

# Traveling Soldier

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April-May, 2005  
Issue # 10

*“All the reasons we were given were false, so it was people dying and people suffering for lies”*



**Kelly Dougherty** participated in the invasion stage of the Iraq war and is one of the founding member of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). She spoke to Traveling Soldier's Sgt. Martin Smith (ret'd) at the March 19<sup>th</sup> rally in Fayetteville, N.C. home of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne.

**Smith:** Can you tell me your name, rank, and service?

**Dougherty:** My name is Kelly Dougherty. I was an E5 Sergeant in the National Guard and then the Colorado Army National Guard for eight years and I was released last August, 2004.

**S:** Did you serve in Iraq?

**D:** Yes, my unit was in Iraq for approximately eight months and then Kuwait for another two. I was in a military police company.

**S:** Why are you here today?

**D:** I'm here today to show my support for the peace movement and to show to the public and to our government that we want an end to the occupation of Iraq.

**S:** What made you come to that conclusion?

**D:** I didn't believe the reasons that we were being given to go to war in the first place, and then when I got there and saw the horrible impact that the war and the occupation was having on the population of Iraq and on our own soldiers and all the reasons we were given were false to go to war, so it was people dying and people suffering for lies.

**S:** What did you see in Iraq?

**D:** I saw that the people were living in extreme poverty. Their situation wasn't getting better when we were there. They're just getting more desperate. Just things like an overt hostility on the U.S. soldiers' part towards the Iraqi people, and house raids. I know we raided people's houses even when we

weren't sure if it was the right person. We searched people's vehicles. There were unintentional things like Iraqi children and families getting run over by our cars. And then just the continued poverty and the unemployment of the people.

**S:** What would you say to someone that's thinking of joining the military today?

**D:** You can probably count on going to Iraq and maybe talk to a veteran or someone who's been there, because if you just rely on your recruiter, they're just trying to sell you a sales pitch, and they're not telling you the whole truth.

**S:** Have you heard of the movement to kick military recruiters off of campuses?

**D:** Yes, and I think that's good, because schools are supposed to be places of learning, not places to become militarized, especially on high school campuses. I think that the recruiters shouldn't be on high school campuses, because basically what they're doing is just preying on the lack of opportunities for young people, particularly low income and minority students.

***"I don't think that's a good way to fight a war, just to blow the shit out of a country, kill a bunch of innocent people, and then charge into another country that has nothing to do with it"***

**Nicholas Przybyla participated in the invasion of Afghanistan and is one of the founding member of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). He spoke to Traveling Soldier's Sgt. Martin Smith (ret'd) at the March 19<sup>th</sup> rally in Fayetteville, N.C. home of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne.**

**Smith: Can you tell me your name, rank, and where you served?**

**Przybyla:** My name is Nicholas Przybyla. I was an E3 in the Navy. I served on the U.S.S. Peleliu with the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group, 13<sup>th</sup> Marine Special Operations Capable. We did the first initial invasion of Afghanistan from 2001 to 2002.

**S: Why are you here today?**

**P:** I'm here to stop the war I guess, trying to put an end to it and let people know what's going on is total bullshit. I had a top secret clearance and every day we would receive intelligence briefings twice a day, and it came down towards the end of our deployment that we had killed about twenty suspected terrorists, members of the Taliban. We got about seven hostages onboard and the total deaths of civilian casualties was about three thousand – most of them were children – and I just don't think that's a good way to fight a war, just to blow the shit out of a country, kill a bunch of innocent people, and then charge into another country that has nothing to do with it. Towards the end of our deployment the intelligence briefings that we got said that the 13<sup>th</sup> Marines had Osama bin Laden and all his buddies cornered in the Tora Bora Mountains, and it was only a matter of time before we uncovered them. After we were relieved, we were relieved by the [Bomb Homer Shard] Amphibious Ready Group. They went in and did the same thing that we did, have him even

more cornered and after that they just let him go. All the troops were pulled out and sent to Iraq over bullshit when the real person that was responsible for September 11th was set free. That's a fact. That's the true intelligence, military intelligence that I received on a day to day basis and they say according to our intelligence the real threat was Iraq. Well I remember receiving those intelligence briefings and that's not the truth at all and I'm starting to think that's all a fact and my personal opinion is that I think the Bush administration wanted bin Laden to go free so that they could scare the rest of the country and just keep them scared and move into Iraq and not be questioned about it.



**"That \*&%\$#@! Army recruiter just kept showing us pictures of 9-11. He said NOTHING about fighting for OIL!"**

**S: Did you know anything about Afghanistan before you went over there?**

**P:** I joined during peacetime – the whole "Navy let the journey begin" thing – I came from a real shit hole in the Detroit area pretty much an abandoned industrial town because all the automotive companies pulled out so we didn't have any money. I joined the military to try to give my parents a chance to retire. We got to Darwin Australia on September 11, so we were the first troops deployed to Afghanistan

and we didn't hear very much about it. The most vivid thing I can remember is just to show you how much the troops are brainwashed. When the planes hit the towers we heard that New York and Washington had been attacked and lots of Americans were dead. There wasn't any remorse on the ship, of course they were a couple of exceptions, but the majority of troops though on board were celebrating because they finally got a chance to go to war.

**S: What would you say to someone that might be thinking of joining the military today?**

**P:** I would say don't do it. It's not worth it. I joined the military and now like I said before sometimes I get people that come up to me and say thank you for your contribution thank you for protecting us and I think that's kind of stupid because we weren't protecting them at all. Our National Guard is gone. America's weaker than it's ever been on a home front attack, and it's completely pointless to go to Iraq and die over something that serves no purpose. It's completely insane.

**S: Why did you choose to join Iraq Veterans against the War?**

**P:** I think the main reason why I joined is because what happens is after you're involved in something like that and you know that people are dead from a direct result of you and the rest of your fellow soldiers, and sailors, marines and airmen being there that it just tears you apart inside and I think it's my duty to try and counter-recruit and get people to stop joining up so that they don't have to deal with this the rest of their lives. It's been about four years since it happened to me, and I still think about it every day. I don't want that for the rest of the year. Look at what Vietnam did. You walk down the street and look at the homeless and almost every single one of them is Vietnam-era age, and it's all happening again.

**S: What do you know about the soldiers that fought in Vietnam?**

**P:** My good friend's father was a Vietnam veteran and the last thing that he worked really hard after he got out of the military the last thing he wanted to do was have his son join the military, but his son went ahead and did it instead. The day before his son left to go into the forces, the first time he told us about his tour in Vietnam and he said he just couldn't explain how horrible it was walking through the jungle constantly, just covered in sweat, for nothing coming across your buddy and he's got his mouth sewn shut and when you cut the stitches to open his mouth his testicles come out of it.

**S: Can you describe your Military Occupational Specialty?**

**P:** My Military Occupational Specialty was photography. All the

people from the different branches in service go to the same photography school in Fort Mead, Maryland. One of the courses of training is combat photo investigative photography accident photography. They trained us for a reason, but when we got to the Middle East and people were coming on board – prisoners of war, injured people, accidents, and stuff like that. We were taking pictures to be translated and to be sent back to the United States and Military Police would come up and erase them from our cameras. And they did that because they were being told to do that. Obviously, I don't think that our Commander-in-Chief and all his buddies in office want our people seeing those kinds of images.

**S: Have you heard about the military recruiters being kicked off**

**some of the campuses around the country?**

**P:** No, I haven't but I go to a community college in Los Angeles and I see recruiters there on a weekly basis and usually for the most part they're guys that have just joined. They don't know what they're talking about so you can't hold it against them, because they're going through the same brainwashing that we all went through when we were in there. So what I like to do is put on my cammie jacket and go stand right next to them and while they're passing out pro-join the service documents I hold out documents of peace from Iraq Veterans against the War. I think that I've successfully counter-recruited at least five people.

## "I will not stop fighting until our last soldier is home"

To All My Brothers and Sisters in Peace:

As I reflect on last weekend's protest at Fort Bragg I feel the healing has begun.

No longer do I feel alone, I spent the weekend with 5000 of my new brothers and sisters in peace.

Mere words can not express the gratitude I feel.

I threw away my car magnet today. True support of the troops is standing up and speaking out: "Enough is Enough"

I have had enough of the lies, I've had enough of the death for us and the Iraqis.

I did not know it but you all were there with me on my sleepless nights as I cried in pain for my son in Iraq.

You knew of my fears and terror when I heard a soldier had died. My son's spirit forever

damaged by the killing he has done and witnessed. I mourn the loss of my son's innocence.

There is a permanent look of pain in my son's eye. When my son left for Iraq it was as if I

took a deep breathe and didn't exhale till he returned home.

Well I have caught my breath and I am now a force to be reckoned with. It is with all your encouragement that I found my voice.

My son dropped me off at the protest. I said you know we are doing this because we love you. My son replied "I know that Mom."



Thank you for standing up and being witnesses. We are standing with people of the entire world.

You have given me strength and I will not stop fighting till our last soldier is home.

**– Georgia Stillwell, mother of Specialist Robert Stillwell, Airborne MP (Iraq Combat Veteran currently stationed at Fort Bragg)**

# Mail Bag

Dear Traveling Soldier,

Today I was threatened to be thrown in jail and wouldn't be told why. I suspect it was because early today I had asked the question 'why?', so I was then promised that my life would be made a living hell. If as soldiers we are not allowed to ask why, then I am convinced that the army expects us to be lifeless killers, for if one cannot ask the question why, then what is the point of living?

The ability to ask why is the very thing that separates us from all other life on this planet. It allows us the ability to choose, which allows us the ability to be human. By taking away our choice they are taking away our humanity. Without choice we are mindless creations, no different from a rock or tree, susceptible to perform anything, which I guess is why America is capable of performing the great immorals which we speak of today.

So, if you were to ask me 'what would you rather do, spend your life in prison or murder a child?', I would much rather spend my life in prison. But that's just me.

Apparently I, unlike the rest of the army (or the majority of the world for that matter) still possess the ability to choose, only with my choices, killing is always one, and the uniform code of military justice is always the other.

If you still have the choice, choose wisely. You just might be choosing to murder a child whether you know it or not.

I would love to be on your mailing list. Thanks for reading, and thanks for caring.

Being threatened by my NCO like that (especially withholding his reason for it) made me dislike the army even more that day, and it's comforting to know there is a place where soldiers and the like can go to hear the truth, straight out of other soldier's mouths.

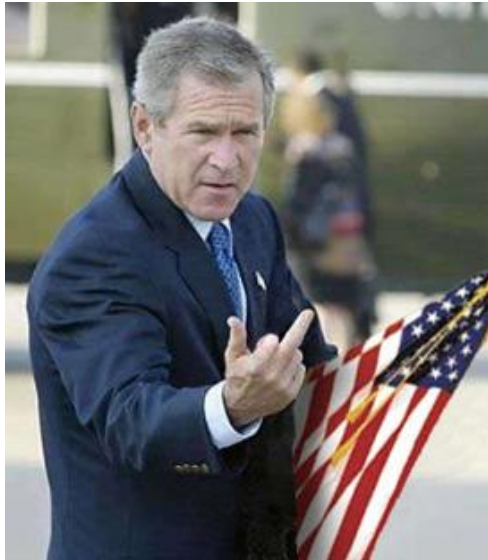
Which is exactly why I felt so

strongly about what I wrote because war or not, the line has to be drawn somewhere. Otherwise we will be digging our own graves.

Thank you again,  
– G.M.  
Ft. Hood, Texas

Dear Traveling Soldier,

I returned from Iraq about a year ago and spent about six months there. I was there for the initial invasion in the



**The Commander-in-Chief salutes the troops and their families for their sacrifice.**

areas of Kut and Diwania. While I was in Iraq I got to know my Platoon Sgt pretty well. We talked a lot about family and home.

After we had been there for about five months or so my sergeant began to question our purpose in Iraq and what the point was. Being in a infantry company we had a lot of time in the city on the streets. Iraqi people wanted us to leave. They asked us when schools will reopen and when it will be safe to open there businesses again. We didn't have the answers they needed.

My platoon sergeants conclusion was that when we got home he would

not reenlist because of the Iraq war. This is coming from a man that has spent 15 year in the Army and a vet of Desert Storm. He was only five years from retirement and left. He figured it out and so did I as well as many of my brothers in arms. When my four year enlistment was up I left. And I was supposed to do three years but stop-loss got me.

When I came home I had a lot of problems and took it out on my fiancé. She broke off the engagement and left. Now I am in college trying move on. And I am, but still have some nightmares and some problems. It is my hope that more Soldiers speak out against Bush and his polices just as I and some of my brothers in arms have. Thank you for reading this.

– D.A., 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne

Dear Traveling Soldier,

I'm an OIF vet that spent time in Fallujah, Ramadi, and downtown Baghdad while on active duty with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. It looks like I'll be deploying with the National Guard now. I've really enjoyed reading your issues and applaud you guys on your efforts. I would greatly appreciate it if you sent me the subscription. I'm trying to open the minds of the soldiers around me.

– SGT C.M.

Dear Traveling Soldier,

I would like to send you a copy of my story, here at Ft.Campbell, KY. Man, this place is hell.

– C.L.

ThankyouThankyouThankyou.

I'm leaving for OIF 3 in five weeks with the 56th BCT TxArNG.

It sucks. The next year (or two) is about to suck a lot more.

Glad I found you,

– J.G.D.

Dear Friends,

I have just finished reading your newsletter on-line and would like to say that you have raised emotions in me that I haven't experienced since 1971, while stationed in Boa Loc, RVN. At that time I used to receive and distribute (illegally of course) a newsletter from California called "The Ally", it's purpose was the same as yours, to be an organizing tool for active duty GI's opposed to the war they were forced to be a part of.

When I got out of the service the first thing I did was to join the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. My first action with them was called "The Last Patrol" at the Republican National Convention in Miami Florida, Aug. 1972. As the war slowed down and eventually ended so did my participation with VVAW. My beliefs and opinions concerning War, the military, and my government have been unchanging though. Immediately after the events of 9-11 when our government started to talk about invading Afghanistan I knew that it was wrong and started attending peace

events in my area, Boston, I soon discovered that VVAW was still around and still working on the same issues so of course I re-upped. I also joined Veterans For Peace.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the bullshit rhetoric spewing from the government have given me a sense of de jai vous, and now having read your newsletter it is complete. I wish you the best of luck in your endeavor and would like to help out if I could but alas I am very broke and can not contribute financially. You have 100% of my moral support and if you know of anything besides money that I can do to help let me know. One of the members of VVAW, the one who turned me on to your website has suggested that we include a link to your site on our web page and I will support and advocate for that here.

Best Wishes,

**Bill Leary**

**lbigbilbo@msn.com**

**VVAW contact, Boston, MA**

P.S. my contact information can be found on our web site at

www.VVAW.org look under contacts for Massachusetts.

Dear Traveling Soldier,

My husband is in the military stationed in Pascagoula Mississippi. I just found out from him that they will be making active-duty military pay for medical. The military base in Pascagoula claims it has no meds because of the cost of the war in Iraq. Medical will not give out any medication unless it is a life threatening illness and even then it has to be ok'd by the base CO. Military members and families will also be charged for prescriptions. Haven't they taken enough from us already? They take our family members away from us to die so they can fatten their pockets, now they want more from us. We have to do something. I have already written a letter to Donald Rumsfeld, not that it will do any good. If we don't stand up for ourselves, this administration sure as heck won't.

– Lisa S

**roscleo@cableone.net**

# Should al-Qaeda occupy New York?

By Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier production staff

Two questions – should the U.S. get out of Iraq now and who will take over – came up in two different conversations I had with two different soldiers. Both of them are OIF vets, and one of them has been sent back for a second tour.

To take up the first question, we have to remember that it's the same people who ordered bombs dropped on Iraq (killing upwards of 100,000 Iraqis) who now claim that: we can't leave because of all the death and destruction we caused. We have an obligation to clean up this mess.

**Imagine if Osama bin-Laden and Al-Qaeda said to the people of New York: "yes we killed 3,000 of your people. But, because of all the death and destruction we caused, we have an obligation to clean up the mess we created. So we are sending an Islamic fundamentalist occupation army of 10,000 fighters to occupy downtown NYC."**

If the logic doesn't make any sense in New York, it doesn't make any sense in Iraq. The idea that "we broke it, we own it" is nothing more than the 21<sup>st</sup> century version of the White Man's Burden. After all, under the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein electricity was restored in a

month after Iraq was bombed to hell after Gulf War I. Two years into Gulf War II, and under the thumb of the most powerful nation with the most advanced technology in the world, electricity is still below pre-war levels.

**Every day the U.S. forcibly occupies Iraq, more mosques will be destroyed, more civilians will be killed, more homes will be raided, and more military age men and even some women and children will end up tortured in prisons. In short, the longer the U.S. stays, the more broken, destroyed, and devastated Iraq will be. Politicians who are trying to use people's sympathy for the suffering**

## Master of disguise



One of these men is a ruthless international terrorist. The other is Abu Musab al Zarqawi.

**of the Iraqis to continue the war that is killing and maiming those same Iraqis are nothing but a bunch of lying, cynical SOBs.**

We have to understand why Iraq was invaded in the first place. The goal was to establish a large, permanent American military bases in the heart of the oil-rich Middle East which could be used for future wars against Syria, Iran or anyone else in the region who decided to give Uncle Sam the finger. The region is home to world's largest oil reserves, in Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Controlling this huge amount of oil which the rest of the world depends on would give Corporate America a huge amount of power to push around its rivals – Corporate Japan, Corporate China, Corporate France, Corporate Germany, Corporate Russia. That's why the governments of those countries opposed the invasion and that's why Washington keeps repeating over and over, "we can't cut and run." They don't want to walk away from this empty handed.

**Every day the American military is in Iraq, the more people on both sides die in the pursuit of those goals.** Now if politicians in Washington openly said this, that all the killing and dying in Iraq was really all about power politics and empire and the greed of the American elite, no one would stand for it. So they lied about weapons of mass destruction. When that fell through, they came up with another lie: establishing democracy. They even held an election to give people the illusion that democracy was being brought to Iraq by gunpoint. The media "forgot" to mention that all parties were banned that called for resisting the occupation. The media "forgot" to point to the fact that the U.S. government rigged the political set up of the Iraqi government to prevent it from asking the U.S. to get out or from repealing any of the laws put in place by the U.S.

Now that it seems that an Iraqi government is in place, we have a new lie: Iraq's "democratic" government needs help to "put down the insurgency" which is being led by Saddam loyalists, foreign Islamic terrorists like Al-Qaeda, and paid criminals.

What Washington's politicians – Bush and Kerry, Democrat and Republican alike – can't admit is the obvious: that the people who are fighting the U.S. are fighting for their independence. They can't admit that Iraqis who have had their fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters, cousins, friends, and neighbors killed, tortured, or worse, are beginning to fight

back. They are fighting just as the Vietnamese did after the U.S. invaded in 1965, just as the French did when the Germans invaded in WWII, and just as Americans did to free this country of British domination way back in 1776.

While they are fighting with AK-47s, mortars, and IEDs, they are also going on strike, demonstrating, and marching through the streets to demand that the U.S. get out. **On the second anniversary of Baghdad's fall, the radical cleric Al-Sadr organized a 300,000-strong demonstration in Baghdad to call for an end to the occupation and for the troops to get out and come home to America where you belong. That was the largest demonstration in Iraq since 1958.**

But the Bush administration and their media megaphones like to focus on the beheadings and atrocities of a few

extremists within the resistance to give the whole resistance a bad name. Just like when there's an anti-war protest, they focus on the flag-burning idiots to try to smear all the protestors and their cause. Same shit, different country.

So what happens when the U.S. finally pulls out? Who will take over in Iraq? That's for the Iraqis to decide – for themselves and by themselves, without outside interference, meddling, or occupation of any sort.

That doesn't mean that Iraq will become a paradise on earth once they get foreign troops out. A lot will have to be rebuilt and it will probably take years to do. There might be a power struggle, maybe even a civil war. But the meaning of democracy is that people have to sort things out for themselves, and sometimes that process can be messy or ugly, to say the least.

After the American revolution, what happened? Rich white men

got to vote and hold political office, wars of extermination against the Native Americans began, and slavery expanded. Women didn't get the vote, and poor farmers (many of them veterans of the revolutionary war) had their farms confiscated by banks due to debt. Hardly an ideal set up. But it was a step forward from being a British colony. After the Vietnamese won their independence from the U.S. in 1975, what happened? A police state was established, and eventually Nike opened sweatshops. But despite that, it was a step forward from American occupation.

That's why Traveling Soldier has always been uncompromising in its stand: bring the troops home now. Period. No ifs, ands, or buts.



**No more tears.  
Bring the troops home now.**

# The Chicken Factory

Once upon a time there was a chicken factory, where, let us suppose, 1000 men and women work.

Live chickens come in one end of the factory complex, and cut up chicken parts and whole chickens come out the other end.

The people who cut up the chickens make about \$3 an hour, work in cold, wet rooms, get sick a lot, and frequently lose body parts during the chicken cutting process. The managers are cold assholes interested in profits, and don't give a shit how dangerous the equipment is. The supervisors are petty tyrants and frequently sexual predators.

If you get too sick or hurt to work, too fucking bad, you get put out the door.

This is not a desirable state of affairs.

You think maybe there should be some kind of organization of the work force to resist this shit. Maybe you can get more money, or insist that you have decent protection from being maimed or killed.

At that point you are alone, and powerless. So you have to very carefully find somebody else that agrees, and then somebody else, and all unnoticed by the assholes in command of the chicken factory, you slowly but surely build an organization.

You need meetings to talk over plans. Off company territory. You need security. You need some kind of way of communicating, maybe a newsletter, but you're careful about that too.

You can take it from there.

But it is obvious that you do not want anybody to stand up in the middle of the third shift and loudly tell management, "I refuse to participate any further in your immoral enterprise and will defy all your orders."

He or she is immediately gotten rid of, and is lost to organizing inside your chicken factory because he or she is gone. And the management is delighted, because they've just ID'd and fired somebody who could give them trouble in the future.

So, if you're alone, organize. People who act together can have an effect.

And if somebody snaps and does an individual refusal, and gets arrested, in trouble, or whatever, your organization does not leave them behind; they've been hurt, and let no one judge them, because anybody can snap, anytime.

A soldier from the 1<sup>st</sup> ID summed up his job situation like this:

**"Before any soldier risks going to prison he should realize that his ability to communicate with other troops will be limited.**

**"We choose our battles and continue to speak out in our underground action.**

**"There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect."**

Use Traveling Soldier to

serve your organizing purposes and say what you have to say. You say how. That's what it's for.



**Get organized!  
Contact  
Traveling Soldier**

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# *Words from the front-lines*

“They’re tired. They’re tired of being here.” – **Navy Lt. Matthew Weems, chaplain for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Fallujah, Iraq.**

“This will be the last time we do this. When we get back, we’re done – out of the Marine Corps.” – **Cpl. John Woodham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Fallujah, Iraq.**

“There’s nobody to be bitter at. To the dude that hit me with a grenade, he had just as good a reason to be there in his thinking as I did. I’m not happy with him but I don’t resent him for it. ... I’d go back in a heart beat because my guys are still there, but they got off the plane, so hell no I’m not going back.” – **Spc. Kevin Pannell, Charlie Company, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas National Guard, on the Iraqi resistance fighter who threw a grenade at him.**

“When people say that war is the most terrible thing, they ain’t wrong. The things it does to people. You think that killing people for your country is cool, but when you do, it just numbs you.” – **Sgt. Dave Bowden, Alpha Company, Task Force 2-2, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fallujah, Iraq.**

“It’s intense, that’s about all there is to say. The determination these guys have against our forces, these little bands of guys shooting at tanks, it’s almost admirable.” – **Spc. John Bandy, Alpha Company, Task Force 2-2, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fallujah, Iraq.**

“I don’t want my boy to know his daddy’s a killer.” – **Sgt. Randy Laird, Alpha Company, Task Force 2-2, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fallujah, Iraq.**

“I just want to stay alive and go home with all my body parts.” – **Sgt. David Phillips, Mosul, Iraq.**

“I don’t think we’re being completely clean about the reasons that we’re really over there and how we’re really treating the people. Those incidents of, say, prisoner abuse don’t just go on in certain places; they’re happening everywhere, all over the country. It’s not necessarily just the insurgents who are against us. I think it’s the general population of people. They get tired of seeing armed soldiers. What would you say if you saw Muslims from a different country out patrolling your streets every day? I’d be out there fighting them too.” – **Army Spc. James Furnas**

“My message in my rap is that I have a lot of anger about the war. Why are we there? Why me? That’s basically what I want to say when I write: Why?” – **Sgt. Nick Moncrief, on his rap lyrics.**



“When you’re out on the street it’s hard to tell who is friendly and who is the enemy – they can attack us and then melt back into the background. They’re very well organized, they have a network of people

helping them, informing them of our movements. They have kids running round, acting as their spotters because they know we can’t shoot unarmed civilians. They also know the place much better than us. ... Let’s face it, there’s not a lot of love for us here.” – **Sgt. Richard Mitchell, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Predator Palace, Baghdad.**

“If anyone gets too close to us we fucking waste them. It’s kind of a shame, because it means we’ve killed a lot of innocent people.” – **Anonymous Lieutenant, Ramadi, Iraq.**

“The band’s upset. Everybody thought the band was a sacred cow. We all thought there’s no way they’ll send a Guard band to Iraq.” – **Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Martellaro, conductor and commander of the 199<sup>th</sup> Band of the N.Y. National Guard**