people to come out of the closet. War supporters' opinions may change.

An interesting, not so common, way to reach out to affect the culture is to rent a booth at your county fair, flea market, farmers market, etc.



The northwest chapter of VFP rented a booth at the weeklong 2007 Crawford County [Pennsylvania] Fair, the largest in the state, visited by thousands.

The county officials were not eager to rent VFP a booth but negotiations between VFP's lawyer and the county solicitor resolved the matter.

The chapter put together a volunteer schedule so the booth would have at least one member present at all times. VFP merchandise, membership applications, yard signs, and information on various peace related issues were displayed, including materials on counter recruiting, GI Rights Hotline, IVAW, Appeal for Redress, Agent Orange.

**We posted a sign that said: One out of three women in the military are raped by their fellow soldiers.**

We had handouts documenting the fact with several US government studies cited.

**A representative of the fair told us that many complaints had been made about the sign and that it had to be taken down.**

This official was told that it would not be taken down.

We explained that young women residing in the county had a right to know this fact before they signed up. No recruiter would volunteer the fact. We said we were providing a valuable public service and were exercising our first amendment right of speech.

**The official didn't care.**

**He threatened to shut down our booth if the sign was not removed immediately.**

**At that point, a woman working the Tupperware booth next to ours came over.**

**She told the official that during her service in the air force that she had been brutally raped and that most women she knew in the military had suffered sexual discrimination, assault or harassment.**

**This brave woman then started to sob uncontrollably. The official then left and the sign remained for the entire week.**

Many citizens engaged us in conversation. Most were supportive, some very angry. Bystanders listened to the conversations.

Young women often pointed out the rape notice to the adults they were with. Seeing that, we'd hand out the sheet documenting the statistic. A teacher wanted information for his students. People thanked us.

Any [Veterans For Peace] chapter wishing further information to aid in doing this type of action may contact Sandy Kelson at [sandkel@hughes.net](mailto:sandkel@hughes.net).

**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

## **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**

I say that when troops cannot be counted on to follow orders because they see the futility and immorality of them THAT is the real key to ending a war.  
-- Al Jaccoma, Veterans For Peace

# **You've Know The Power Of The Poems By Dennis Serdel From The Front Pages Of GI Special: Now They're In Book Form [Ordering Information Follows Some Personal Favorites. T]**

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

## **Charles Manson**

Landing in Oakland CA in dirty fatigues  
an Officer jumps us, asks if we forgot to salute  
we say yes, turn and walk away.  
Next day, a man says, there are no jobs out there  
we should Re-up.  
In the gym, over zoo Soldiers begin to boo him,  
then start to cussing at him.  
It gets louder until he finally says,  
"Fuck all of you" and walks off the stage  
to much applause.  
Dress green uniforms are thrown in garbage cans  
with their ribbons, metals and braids  
as the Soldiers walk out of prison shells  
turn into civilian butterflies looking  
for a flower girl in Hate Ashbury  
like in the song.  
But all they get is hard drugs, a long hair scrounge  
is selling speed, another selling bad LSD  
start seeing dead Vietnamese, buy some downers,  
they go away.  
Flower girls are dancing like pie in the sky,  
a pipe dream looks into a mirror, eyes look like graves  
Charles Manson is drifting around  
an ex-con just released from prison too.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Prisoners And Slaves**

“Hell” said Harry to Jack,  
“when I joined the National Guard  
I never thought, never dreamed  
I would be here in Iraq.  
I was making 60 + grand at General Motors  
now I can’t even make 30 grand.  
All I see is my money waving away  
like the star spangled banner  
in a sand storm.”

Jack replies, “I know what you mean  
my old lady had to quit a good job  
that she liked, to work at a bad job  
that she hates, because it pays more  
so we can scrape by.”

“What we should do,” Harry says  
“is go out on Strike.”

“Yeah,” Jack says, this is just another job  
Why can’t we just say we quit  
like if we were working at GM ?  
I mean what are we, Slaves?”

“Yeah,” Harry says, “Bush has us chained  
to the flag as slaves and if we don’t sing  
God Bless America, he calls us traitors  
in his fight for the oil war.”

“The parades when we come home  
just don’t get it anymore,” Jack added.

“Yeah, soon we won’t have that anymore  
they will just keep us here forever.”

Harry says, “I’m not a slave  
I’m just going to tell them I quit  
or they can fire me.”

“Me too, Harry.

Do you think they will put us in prison?”

“We are prisoners in uniforms now.  
We are Slaves.”

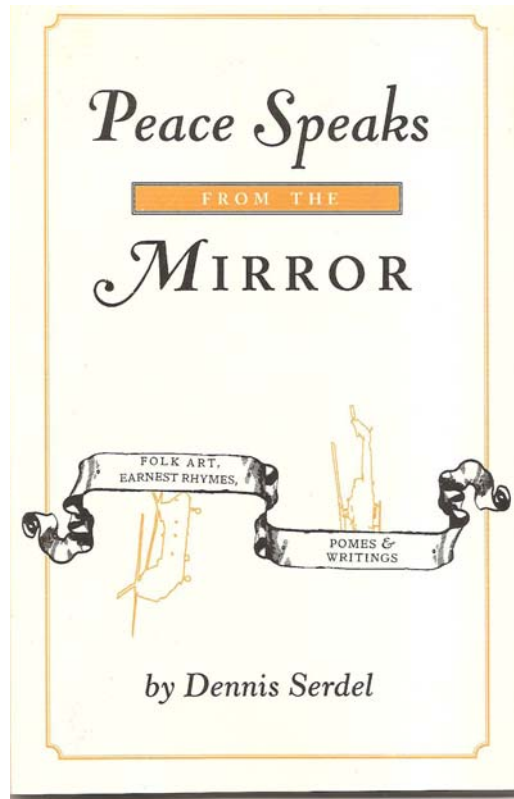
“They will say that they are Fascists  
and we are their slaves  
like GM tries to do, you know?”

“But they made one big mistake  
they gave us guns and ammo to fight  
back with.”

“Amen to that brother.”

**MORE:**

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# **Veteran Tells Congress: “GIVE ALL AMERICANS THE SAME GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE YOU HAVE OR ‘PRIVATIZE’ YOURS!!!**

From: Ken Dalton [Veterans For Peace]  
To: Veterans Peace Council of Metro NY  
Sent: July 25, 2009

Just like it says below [about Congress going on vacation without passing health care legislation], wouldn't it nice to take a month long vacation after you screwed up on your job.

That's just what Harry Reid is doing and letting his colleagues do the same.

I just have one proposal for these people who we call “our leaders” and that is to GIVE ALL AMERICANS THE SAME GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE YOU HAVE OR “PRIVATIZE” YOURS!!!

Peace  
Ken Dalton  
Clifton, N.J.

**They promised us change!**

**Where's that change?**

**It's not in Iraq!**

**It's not in Afghanistan and IT'S NOT HERE!**

## **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**

# **“When Did The Profit Motive Become The Only Reason To Do Anything?”**

**“If Medicine Is For Profit, And War,  
And The News, And The Penal  
System, My Question Is: What's  
Wrong With Firemen?”**

**“Why Don't They Charge? They Must Be  
Commies”**

July 23, 2009 By Bill Mahe, Huffington Post

How about this for a New Rule: Not everything in America has to make a profit.

It used to be that there were some services and institutions so vital to our nation that they were exempt from market pressures. Some things we just didn't do for money. The United States always defined capitalism, but it didn't used to define us. But now it's becoming all that we are.

Did you know, for example, that there was a time when being called a “war profiteer” was a bad thing?

But now our war zones are dominated by private contractors and mercenaries who work for corporations. There are more private contractors in Iraq than American troops, and we pay them generous salaries to do jobs the troops used to do for themselves -- like laundry.

War is not supposed to turn a profit, but our wars have become boondoggles for weapons manufacturers and connected civilian contractors.

Prisons used to be a non-profit business, too.

And for good reason -- who the hell wants to own a prison? By definition you're going to have trouble with the tenants. But now prisons are big business. A company called the Corrections Corporation of America is on the New York Stock Exchange, which is convenient since that's where all the real crime is happening anyway.

**The CCA and similar corporations actually lobby Congress for stiffer sentencing laws so they can lock more people up and make more money.**

**That's why America has the world's largest prison population -- because actually rehabilitating people would have a negative impact on the bottom line.**

Television news is another area that used to be roped off from the profit motive. When Walter Cronkite died last week, it was odd to see news anchor after news anchor talking about how much better the news coverage was back in Cronkite's day. I thought, "Gee, if only you were in a position to do something about it."

But maybe they aren't.

Because unlike in Cronkite's day, today's news has to make a profit like all the other divisions in a media conglomerate.

That's why it wasn't surprising to see the CBS Evening News broadcast live from the Staples Center for two nights this month, just in case Michael Jackson came back to life and sold Iran nuclear weapons. In Uncle Walter's time, the news division was a loss leader. Making money was the job of The Beverly Hillbillies. And now that we have reporters moving to Alaska to hang out with the Palin family, the news is The Beverly Hillbillies.

And finally, there's health care.

It wasn't that long ago that when a kid broke his leg playing stickball, his parents took him to the local Catholic hospital, the nun put a thermometer in his mouth, the doctor slapped some plaster on his ankle and you were done. The bill was \$1.50, plus you got to keep the thermometer.

But like everything else that's good and noble in life, some Wall Street wizard decided that hospitals could be big business, so now they're run by some bean counters in a corporate plaza in Charlotte.

**In the U.S. today, three giant for-profit conglomerates own close to 600 hospitals and other health care facilities. They're not hospitals anymore; they're Jiffy Lubes with bedpans.**

America's largest hospital chain, HCA, was founded by the family of Bill Frist, who perfectly represents the Republican attitude toward health care: it's not a right, it's a racket.

The more people who get sick and need medicine, the higher their profit margins. Which is why they're always pushing the Jell-O.

**Because medicine is now for-profit we have things like "recision," where insurance companies hire people to figure out ways to deny you coverage when you get sick, even though you've been paying into your plan for years.**

**When did the profit motive become the only reason to do anything?**

**When did that become the new patriotism?**



**Ask not what you could do for your country, ask what's in it for Blue Cross/Blue Shield.**

If conservatives get to call universal health care “socialized medicine,” I get to call private health care “soulless vampires making money off human pain.”

The problem with President Obama's health care plan isn't socialism, it's capitalism.

And if medicine is for profit, and war, and the news, and the penal system, my question is: what's wrong with firemen?

Why don't they charge?

They must be commies.

Oh my God! That explains the red trucks!

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## **OCCUPATION HAITI**

# **Haiti Occupation Condemned: THOUSANDS MARCH ON JULY 15: Lavalas and Student Movement Unite for July 28th Mobilization: “The 94th Anniversary Of The First U.S. Marine Occupation Of Haiti In 1915”**

**[Note well: The Presidents of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Ecuador and Paraguay are the despicable filth who provide soldiers from their armies to occupy Haiti and kill Haitians. No solidarity with them or with the scum here in the USA who give their support to these murderous rats. T.**

July 22 - 28, 2009 By Kim Ives, Haiti Liberte

Thousands of demonstrators marched through Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on July 15 to mark the 56th birthday of former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The demonstration, which was called by and adhered to by two rival factions of the Lavalas Family party (FL), was considered a great display of unity by its organizers.

At 9 a.m. the crowds gathered at the gate in front of Aristide's still gutted home in Tabarre.

It was decorated with flowers and large photographs of the party's leader, who remains in exile in South Africa over five years after the Feb. 29, 2004 coup d'état against him.

The multitude then moved, like a great river, towards the capital.

Lavalas leaders said that the demonstration was a birthday present for Aristide. "Long live the return of President Aristide!" read some of the posters in the march.

**"Down with the MINUSTAH (UN Mission to Stabilize Haiti, the military occupation force)!"**

"Release of all political prisoners! Reinstatement of all fired State employees! Down with the neo-liberal plan!"

Demonstrators also bitterly denounced President René Préval for betraying their expectations that he would help return Aristide to Haiti and fight neoliberal austerity and privatization. Tens of thousands of Lavalas partisans voted for Préval in 2006, helping him win the presidency.

"Our political organization will defeat all those who are working for its demise," declared Dr. Maryse Narcisse, one of the members of the FL's Executive Committee at the close of the demonstration at the Place of the Constitution on the Champ de Mars, the capital's central square.

Narcisse also criticized Préval for seeking to amend Haiti's 1987 Constitution while at the same time violating its laws.

"Lavalas remains true to its dream of a better Haiti, where all citizens can have access to education, health, housing, and employment," she concluded. "Realization of this dream goes hand in hand with the return of President Aristide to Haiti."

Also participating in the demonstration was the singer and activist Annette Auguste, known as So An. She was also named to the FL's Executive Committee but presently does not sit with its other three members, Narcisse, Lionel Etienne and Jacques Mathelier.

Her faction of the party has proposed some reforms which has caused controversy within the party.

"I am a dedicated Lavalassian," So An told Haiti Liberté. "President Aristide Lavalas is not more Lavalas than me. President Aristide might turn his back on me, but I will never turn my back on him."

She declared her full support for Aristide's return and said that the July 15 demonstration was a living testimony to the FL's strength, power, and vitality.

**“This event is great proof that the Lavalas would have won the (April 19 and June 21) senatorial elections boycotted by the national majority,” she said.**

**“That is why Lavalas was excluded from those elections. The objectively manifest goal is to destroy the Lavalas.”**

At the Place of the Constitution, Lavalas activists like René Civil and Lavarice Gaudin criticized the government of Préval and his prime minister Michele Pierre-Louis for pursuing policies condemned by Haiti's masses. They demanded the immediate and unconditional return of Aristide to Haiti.

Meanwhile, the Lavalas base organizations which made July 15 a success have called another major mobilization for Tuesday, July 28, the 94th anniversary of the first U.S. Marine occupation of Haiti in 1915.

The popular organizations have planned the demonstrations with some of Haiti's student organizers, marking the first time that the demands of the Lavalas mass movement and those of the student protests, which have raged at the State University in recent months, will be united.

The demands for July 28th are: 1) MINUSTAH's departure;  
2) Aristide's return;  
3) Apply the Parliament's vote for a 200 gourde a day (\$5.05) minimum wage;  
4) Reform at the State University;  
5) Justice for Roudy, the man shot dead by MINUSTAH soldiers at the Port-au-Prince Cathedral on June 18;  
6) Liberation of all political prisoners, above all Ronald Dauphin;  
7) Down with the neoliberal plan.

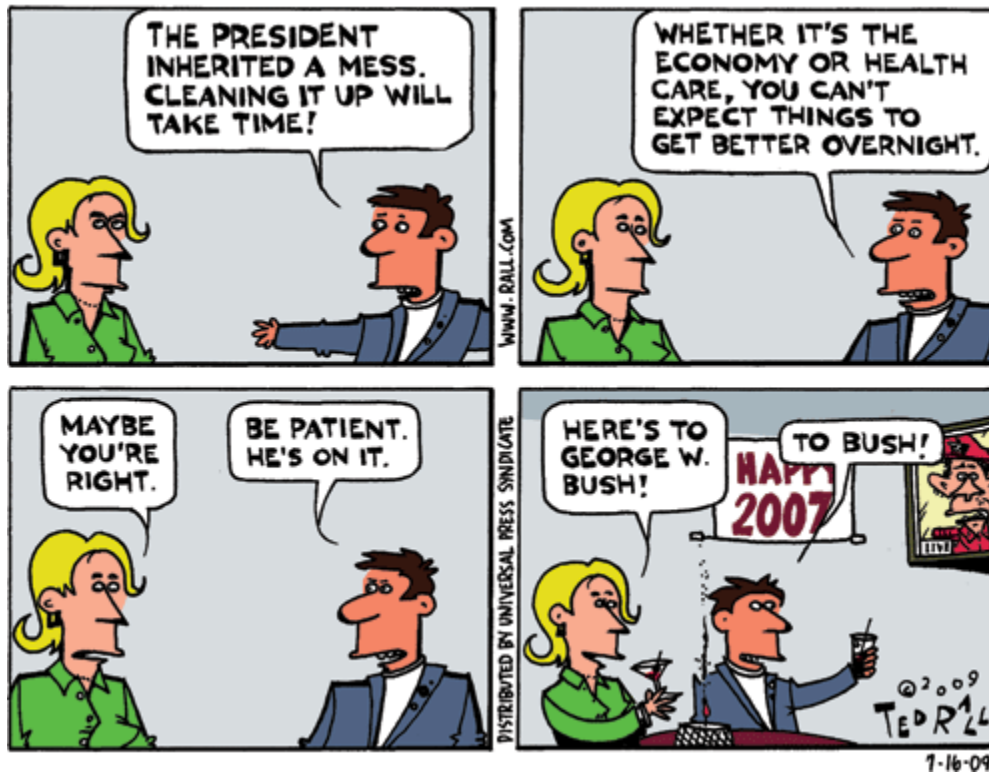
Among the groups calling the July 28 demonstration are the Cité Soleil Action Coalition of the Lavalas Family Base (ABA SATAN), the Assembly of Organizations for Change (ROC), the Network of Multiplying National Organs of the Lavalas Family (RONMFL), the Network of Organizations of the West Zone (ROZO), the National Organization for the Equitable Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ONAPROEDEF), Alternative for Haiti's National Liberation(ALEH), the Force of Principled Organizations for a National Alternative (FOKAN), Movement to Bury Repression (MARE), Group of Popular Initiative, the student group KOMAP/FRAE, and the International Support Haiti Network (ISHN).

“L'union fait la force” (Unity makes strength) says the motto on Haiti's flag.

Organizers of the July 28 march hope that the merging of the Lavalas mass movement with the anti-imperialist student movement will lift Haiti's struggle for justice, democracy and sovereignty to a new level.

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



## Troops “Will Not Fire On The People” [Not The Best News For A Military Dictatorship]



7.26.09: Honduran soldiers man a checkpoint at the Honduran side of Las Manos. The head of the Honduran army said troops “will not fire on the people,” as supporters of

President Manuel Zelaya, exiled by a Military Dictatorship, went to the Nicaraguan border Sunday hoping to welcome him home. (AFP/Orlando Sierra)

**MORE:**

## **Honduran Colonels Say The Army Wont Oppose Return Of Zelaya To Presidency**

July 25, 2009 By GINGER THOMPSON and BLAKE SCHMIDT, New York Times  
[Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The Honduran armed forces issued a communiqué on Saturday indicating that they would not stand in the way of an agreement to return Manuel Zelaya, the country's ousted president, to power.

Meanwhile, in Las Manos, a town along the border between Nicaragua and Honduras, Mr. Zelaya made his second symbolic appearance in two days, defying calls from foreign leaders to avoid any moves that might provoke violence in his politically polarized country.

The communiqué was drafted in Washington after days of talks between mid-level Honduran officers and American Congressional aides. Posted on the Honduran Armed Forces Web site, it endorsed the so-called San José Accord that was forged in Costa Rica by delegates representing President Zelaya and the man who heads the de facto Honduran government, Roberto Micheletti.

The accord, supported by most governments in the hemisphere, would allow Mr. Zelaya to return as president, although with significantly limited executive powers. Mr. Micheletti has steadfastly rejected Mr. Zelaya's return as president.

In its communiqué, the Honduran military added its support to the proposal. Officials involved said it was meant to dispel any perceptions that the military would block civilian efforts to resolve the crisis.

The officials said the military communiqué was significant because it was the first sign of support for the San José Accord by a powerful sector of the de facto government. And the officials said it could make it more difficult for the Honduran Congress and Supreme Court to reject the accord when they consider it.

American officials who met here with the Hondurans said that they were two colonels who were concerned about the tensions generated by the political conflict.

Joy Olson, executive director of the Washington Office on Latin America, a nonprofit human rights group, said she was told that the officers were showing Congressional aides a recording of the day Mr. Zelaya was detained, as evidence that no abuses had been committed against him.

In the meantime, however, thousands of troops had been deployed to tighten security along the border to prevent Mr. Zelaya from returning. And thousands of his supporters defied government curfews and military roadblocks, by abandoning their cars and hiking for hours to reach the remote border post to see him.

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

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

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