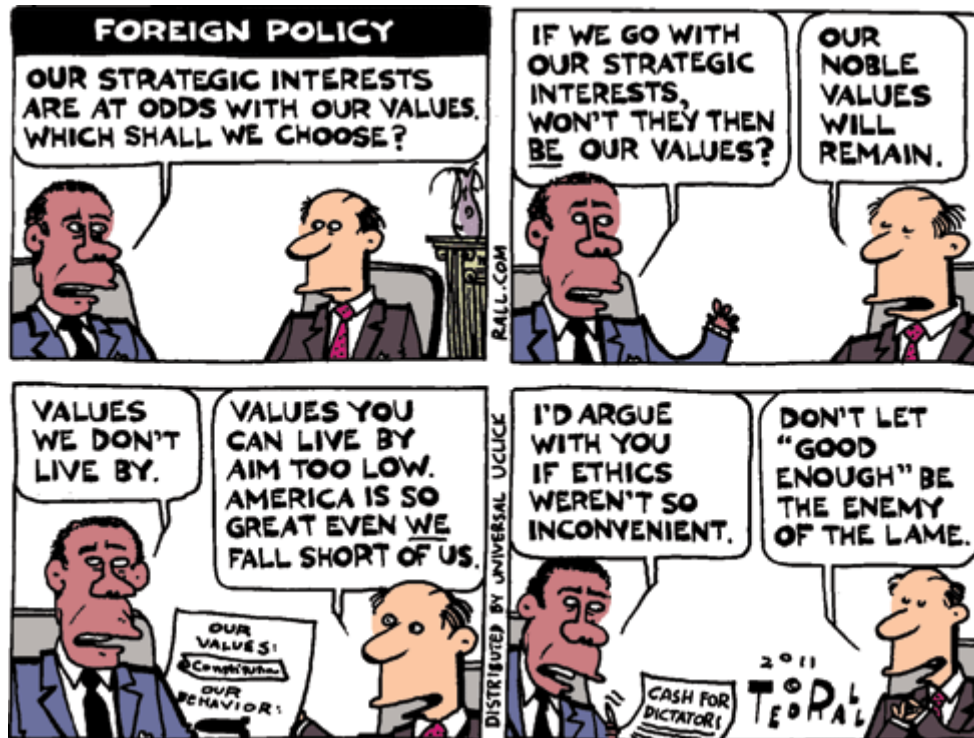


## Military Resistance 9D8



**Protesters “Demanded That All U.S. Troops Withdraw From Iraq Immediately”**

**“So Many Women Lost Sons And Many Others Became Widows, Not Only Iraqi Women But Also American Women”**

**“We Will Not Accept Life In An Occupied Country Anymore”**

# “They Must Understand That Our Resistance Now Is Peaceful, But It Will Turn Into Actions Beyond Imagination”

4.9.11 Mohammed Tawfeeq, CNN & Reuters

On Friday, protesters in Baghdad's Tahrir Square and the northeastern Adhamiya neighborhood demanded that all U.S. troops withdraw from Iraq immediately.

Some of the protesters shouted, “No to occupation, no to foreign troops,” witnesses said.

An imam in Adhamiya called the current government an illegitimate one that was “created by the occupiers.”

In Tahrir Square, nearly 300 protesters, carrying banners and Iraqi flags, shouted, “We will not accept life in an occupied country anymore.”

Women carried pictures of their sons and husbands who are missing or were killed during the war.

“During this war, so many women lost sons and many others became widows, not only Iraqi women but also American women. We are the ones who paid the price of this war,” said Shima Kareem, who was among the protesters.

In Falluja, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) west of Baghdad, nearly 300 people outside the provincial council building demanded the release of detainees in Iraq's prisons and compensation for the families of victims who were killed in the past eight years.

The protesters also warned Iraqi lawmakers not to allow U.S. military bases in Iraq.

Iraq's fiery nationalist political leader Moqtada al-Sadr will “escalate military resistance” and unleash his Mehdi Army militia if U.S. troops fail to leave Iraq as scheduled this year, his aides said on Saturday.

Men, women and children -- many waving Iraq's black, white and red flag or singing songs -- gathered in Baghdad's Mustansiriya square to mark the occasion. The mood was festive, and vendors milled around, selling ice cream, water and juice.

**Some carried signs reading “Occupiers Out” and “No to America.” Others burned U.S., Israeli and British flags, or draped white funeral shrouds over their shoulders -- signifying they were willing to die for their beliefs.**

As the crowd cheered wildly, spokesman Salah al-Ubaidi read out a speech from the influential Shi'ite cleric, warning an extension of the U.S. “occupation” would have two consequences.

“First, the escalation of military resistance work and the withdrawal of the order freezing the Mehdi Army, in a new statement issued later. Second, escalation of peaceful and

public resistance through sit-ins and protests, to say that the people want the exit of the occupation,” he said.

Ali Mohammed, a 39-year-old government employee at the protest who had wrapped an Iraqi flag around his head, said a delayed withdrawal would trigger extraordinary violence.

“They must understand that our resistance now is peaceful, but it will turn into actions beyond imagination,” he said.

**MORE:**

**“Down With The Occupation”  
“People Want To Drive Out The  
Occupier”  
“Thousands Of Demonstrators”  
[Get The Message?]**



The Azamiyah neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, April 8, 2011: Thousands of demonstrators turned out in one of the city's largest neighborhoods to protest the U.S. military presence in Iraq. Wording on flag partially seen reads 'God is Great' and banners in Arabic reads, 'People want to drive out the occupier' and 'Free the detainees' and 'Down with the occupation.' (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

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

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **“Rast’s Father, Robert Rast, Told South Bend, Ind., Television Station WNDU That His Son’s Death May Have Been Accidentally Caused By Friendly Fire, Possibly A Hellfire Missile”**

Apr 8, 2011 By Gidget Fuentes - Staff writer, Navy Times [Excerpts]

SAN DIEGO — The military is investigating the deaths of a Navy hospital corpsman and a Marine staff noncommissioned officer who died Wednesday during combat operations in Afghanistan, officials said.

Hospitalman Benjamin D. Rast, 23, of Niles, Mich., died during a dismounted foot patrol near Patrol Base Alcatraz in Helmand province, Defense Department officials said in a release. Marine Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith, 26, a reservist and light armored vehicle crewman from Arlington, Texas, died during combat operations in Helmand, officials said.

Rast’s father, Robert Rast, told South Bend, Ind., television station WNDU that his son’s death may have been accidentally caused by friendly fire, possibly a Hellfire missile.

CNN, in a report Wednesday, said two NATO service members died that day in a friendly fire incident in southern Afghanistan that was under investigation. But International Security Assistance Force officials provided no other information.

Rast and Smith were assigned to 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines, a reserve infantry battalion based in Houston, with 4th Marine Division, although it was unclear whether both men were with the same company. The unit, nicknamed the “Lone Star Battalion,” arrived in Afghanistan in February for a seven-month deployment.

Rast deployed as an augmentee corpsman, leaving his job at the San Diego medical center, where he had worked in the medical and surgical nursing department until November, when he joined the reserve battalion for the scheduled combat deployment, medical officials said. Rast enlisted in April 2009 and had received the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Pistol Marksmanship Medal.

Smith, who enlisted in June 2003, had completed three combat tours to Iraq, Marine Forces Reserve officials said in a statement.

He received numerous awards and medals, including two Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

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## Ohio Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

3/25/2011 MEREDITH CREEK, OCM News Service

A 2000 graduate of Huntington High School in southern Ross County was reportedly killed while serving as an Army staff sergeant in Afghanistan, family members told The Times-Gazette Thursday.

Joshua S. Gire, 28, had been stationed in Germany, but was serving a second tour in Afghanistan at the time of his death, according to his cousin Kellie Uhrig, of Columbus, who is speaking on behalf of the family.

The Associated Press reported that the Department of Defense said Gire and 26-year-old Pfc. Michael C. Mahr of Homosassa, Fla. died Tuesday after an attack involving explosives and small arms fire.

However, Uhrig said that at this time no details are available as to the time or exact nature of Gire's death. She said family members were notified Tuesday evening.

Gire's mother, Peggy Hunt and her husband Dale reside in Greenfield and Uhrig said the family has friends across the area. Gire, also the son of Paul Gire Jr., had three brothers, Mike Donahue, Paul Gire III, and John Hunt, one sister Beth Hunt and a step-sister Sandy (Hunt) Bourne.

Enlisting in the Army in 2001, prior to 9-11, Gire followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps. While in Germany, he met his wife, Jackie, and together the couple had two children, Nicholas, 5, and Riley, 3.

"Josh thought the world of Jackie..." Uhrig said. "He was a wonderful guy who was very proud of his children and very much loved his wife. He was a good son and a good brother... they are a very tight-knit family."

Uhrig said Gire's immediate family was traveling to Dover, Del. Thursday, but that it is unknown when Gire's body will return to the U.S.

"We are hopeful that he will be stateside soon," she said.

The military, according to Uhrig, had not made an official announcement regarding Gire's death as of press time.

“Josh was from a small community and he was a big part of that small community,” Uhrig said. “He played baseball at Huntington... he was quiet growing up and was just a very respected, wonderful person.

“The family loved Josh a great deal. It’s a huge, huge, huge loss for our family, our country and the communities affected. We are very proud of him.”

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## **British Soldier Dies Of Afghanistan 2010 Wounds**

9 Apr 11 Ministry of Defence

It is with regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that Colour Sergeant Alan Cameron from 1st Battalion Scots Guards died on 31 March 2011 as a result of wounds he received in Afghanistan on 13 April 2010.

Colour Sergeant Cameron received serious head injuries when he was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device while on foot patrol north of Lashkar Gah on 13 April 2010.

Colour Sergeant Cameron succumbed to his wounds and died suddenly at home in Livingston, Scotland on 31 March 2011. He was 42.

Colour Sergeant Cameron, or 'Cammy' as he was known, had been making a good recovery from his wounds after undergoing a number of difficult operations. The post mortem found that his death was directly attributable to the injuries he suffered last year.

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## **Afghan Police Chief Killed On Patrol**

Apr 8 AFP

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan

A local police chief has been killed in northern Afghanistan, a provincial governor said, in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

The top policeman in the Gosfandi district of Sari Pul province, Mohammad Daud Esaqzai, was shot dead on Friday while out on patrol, according to governor Sayed Anwar Rahmati.

One of his bodyguards was injured in the attack, he added.

**Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi said the rebel group was behind the attack, adding:**

**“It's obvious when police are killed in an area (that the Taliban are responsible) -- who else can do that?”**

The north of Afghanistan has been more peaceful than other regions but has seen a string of high-profile attacks in recent months.

Seven United Nations staff were killed last week in Mazar-i-Sharif, while the police chief of Kunduz province was also killed last month.

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## **ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier in front of “Dustoff”, C Company, 1-214 Aviation Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade medevac helicopter during a sandstorm at Camp Dwyer in Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 7, 2011. REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED  
ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED  
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO  
STOP THE WARS**

## Clear Enough?



Afghan citizens rally against the U.S. military occupation in Kabul, Afghanistan April 7, 2011. REUTERS/Omar Sobhani

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## MILITARY NEWS

### **German Government Denies Asylum To American Soldier Who Deserted In 2007 To Avoid A Second Deployment In Iraq**

April 5, 2011 By JAMES DAO, New York Times [Excerpts]

The German government has denied asylum to an American soldier who deserted in 2007 to avoid a second deployment in Iraq.

The case of the soldier, André Shepherd, had been closely watched by antiwar advocates as a test of whether the German government was prepared to deem the war in Iraq unlawful. Germany is home to tens of thousands of American troops, as well as to airbases and military hospitals that are vital to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Shepherd, an Apache helicopter mechanic who spent part of 2004 and early 2005 in Iraq, was based in Germany when he went into hiding in 2007 after learning that his unit, the 412th Aviation Support Battalion, would deploy to Iraq. A soldier who goes missing for more than 30 days is categorized as a deserter by the military.



Raised in and around Cleveland, Mr. Shepherd stayed underground in Germany for more than 18 months with the help of peace groups. He surfaced in late 2008 to apply for asylum, arguing that he would have been forced to participate in war crimes if sent back to Iraq. In a statement issued at that time, Mr. Shepherd said he had decided against applying for conscientious objector because one must oppose war in all forms to be eligible, and that he did not.

The German government, in a statement issued on Monday, said it had rejected his petition because Mr. Shepherd could not cite concrete examples of war crimes committed during his first deployment to Iraq.

The German government did not say in its statement whether it would try to deport Mr. Shepherd. The Army does not typically track down the thousands of service members who desert each year, but if Mr. Shepherd is returned to the United States, he could face jail time.

Through representatives, Mr. Shepherd declined to answer questions on Tuesday. But his lawyer, Reinhard Marx, told the Agence France-Presse news agency that his client would probably contest the decision and called deportation to the United States “out of the question.” “He has married a woman with German nationality, so he has a residence permit,” the lawyer told the news agency. “This is about whether the German authorities accept his status as a refugee.”

Peace groups say Mr. Shepherd is the first American deserter to seek asylum in Europe.

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**Welcome To The Occupied USA:  
“Police Showed How Much Force  
They Were Willing To Use To Prevent  
Vets From Laying Flowers On A War  
Memorial”**

**“Five Different Police Forces Were  
Involved In Responding To The Flower  
Laying Threat. Quite A Show Of  
Paramilitary Force To Stop A Flower  
Laying Ceremony By Five Vets And A  
Military Mom!”**



Paramilitary police push forward knocking people on top of each other. Photo by Ellen Davidson

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

April 4, 2011 By Kevin Zeese, OpEdNews [Excerpts]

*"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same."*

*Soldiers Oath*

On March 20th, Americans, in a vet led assembly, gathered to support PFC Bradley Manning who is accused of leaking documents to WikiLeaks and who has been held in solitary confinement at the Quantico Marine Base for 7 months.

We worked successfully with the Prince William County Police for a safe and peaceful event, but one aspect of the event was in dispute -- a veteran led flower laying ceremony.

It seemed like something that should not have been controversial -- a ceremony to remember the war dead at a replica of the Iwo Jima Monument.

The monument is open to the public every day of the year, but the Marines insisted on closing it to prevent a flower laying ceremony by veterans.

We wanted to remember the war dead and emphasize that transparency saves lives as deception has been the basis of so many wars.

The Iwo Jima Memorial, also known as the U. S. Marine Corps War Memorial, is dedicated to all personnel of the Marines who have died defending the United States since 1775. The saying "Uncommon Valor Was a Common Virtue" is on the memorial

and refers to the strength of mind and spirit that was shown by Marines in World War II who encountered danger with firmness.

Bradley Manning, if he is guilty of what he is accused, has shown uncommon valor by sharing documents that show crimes and other misdeeds by the U.S. military and State Department. The inhumane treatment he is receiving is proof of the courage he has shown .

I wrote two memoranda to Colonel Daniel J. Choike, the Quantico Base Commander prior to March 20th. In them I explained our intent, the constitutional rights we were exercising and offered to find a way to exercise our rights safely. I concluded both memos saying "We ask you to please work with us in good faith and dignity to make this event work as it should under the Constitution, statutes and laws we all honor and respect. I stand ready and willing to work with you or your representatives, to make this work appropriately, and may be contacted for this purpose at any time, day or night, in furtherance of that goal."

We received no response from the Marine Command.

The one time I called the Marines, I was told the monument is open every day of the year but would be closed because of our presence.

On the morning of the assembly, the Prince William police offered a compromise: we could send five people to the monument to lay flowers on the memorial.

While some among the Bradley Manning supporters were unhappy with this compromise, we decided to accept it in order to have a peaceful event that allowed us to show our respect for those who have died in war.

In the end, the police allowed six people to approach the monument with flowers.

Among the six were two who had been awarded the Purple Heart, one from World War II and the other from Iraq.

Jay Wenk, an army veteran received the Purple Heart when he was a member of the 90th Infantry Division, part of Patton's 3rd Army in Germany. His company got into a firefight in a heavily wooded area, a grenade fragment clipped his right shin, and the medic cleaned and bandaged it. The next morning after sleeping outside Wenk was in great pain, he'd contracted pneumonia and pleurisy. He was sent to a hospital west of the Rhine and rejoined his detail three weeks later. Most of his comrades had been killed while he was away when they were caught in the open by two German planes.

Zack Choate served as a scout with the Army's 10th Mountain Division in southern Baghdad.

He received a Purple Heart after being wounded by a roadside bomb in October 2006. He was riding in his vehicle on a combat patrol when a roadside bomb detonated, ejecting him from the gunner's turret. After returning to the U.S. for treatment, he was awarded the Purple Heart. He was also diagnosed with PTSD.



Photo By Ellen Davidson, Zach Choate and Jay Wenk walk back from attempted flower laying at war memorial

Others in the flower laying group included: Retired Colonel Ann Wright who had a 29 year career in the U.S. military and also served 16 years in the Foreign Service. She served as Deputy Chief of Mission of US Embassies in Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Afghanistan and resigned in 2003 when the Iraq War began.

There was also retired Marine Captain David C. MacMichael, the former commander of Headquarters Company at Marine Corps Base Quantico, in Virginia, a counter-insurgency expert in South-East Asia for four years who went to the CIA after his military career.

Daniel Ellsberg left Harvard in 1954 to join the Marines and graduated first in a class of almost 1,100 lieutenants at the Marine School in Quantico. He served as a platoon leader and company commander in the Marine 2nd Infantry Division. In 1959 he began work at RAND, a private military think tank. He served in the Pentagon and reported the Gulf of Tonkin incident to Secretary Robert McNamara. He then served two years in Vietnam as a civilian working for General Lansdale. Ellsberg is most known for leaking the Pentagon Papers which undermined the rationale for the Vietnam War.

The final member of the group was Elaine Brower, the mother of a Marine recently returned from his third deployment, 1 in Afghanistan and 2 in Iraq. She is an activist against the war with the National Steering Committee of World Can't Wait and a member of Military Families Speak Out.

**As the flower laying delegation approached the monument they were told to stop at a police barrier 20 feet from the memorial. The memorial was too far away to even throw the flowers on to it.**

The delegation was disappointed.

Jay Wenk told me that “when we came up to the barriers and were told to put our flowers on the ground, that we could go no further because “that's Federal land' I felt shocked, angry and despairing of what our government is.”

Zach Choate said he “was furious and hurt” Ann Wright decided to sit down on the road in protest, Daniel Ellsberg joined her. Then people came out from behind the police barricade and into the streets.

**Police showed how much force they were willing to use to prevent vets from laying flowers on a war memorial.**

**Riot police started to march down the hill. Dressed like Imperial Guards in Star Wars, 30 of them stood shoulder-to-shoulder covering the width of a four-lane road carrying large shields, wearing black helmets with plastic over their face in most cases only the eyes could be seen and many of them were covered by sun glasses, body armor covering their chest and arms, knee pads, shin guards and heavy boots.**

**Behind them were an equal number of riot police without shields but similarly dressed.**

**There were about a dozen SWAT team troops with large assault rifles, wearing green military-like clothing and also helmets with masks that hid their faces.**

**There were eight police on horseback, the horses also wearing riot gear covering their face with plastic and the police troops riding them were wearing helmets and riot gear as well.**

**They were accompanied by police with police dogs, two buses and an armored vehicle. There were numerous other police from Prince William County, Manassas and Quantico.**

Five different police forces were involved in responding to the flower laying threat. Quite a show of paramilitary force to stop a flower laying ceremony by five vets and a military mom!

There was no violence from the peace protesters who had all pledged to be non-violent at the event. Some of the protesters were treated roughly by the paramilitary police.

As a result of the events on the 20th, 32 people have been arrested.

**Daniel Ellsberg said when the magistrate told him the charge was “unlawful assembly” he thought: “Unlawful assembly ? I thought of that as a pre-Revolutionary charge: “Disperse, ye rabble! Go to your homes!' I was under the belief that the First Amendment--protecting the right “peaceably to assemble to**

petition for redress of grievances' was supposed to "change all that.' Could there be a clearer description of what we were doing--right at the immediate site of one of the grievances?

**"Granted, we were in a highway: but the State Police had blocked off that road themselves, for the period of our assembly : we weren't even "disrupting traffic."**

Now, it goes to the Prince William Courts. It will be an opportunity for the courts to enforce and protect the most basic constitutional rights of Americans, or an opportunity to turn those guarantees into a farce. Let's hope the courts side with the people and the Constitution or the shock troops at Quantico could become a model seen in other parts of the country.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**



**"At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**"For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**"We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake."**

**"The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose."**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

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# Veterans Against Amnesia



Photograph by Mike Hastie: Fire base near An Khe, Vietnam 1970

From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: April 07, 2011  
Subject: Veterans Against Amnesia

## Veterans Against Amnesia

**8 inch howitzers firing into “free fire zones,”  
killing whomever happens to be there.  
Day in and day out,  
the U.S. Government commits mass murder  
in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.  
It is all about greed and politics,  
and the blood money that drips from  
stretch limousines all across America.  
If you don't speak the unspeakable,  
the unspeakable will speak again.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic**

Vietnam 1970-71  
April 7, 2011

War is cruelty and the more cruel  
it is, the sooner it is over.  
William Tecumseh Sherman

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

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

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

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, 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 Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

**Jimmy Ketola Presente!**  
**“Jim Was An Excellent Soldier, A  
Consistent Peace Activist Over 40  
Years, And A Loyal Friend”**  
**“The War Took Him Anyway”**  
**“It Just Took 40 Years”**



April 4, 2011 By Lee Thorn via Vietnam Veterans Against The War net

Dear sisters and brothers,

Jimmy Ketola came back from Vietnam in early 1972 after two and a half tours, a serious wound and severe PTSD.

He traveled directly from Travis Air Force base to the San Francisco VVAW office.

He'd been a tunnel rat and a sniper and a natural soldier.

He was also already an activist when he got to San Francisco. He'd distributed anti-war newspapers while in 'Nam.

Jim grew up in upstate Minnesota. Before he went in the service, he had worked, when he could get it, as a lumberjack. J

Jim always worked hard, was on constant alert, loved peace and justice, was a friend to many, was a mentor for several young kids including my son, John, talked to anyone and everyone and at length, was a father of two sons and during their marriage, loved his wife, Gretchen, with his whole heart.

When he got to our chapter he not only went on every action including the occupation of the recruiting station in the San Francisco Federal Building, but he also was the first of us to get a real job.

While working he managed to get into the Welders Union. At the end of his career as a welder he was still climbing on top of refineries doing the most dangerous and most skilled work. He used to say to me, "It is better if I do these kind of things. I know what I'm doing."

Over the last several years, however, Jim had three heart attacks and during one he was dead for nine minutes. He survived, but he told me he thought that affected his mind.

At the end he found himself living in shelters and in a cardboard box with a woman friend in Stockton, California.

He was killed by a motorist as he crossed a street in the rain in the night.

The things to know about Jim are that he was always humble, he knew everything about the woods and welding, and he hated war.

He did his second tour to keep his brother out of Vietnam service.

Jim was an excellent soldier, a consistent peace activist over 40 years, and a loyal friend.

The war took him anyway.

It just took 40 years.

Services for Jimmy will be next Friday, April 8, 2011, in the afternoon. There will not be funeral, but there will be a short gravesite service when his body is interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery this Friday, April 8, 2011, tentatively at 2 pm.

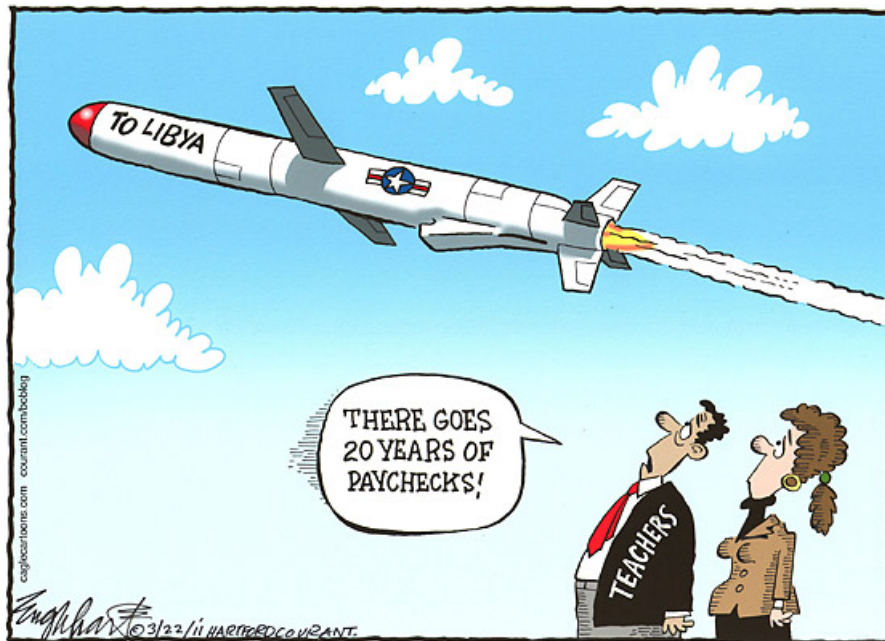
The family will not know the exact time until Monday morning when the cemetery's schedule will be decided. We're carpooling from the San Francisco Vets Building, if you want to join us. Just give Paul Cox or me a holler and we'll hook you up.

Presente, Jimmy, our friend! We love you!

Lee Thorn  
VFP and VVAW since 1967

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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## **Win One For Our Side: Not Guilty Jury Defies Judge And Prosecutor In Medical Marijuana Case**

March 24, 2011 by Mark Morey, Yakima Herald-Republic [Excerpts]

YAKIMA, Wash. -- Yakima County's first trial over a so-called medical-marijuana dispensary or collective quickly ended in acquittal Thursday afternoon.

The Superior Court jury that heard the charges against Valtino Hicks of Yakima returned its verdict in less than 25 minutes, unusually quick for almost any criminal trial.

At least two other local cases are pending in which a medical-marijuana argument could be raised.

The issue remains controversial across the state at political and legal levels. King County has been the most visible in declining to prosecute marijuana dispensaries, and legislation advanced this week that would take steps toward creating a framework for legal dispensaries.

The Yakima County prosecutor's office offered no immediate comment on the verdict or whether the outcome of the Hicks case would affect prosecution policy.

Defense attorney George Hansen declined to comment in detail on the verdict, but he said he spoke with a few of the jurors, "who indicated that they needed to see more from the state."

**The jury returned its verdict in spite of the fact that Judge Rob Lawrence-Berrey prohibited testimony regarding a medical-marijuana card that Hicks said he possessed.**

The prosecution maintained that he was responsible for a 201-plant growing operation at his home that far exceeded the 15-plant supply allowed for medical-marijuana patients or anyone who provides them with the drug. The plants were confiscated.

Hicks' defense called a half-dozen witnesses who said that they were either patients or authorized providers for patients.

Hicks was described as a passionate advocate for medical marijuana who is continuing to take horticulture classes and is committed to the cause despite his legal problems.

But in closing arguments, deputy prosecutor Leanne Foster suggested to the jury that Hicks' viewpoint on the issue had nothing to do with the current law.

"Marijuana is still a controlled substance, whether Mr. Hicks likes it or not," she told the jury.

Hicks was arrested in March 2010 after police received a tip that a marijuana-growing operation was being run out of a home he occupied with his mother in the 900 block of Central Avenue.

Hicks, whose criminal history includes drug-related convictions, was ultimately arrested on charges alleging that he was manufacturing marijuana and possessed it with intent to deliver.

**Although Foster highlighted the fact that Hicks had a digital scale, common for drug dealers, no evidence was presented of street-level marijuana deals.**

**The home was promoted via a website as a place where qualifying patients could receive marijuana.**

**His mother, who was not called to testify at trial, pointed out in an earlier interview with the Herald-Republic that illegal drug dealers would rarely advertise their efforts on the Internet.**

The website is still up, although a phone number listed on it was out of service Thursday.

The defense maintained that he was doing nothing more than providing a place where others could grow marijuana. "There was no intent to deliver proven by the state," Hansen told the jury.

The state's voters approved a medical-marijuana initiative in 1998, but advocates say that the law does little to provide patients with a clear legal source for the drug, which remains illegal at the federal level.

Under one possible interpretation of the law, large grows would be illegal even for medical purposes. But advocates counter that the state's statute is silent on the issue.

Yakima defense attorney Greg Scott, who is handling two other cases charged by county prosecutors in which he expects to make a medical-marijuana argument, said marijuana is the only legal drug for which a prescription is not a clear-cut defense.

"I think the Legislature needs to clarify exactly what it is they will allow and what it is they will not allow," Scott said. The Legislature is considering allowing limited dispensaries, although it's unclear what form the law would ultimately take.

The law faces opposition from several sides, including the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, according to news reports.

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

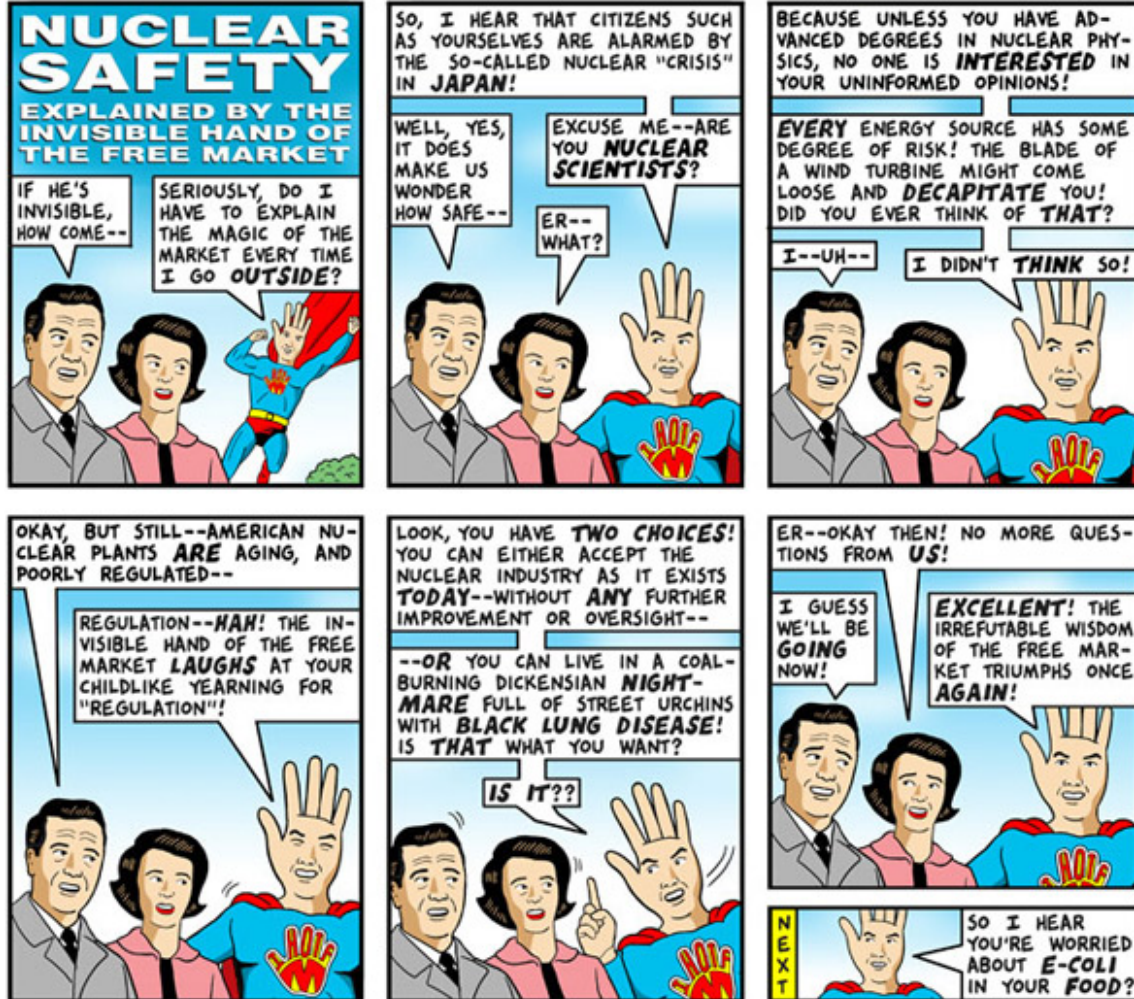
**"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops."**

**Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

# CLASS WAR REPORTS

## **THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



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

## **Egypt: The Generals' Dictatorship Tests Its Strength Against The Revolution:**

# **“Troops Violently Dispersed An Overnight Protest Killing One And Injuring 71”**

April 9, 2011 by The Associated Press

**Demonstrators burned cars and barricaded themselves with barbed wire inside a central Cairo square demanding the resignation of the military's head after troops violently dispersed an overnight protest killing one and injuring 71.**

Hundreds of soldiers beat protesters with clubs and fired into the air in the pre-dawn raid on Cairo's central Tahrir Square in a sign of the rising tensions between Egypt's ruling military and protesters.

Armed with sticks and other makeshift weapons, the protesters vowed not to leave until the defense minister, the titular head of state, has resigned.

**The soldiers swept into the square around 3 a.m. and waded into a tent camp in the center where protesters had formed a human cordon to protect several army officers who had joined their demonstration in defiance of their superiors.**

**Ali Mustafa, a car mechanic who was guarding the “free soldiers” tent, said that he saw the army stab one of the officers with his bayonet, pointing to a section of pavement stained with blood under a small pile of garbage and food remains.**

Another protester was shot dead, said Ahmed Gamal, who was there overnight. He added that he saw at least two others severely injured by live ammunition. The deaths could not be confirmed.

State television cited the Health Ministry saying just one person had been killed and 71 wounded.

The troops dragged an unknown number of protesters away, throwing them into police trucks, eyewitnesses said.

**The military issued a statement afterward blaming “outlaws” for rioting and violating the country's 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. curfew, and asserted that no one was harmed or arrested.**

**“The armed forces stress that they will not tolerate any acts of rioting or any act that harms the interest of the country and the people,” it said.**

Black smoke rose in the sky as the sun came up in Cairo, after three vehicles, including two troop carriers, were set on fire.

The square was filled with shattered glass, stones and debris from the fighting, in a scene reminiscent of the protests in January that brought down the regime of Hosni Mubarak. The glass storefront of a KFC on the square was also smashed.

“We are staging a sit-in until the field marshal is prosecuted,” said Anas Esmat, a 22-year-old university student in the square as protesters dragged debris and barbed wire to seal off the streets leading into the square.

“The people want the fall of the field marshal,” chanted protesters, in a variation on the chant that has become famous across the Middle East with protests calling for regime change.

“Tantawi is Mubarak and Mubarak is Tantawi,” went another chant, explicitly equating Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, the defense minister, with the president who once appointed him.

The clashes came hours after hundreds of thousands massed in Tahrir Square on Friday in one of the biggest protests in weeks, demanding that the military prosecute ousted president Hosni Mubarak and his family for alleged corruption.

The rally was a show of the increasing impatience and mistrust that many Egyptians feel toward the military, which took over when Mubarak was forced out of office on Feb. 11. Some protesters accuse the military leadership of protecting Mubarak — a former military man himself — and more broadly, many are unclear on the army's intentions in the country's transition.

More than in previous protests, chants and banners Friday directly criticized the military's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and Tantawi, a former Mubarak loyalist.

**A number of army officers in uniform joined the protesters, some of them accusing the Supreme Council of corruption in speeches to the crowd. After dark, hundreds of protesters remained in the square, intending to camp out with the officers.**

**Before the pre-dawn assault, military police tried several times to move in and detain the officers but were pushed back by protesters.**

**At one point, protesters pushed and shoved an army general, tearing his cap from his head.**

After the attack in the early hours of the morning, the scene was chaotic. Families who had camped out in the protest tent searched for children who got lost in the mayhem. Outside, protesters scuffled with soldiers on side streets, chanting, “Field Marshal, tell your soldiers, we aren't leaving.”

Near the famed Egyptian Museum, which overlooks the square, protesters trying to flee were blocked by soldiers, who hit them and knocked them to the ground before dragging them away.

“I saw them detain a bunch at the museum. They were beating some pretty badly,” said one protester, Loai Nagati.

Reports have emerged of some protesters arrested and tortured by the military in past weeks. Anger has also grown over the failure so far to prosecute Mubarak and his family.

In a further challenge to the military, more than 1,000 protesters on Friday evening marched on the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, denouncing Israeli airstrikes against the Gaza Strip earlier in the day.

The demonstrators, including a large contingent of Muslim Brotherhood members, were stopped by a military checkpoint yards (meters) away from the residential building where the embassy is located, overlooking the Nile River. They chanted demands that the embassy be shut down and that Egypt stop selling natural gas to Israel.

**MORE:**

## **Egypt: The Clock Is Running**

[Comment: T]

[From: Military Resistance: 2.13.11]

**The Egyptian February revolution has brought down the dictator.**

**The Egyptian people, long oppressed, have won a world-amazing political victory, and opened the way to wonderful possibilities.**

**But as yet there are only possibilities.**

**The material reality of the lives of the overwhelming majority of Egyptians who daily struggle to get enough to eat has not changed with the going of Mubarak.**

**One particularly murderous exploiter and a handful of his class allies have given up power, but the rest remain in their previous places, taking for themselves the wealth of Egyptian society.**

**They sacrifice a few of their associates to the revolution in a play for time to regroup and reorganize their forces.**

**The question opened now is which class will rule in Egypt, and that question will be decided in class warfare.**

**Preparation for a showdown in that war is beginning, hopefully on both sides.**

**Certainly those who consider the wealth of the society their private property are already preparing to insure their continued domination by armed force. This includes the members of the military general staff.**

**They are not all stupid, and some understand that if this revolution isn't put down, as soon as practicable, they risk losing everything.**

**The soldiers will decide the outcome.**



The soldiers' choice will be whether to follow the orders of the generals, who will be defending their own personal wealth and privilege as well as that of their class allies, or to choose to defy their generals and go over to the Egyptian working class, and their allies.

Winning the soldiers from below requires careful organization within their ranks.

**This is not work that can be postponed.**

**This work is best organized now, before an offensive against the Egyptian revolution is set in motion by its enemies.**

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# **Suez Canal Workers To Strike Until Their Demands Are Met: “They Underestimated Us, They Underestimated The Power Of Thousands Of Angry Workers” “With The Employees Refusing To Budge, Officials In The Authority Are Starting To Panic” “Most Of The Workers Are Striking Within Their Respective Company’s Headquarters, Refusing To Go Home In The Evening”**

Othman says that early yesterday, the authority administration tried to urge the workers to work on the ships by telling them that they are headed to Libya to evacuate Egyptian nationals stuck in the country.

“The workers were ready to return to work when they heard it was for a national cause, but, when they asked around, they found out that the ships are not headed to Libya,” says Othman. “This made the workers even more furious and more adamant to continue the strike.”

6 Apr 2011 Yasmine Fathi, Ahram Online [Excerpts]

Thousands of workers from six companies affiliated to the Suez Canal Authority continue to strike for a fourth day. If their demands are not met in the next few days, they warn, they will begin a hunger strike.

**The workers started to protest on 3 April. When their demands were not met, the protest escalated to a strike.**

**Most of the workers are striking within their respective company's headquarters, refusing to go home in the evening.**

"And if our demands are not met, we will begin a hunger strike in the next few days," says Ali Shaarawi, a member of the board of the Suez Maritime Arsenal Company, one of the striking companies that specializes in ship maintenance.

The workers also plan to move their protest to the Authority's Guidance Office in Ismailiya and begin a strike there.

"All of us, from across three governorates, will go but we will leave 300 or 400 workers in front of every company so that the strike is as widespread as possible," explains Shaarawi. The six companies are located in Suez, Ismailiya and Port Said.

The employees are demanding parity with their colleagues in the Suez Canal Authority. They also demand that the authority disregards Law 48 of 1978 which stipulates the conditions of workers in the public sector, one they believe is out of date and does not grant them their full rights.

Shaarawi says that there is a big gap between the conditions of the employees of the authority and those of the seven companies affiliated with it. He points out that in the authority, senior employees earn LE3,859, while their counterparts in the companies earn LE684. Additionally, there is no limit to how much can be spent on healthcare for authority employees and their family, while the amount is capped at LE12,000 for company employees. Authority employees are given housing units after three years of service and the companies do not offer accommodation. The discrepancy in retirement packages is vast with those offered by the authority varying between LE350,000 to 400,000, compared to LE7,000 to LE15,000 for company veterans.

The employees have tried everything to ensure that their demands are met, including appealing to the head of the authority, Admiral Ahmed Ali Fadl.

**"We have been asking for these demands for about 25 years now and not only do they ignore us but the head of the authority refuses to even meet with us," says Shaarawi.**

He adds that on 9 February, the employees had begun a sit in and were informed by the authority that they will raise their income temporarily until they study their demands and see if they are feasible or not.

This was followed by weeks of negotiations throughout which Fadl refused to meet with the workers. They sent a letter to senior army officials in Suez and another to Prime Minister Essam Sharaf asking for the demands to be met.

“And throughout this we kept warning them that if they don’t give us what we want, we will begin a strike on April 3 and they underestimated us, they underestimated the power of thousands of angry workers,” says Shaarawi.

The problem runs deep. Law 48 of 1978, which the workers want scrapped, has become a huge obstacle. Kamal Abbas, the general co-ordinator for the Centre for Trade Union and Workers Services (CTUWS), says that the problem is that the law was replaced by Law 12 of 2003, which regulated both the public and private sector. However, it was not applied to every company, including those affiliated to the Suez Canal Authority.

Additionally, says Abbas, many of these companies were built in the 60s during the Nasser era and were very productive, but, due to neglect and lack of upgrading, their productivity has declined and this has had an adverse effect on the employees. “For example, they haven’t had their machines upgraded for years,” says Abbas. “So the authority would commission the work to other companies which means that the companies would suffer even more.”

On top of this, says Abbas, is the fact that these companies from a financial and administrative perspective, belong completely to the authority. Fadl, for example, hires the head of the boards and controls the internal regulations.

“But from a financial point of view, the employees of the company are treated very differently than those of the authority,” says Abbas.

**With the employees refusing to budge, officials in the authority are starting to panic.**

**There are currently five ships docked at Arsenal at the moment. Two of which, the Queen and Wadi El-Nil, are passenger ships that are ready and need the workers to return to the waters, but they have refused to do so.**

Othman says that early yesterday, the authority administration tried to urge the workers to work on the ships by telling them that they are headed to Libya to evacuate Egyptian nationals stuck in the country.

“The workers were ready to return to work when they heard it was for a national cause, but, when they asked around, they found out that the ships are not headed to Libya,” says Othman. “This made the workers even more furious and more adamant to continue the strike.”

An official in Arsenal, who preferred to remain anonymous, puts the workers refusal to move despite the promises down to the lack of trust that has accumulated over the last two decades.

**“It’s like when the people in Tahrir kept saying Mubarak has to go even after he promised that he won’t run for another term in September,” the official says. “It’s**

the same scenario here; they won't move unless they see evidence that their demands are met."

The official added that the company used to give 75 per cent of its profit to the former president and the cabinet, with the rest divided among the ministry of finance and the company.

"In turn, this meant that the company had very little money to spend on its employees," the official says.

Yesterday evening, the workers met with El Borei's consultant again and the minister has also scheduled a meeting between himself and Fadl tomorrow at noon.

The workers do not yet know if any of their representatives will be allowed to attend or not.

"We would like to be able to follow the negotiations," says Sharaawi. "But either way, we aren't going anywhere until they show us that they have heard our voices."

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## Hopeful News For The U.S. Empire! Many Demonstrators In Yemen Definitely Not "Islamic Extremists"



Yemeni demonstrators against the Saleh dictatorship carry banners showing Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara: April 8, 2011 via [Louisproyect.wordpress.com/](http://Louisproyect.wordpress.com/)

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## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.**

**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/))**

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