

Traveling Soldier

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**Free to service men and women
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**July-August, 2005
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You can't eat a soccer ball

In the autumn of 2004 in Baqubah, Iraq we made a lot of effort after the razing of Fallujah to win back some support of the Iraqi people.

A general distrust grew among the local nationals and it was important to not lead into the elections with negative backlash. There was a surge of insurgent recruiting due to the injustice of destroying Fallujah and we wanted to take the wind out of it.

One of the officer think tanks perched high above real action in Iraq, and high above any common sense, decided it would be a great idea to hand out free soccer balls to the towns in the area.

I thought it was a strange idea from the start.

When we arrived in Iraq we were never greeted with flower baring women and showered with thanks. What we encountered when we confronted the Iraqi people were beggars and peddlers. The kids would approach us with offers on knives, old Iraqi money, whiskey, hashish, bootleg porn, and even prostitution.

Most would beg. First for money. They could buy anything they wanted with an American dollar. Then they would beg for food. It was obvious they were starving for something more nutritious than what their diet allowed.

Then they would beg for clothes, shoes, and school supplies.

I even asked to look in one child's backpack to cure a curiosity on what the school supplies he owned and what the schools were teaching him.

He explained that his father burned the books because it was getting cold outside. Coal is expensive and the Iraqi desert is not in abundance with wood.

After these questions were exhausted they would settle for anything they could see and ask for. All day it was “Mhister, mhister, gimmie mhister” and “for you one dollar mhister”. Never once was I begged for a soccer ball.

Alas here we were with an entire train car full of soccer balls, however the one missing ingredient was a pump to inflate them.

Thousands of deflated soccer balls.

You would think that someone would raise a stink about it and get some way to inflate the balls, but not in this army.

This army is commanded by fear.

No one was willing to explain to higher that shit was all fucked up. That would mean it was either their fault or the person they are complaining to. And since the person they complain to is of higher rank, it means that the person complaining is responsible.

But an order is an order and “You will hand out those fucking balls!”

So here we are, a group of sixteen soldiers with deflated soccer balls

piled up so high in the humvees we couldn't get to our ammunition.

We drove through the canal crossed Iraqi villages handing out useless sagging plastic to a bunch of hungry children. At first they were grateful. Then some confusion set in. Some tried to play with them by kicking them around and into the sky. They threw them like frisbees and wore them like hats. We shrugged and moved on to the next town away from the pleas “Mhister, foood mhister.”

As we completed our trip and ran out of balls we had to drive through the same towns on the way back.

Deflated soccer balls littered the ground, some were thrown onto houses and in palm trees.

The children at first were not to be seen. But around one corner we were welcomed by the grateful Iraqi children with a rain of rocks.

Many of the soldiers get upset and angry at the kids. They point weapons at them and some even fire off warning shots to scare them.

I just shrink into my turret and let the stones fall about my helmet and weapon shield.

I never blamed them.

Maybe we will be greeted with flowers when we stop handing out destruction, death, fear and deflated waste.

– **Heretic**

“Our motivation had more to do with oil and imperialism than to do with Saddam Hussein or weapons of mass destruction”

Tim Talib participated in the invasion of Iraq 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 19th rally in Fayetteville, N.C. home of the 82nd Airborne.

Smith: Can you tell me your name, rank, and what service you were in?

Talib: My name is Tim Talib and I was a hospital corpsman third class in the United States Navy, and I served in Iraq with the Marine Corps.

S: How long did you serve in Iraq?

T: I was in country for seven months.

S: Why are you here today?

T: I'm here today to protest the on going occupation in Iraq. I

believe that it's immoral and illegal under international law and I believe that we went into Iraq that our motivation had more to do with oil and imperialism than to do with Saddam Hussein or weapons of mass destruction which were never found or connections to 9/11 which were never made.

S: How did you come to that conclusion?

P: I believed much of that before I went over but my experiences in Iraq reinforced what I'd already believed, particularly with regard to weapons of mass destruction. We spent some of our time searching for WMDs, and nothing was ever found. Nothing was ever brought to light by the Bush administration. Their claims were completely false, and all the NBC [Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical] officers and other people that I talked with in

country that were working on WMD searches never found any thing either.

S: Did you have any contact with the Iraqi people?

T: Yes, I had a good amount of contact with the Iraqi people in the Sunni triangle region so it was mostly Sunnis and a few Shiites. I didn't meet any Kurds at all.

S: Did your opinion of the Iraqi people differ from what the military said it would be like?

T: I never believed what the military told me about the Iraqi people to begin with. I went over there with the belief that the majority of the Iraqi people were good people that they didn't necessarily support Saddam either but they equally did not want us occupying their country and those beliefs were confirmed. I found that a lot of people in Iraq were intelligent, well educated people who already had some understanding of what they wanted for their country and the democratic processes that they wanted to implement and they didn't need us to come over and force those ideas on them.

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

T: Consider other options. It's not a good idea. It's not a good time to be in and you don't want to be forced to participate in an occupation.



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Mail Bag

Traveling-soldier,

I recently came across your publication online, while settling an argument with a fellow soldier about the validity of F.T.A. as a known acronym. Upon further analysis of your site I had feelings I haven't felt since before I joined. I would like to join your organization and help if educate if I can.

A bit about myself, I'm a 24 year old E-5 in the Army National Guard. I'm currently deployed at FOB Kalsu, I'm an NBC NCO but they have me running --- ----- and ----- . I have no real purpose over here, while more essential people were left home for bullshit excuses. One even just won a "policeman of the year" award.

I'm sorry to also say that I was also one of the "brainwashed" soldiers for so many years, and that I'll probably have to re-enlist simply to support myself and my wife. The pay isn't great, but it's a nice supplement to my civilian job (I'm a butcher).

So anything I can help with, let me know. I'll just have to keep playing "their" game, while putting up with the facade.

I stumbled upon this site as I was settling a debate on F.T.A and its meaning. I am a young soldier and apparently one of the few young soldiers that knows this. I learned it from old grunts that I meet at classes and my job here. I used that acronym on the desktop of my computer and have gotten mixed results.

When I found your site, I became excited to find a military

paper, more precisely a soldier's paper, that will cut through the bullshit. I guess that is because soldiers write the articles, or most of them. I read the "Stars and Stripes" and "Scimitar" only to find so much b.s. that it makes me laugh.

If anybody out there wants to know the state of affairs at FOB Kalsu, in a lowly Sgt.'s opinion, here they are. I won't complain about living in tents instead of trailers, won't complain about wearing the IBA since we're kinda prone to mortars sometimes, won't complain about the chow hall food, and won't complain about the heat.

All of this, and more, I always thought was part of the "package deal" with going to war, this isn't a Disney Cruise. So when I see someone from Baghdad complaining about not having a paintball field, I wonder if they consider the outposts where people have to sling real lead.

But what pisses me off at my FOB is that we have a battalion telling a brigade what to do. We have some soldiers that can do pretty much what they damn well please. We have upper enlisted (say E-6 and up) having sexual relationships with lower enlisted. Everyone knows about it but



nothing is done about it. I may have been gone from home for a while, but I still love and remember my wife.

But if you want the one experience that sums up my feelings of being over here, it goes back to Kuwait. We were sent to the range one day with very vague directions. Well, we became lost, not seeing the dirt road we were supposed to take.....in the desert.

What we did find, however was the end of the road as we call it. No lie, the road just stopped as if cut off by a saw. Past that was a set of steps and the frame to a building on top of the slab the steps went up. When one went up the steps and looked past, there was nothing but desert.

That's how I sum up how I feel here. I've hit the end of the road and guess what, there's nothing there.

For a solution to the war we're in, I don't see one now. The best one would have been

prevention. But now that we're here, what can we do?

Some of the locals want what we've promised them. They want a more western style life, they want hi-speed internet, 2 cars in their garage, and they want stability without fear of a tyrannical ruler.

Don't get me wrong, there are people that want to kill us too.

Mostly they really want us gone, they don't want "big brother" and his guiding hand shaping their new government. We've ousted their former ruler, let them take charge of themselves.

I love America and I'm sorry to say it, I love Iraq. These are a proud, intelligent, and friendly people when treated as such. I joined the National Guard

because I love the U.S. and will re-up because of such.

I would also do anything in my power to help any Iraqi should they ask me. We need to concentrate on getting them ready for their own government and get out of the way.

Thank you.

– Sgt. C.C.

FOB Kalsu, Iraq

Soldiers debate the war

I have a couple simple and straightforward questions for you.

After reading a bit of your material, I am confused:

- 1.) What is it you hope to accomplish? Besides confusing and demoralizing soldiers with inaccurate data and skewed facts, what is *your* agenda? From your writing style, I assume you are, or more likely, were in the military. Judging from your tone, you have some college education and are a tad elitist in view. From the text of your publication, I also assume you are no longer serving in that capacity.
- 2.) What qualifies you to have an opinion? How many combat zones have you served in, how many deployments have you made, how often have you been shot at or put even remotely in harm's way,

and how many of your friends have you seen put in the ground? What have you done for your country, military, or self to render you such a subject matter expert?

Please feel free to elucidate at your leisure, I'm only a dumb fucking GI with lots of time on my hands to ramble at morons like you.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

– **Specialist First Class C.S., 363rd Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Operations NCO**
1150 North 4th Street
Coolidge, Arizona 85228

Dear Cliff,

It has come to my attention that you were addressing me in one of your letters to Traveling Soldier. So I will try to answer all your questions for your benefit and the benefit of anyone else interested.

My ultimate goal is world peace. Of course that being such a lofty accomplishment, and that I couldn't possibly achieve it on my own, I aim to start by expressing what I experienced in Iraq I try to relate to my readers some of the tragedies of the war zone and military life. Thus broadening an outlook on war in general. A great start would be to end America's occupation in Iraq and bring my fellow soldiers and me home. Also reducing militarism and the dangerous fear-mobilized nationalism would help.

Confusing and demoralizing soldiers has



nothing to do with my agenda. However if soldiers do lose moral, or begin to question the war, that is just a side effect of them opening their eyes to the ways in which they have been manipulated and betrayed by their own government.

I don't sit around all day and collect facts on the war. I just call it like I see it. I perform missions once and sometimes twice a day. In my free time I try to squeeze what little recreation and comfort from the misery of the deployed lifestyle. When I write, I write from experience not from data. It might be raw, emotional and extreme but, that is life in Iraq.

I am in the military. Army to be exact and I have zero college. In fact I am a high school drop out wit a GED. But I read a lot in an attempt to educate myself. I seek alternative media sources so not to rely on FOX or CCN to inform me on world events. I stay open minded and am not to stubborn to change my views if I see a better solution.

You are far off when you describe me as an elitist. I don't regard any group or individual as better than anyone else. Not as far as potential goes. I treat everyone with mutual respect even those who criticize me. I welcome open communication in all forms.

My qualification to have an opinion is the fact that I am human. I have served one year in Iraq now and I was a peace keeper in Kosovo. I was one of the few soldiers in the Balkans at the time that did see combat. But those are not qualifications to form ideas of your own. Any sane man that has seen war or not can have the right to desire peace. I never claimed to be an expert in anything but my own personal history.

Your doubts about me being shot at, being in danger and how many friends have I buried are mean spirited. It still upsets me to even write about. I only ask when you speak to veterans in the future you tuck away your macho ideals and show a bit more compassion. Almost

everyone I know that has gone down range has been shot at. Almost all of us have had friends hurt or killed. It doesn't make me more of a man because I have had the misfortune of experiencing the paranoid chaos of an RPG ambush, the helplessness of a sniper attack or the panic of an improvised explosive device destroy a humvee full of my buddies in front of my very eyes.

My service in the military helped my country very little. It made my family more enemies, polarized them in fear and brought more world suffering. What I have done with my writing is worked toward peace. And in the future I will have an even greater opportunity to use the memories of war to help teach people around the Earth that violent imperialism is not a solution for economic stability for the masses.

I am happy you have time to be insulting toward yourself and me. You are smart enough to put together this little letter and I am sure you will be back around for another swing once you read my reply. I am glad that you are at least willing to talk about it. Maybe if we continue discussion we will find a common ground and work together to find the people responsible for the deaths of our friends and countless Iraqis.

You are welcome,
– Heretic

Heretic,

You are partially right; I am coming around for another swing, so to speak. I apologize for having misjudged you and your opinions. I am normally a fairly good judge of character, and your response struck a far different tone than I perceived in your flyer that indeed forces me to change my view of you. I am man enough to admit when I am wrong, and in this case, I was. I hope you accept this as a sincere apology, and if I have insulted you, I hope this will alleviate some of that injury.

I am very surprised to read of your background and experience. I'm not doubting you, however it is very unusual for someone of your views and experiences to still be serving in the military. May I inquire as to why?



It seems that you are very unhappy with the state of affairs of both the United States foreign policy and the military. What inspires you to continue serving?

I am also curious as to what particular events or policies created your opinions. I spent time overseas in Desert Storm (the first round, so to speak), Bosnia (after the shooting stopped), and in Iraq in 03-04. However, I have not ever seen anything to make me think of the United States as imperialistic, or agenda-bound. Admittedly, I did have reservations about the war in Iraq, as I'm sure anyone who has ever seen war does. I would ask your opinion on this:

If (because I've not seen evidence to bring me to this conclusion) there was an agenda behind our war with Iraq, do you not think the populace in general is better off for the removal of Saddam Hussein? The infrastructure is better than it was, the people have far

more freedom than they have had in decades, they now have a voice in a fledgling democratic government, and while there is still violence, on the whole their quality of life is better.

I am interested in your views, if you have the time to reply, I would appreciate it. Again, I hope you are willing to forgive my anger and abrasive statements in my previous email. I did lose a friend over there, and while I accept his death as an inevitable result of war, I am quick to anger when I hear commentary implying it was for nothing.

Be safe,

– **Specialist First Class C.S., 363rd Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Operations NCO**
1150 North 4th Street
Coolidge, Arizona 85228

“Dean, you have become one of them”

A military mom's open letter the Democratic Party's boss

Mr. Dean,

My son was KIA in Iraq on 04/04/04.

I have in the past admired you for your steadfast efforts for truth and for your integrity.

However, I seriously have to disagree with you when you say that the US can't leave Iraq now. I think that our mere presence in that country is fueling the insurgency that killed my son.

This revolt has also killed many more of America's sons and daughters (more than the official count) and has also maimed thousands of our nation's children. Very tragically, our very presence in that country has been responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis and for the destruction of the country.

Mr. Dean, don't you think that the Iraqi people can rebuild their own country? Before the US invasion in March of 2003, they had a very capable work force filled with construction workers, contractors, engineers, etc.

The Iraqi people are not feeble minded. To think that the Iraqi citizens need our military presence there to rebuild their country is arrogant and even racist. I think the 81 billion dollar appropriations bill that the misguided and foolish Congress just passed would be better off being a reparations bill.

The argument that Iraq will descend into chaos if the US military presence leaves is also specious. The country is already a confusing entanglement of devastation.

Let's pull our troops out and see if that helps suppress the insurgency.

I know it will help stop American soldiers and Marines from being killed and maimed for absolutely no reason.

Also, I know you know the despicable condition that the VA system and military hospital system are in right now. Are you suggesting that we create thousands of more mentally and physically wounded of our children who will be dependent on a system that is so flawed?

If you recall, Congress just rejected 1.3 billion dollars in additional emergency funding for the VA. Who will diagnose and support our soldiers who are coming home contaminated by depleted uranium sickness? This serious consequence of our government's waging of a nuclear war in the middle east will never be recognized by our government. In addition to the physical suffering, I know some soldiers who have returned from this US led aggression in Iraq who are suffering terribly from PTSD and they have been waiting for over a year for VA approval to get treated.

PTSD is rarely diagnosed so our young people who were sent to fight an immoral, illegal and unnecessary war by their reckless and arrogant Commander-in-Chief have extreme difficulty receiving the help they need from their ungrateful government.

Mr. Dean even more importantly and catastrophically, this “war” is based on treasonous deceptions.

Not **one** American soldier, nor **one** Iraqi should have been killed for the irresponsible and tragic invasion and occupation of a sovereign nation. Common sense would dictate that not one more person should be killed for these same lies.

One of the people killed so pointlessly, my son, was more than enough for me and my family. I will live in almost unbearable pain until I die. First of all, because my first born was killed violently, and secondly, because he was killed for a neo-con agenda that only benefits a very chosen few in this world.

This agenda and their war machine will chew up and spit out as many of our children as they can **unless we stop them now.**

In 1967 it was recognized by our government officials that Viet Nam was not winnable. From that point until the “Pullout,” 38,000 more of our sons and daughters were needlessly slaughtered. How many innocent Vietnamese were killed before we finally pulled out? Millions?

Continued sanctioning of the occupation of Iraq is continued sanctioning of premeditated murder.

Please use your forum to expose the pack of lies and the senseless blood and tears bath that this invasion/occupation is causing. We should not stay. We should not let Israel/USA invade Syria or Iran.

The consequences of this would be too shocking to even contemplate.

The only way that I and my organization, Gold Star Families for Peace, feel that our children in the armed forces should be supported at this point would be to bring them home, immediately.

Additionally, my family and my group are offended by hearing this administration say that our troops have to remain in Iraq and complete “the mission” to honor our loved one’s sacrifices.

First of all, no one can explain this constantly changing mission to us. Secondly, we don’t want any more innocent blood spilled just because it is too late for our soldiers and our families.

When does all the blood shed become enough for our bloodthirsty leaders? Sorry to say, Mr. Dean, it appears that you have become one of them.

Mr. Dean, your speaking out as a representative of the Democratic party for continuing the occupation disgusted me beyond belief. I was going to give the Demopublicans (Republicrats) another chance when you were elected as Chair, but now: See you later, alligator.

You should be relentlessly and courageously fighting to end the occupation. You should

be making sure that a consistent policy against all preemptive war is set in stone in our country. You should be joining us in the Peace movement in guaranteeing that our Nation’s precious lifeblood is never used so carelessly again.

But, alas, you are like all the rest of the cowards who won’t speak out against the pointless slaughter and I am distressed and disheartened.

– **Cindy Sheehan**

**Mother of Hero: Spc Casey Austin Sheehan
KIA 04/04/04**

**Co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace,
www.gsfp.org**



**Suckers!
I took your dreams and
dollars, and now I'm backing
this war for oil.**

Kerry knew about WMD lies and didn't care

If we think that the Democrats think of us at all (I grant you that they think about us, to borrow a line from All About Eve), then we deserve what we get.

A little from my own experience: Leading up to the war resolution vote in 2002, Western Massachusetts activists tried in vain – many times – to get Sen. John Kerry to meet with them about Iraq. Traprock Peace Center organized hundreds of faxes to Kerry, urging him to include Scott Ritter as a witness about Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. No response.

Who did Congress hear as a witness? Not Ritter, who had led inspection teams in Iraq well into 1998. Ritter was speaking publicly and making the point that there were no WMDs, that the case for war was a big lie and that the administration was going to war no matter what. Rather, Congress heard from David Kay, a friendly witness to the administration who hadn't led an inspection team since 1992.

We worked with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and many organizations--the Education for Peace in Iraq Center, Peace Action and others--on Lobby Day to bring the truth to members of Congress. The citizen lobbyists visited hundreds of senators and representatives.

The lobby packet had as its centerpiece "The Counter-Dossier" by Labour Against the War (Glen Rangwala and Alan Simpson, a British Labour Party MP) and "Counter-Dossier II" by Rangwala (Traprock published these as booklets in the U.S.). Kerry got all these materials, plus War on Iraq by William Rivers Pitt, and Hans von Sponeck's "Eight Questions." If it were not so tragic, it would be

Kerry in 1971: "We are angry because we feel we have been used in the worst fashion possible by the administration of this country."



Kerry was for immediate withdrawal from Vietnam, calling the war, "the biggest nothing in history."



Feb 26, 2004:

Larry King: "Do you regret your vote (for the war in Iraq)?"

Kerry: "No, I do not regret my vote. ... I wouldn't leave now. I think you can't leave now."

amusing that Kerry later claimed he had been "misled" by the administration.

The citizen presentations (most, if not all, of which happened with Congressional aides, as our "elected representatives" had other pressing business) and literature blew apart the fraud that was being committed against the American people and the world.

Democrats are not stupid. They knew the truth – they did not want to hear it publicly. They did not want to be accountable to the truth (some, though hardly enough to make a difference, did take principled stands).

On the day of the vote, Kerry locked his office in Springfield, Mass. His constituents were left outside, literally knocking on the door.

Western Massachusetts activists continued to ask him to come and speak on the war. He did, when it was public knowledge that most area activists had already committed to a regional conference in another part of the state. He refused to change the date. Is there a pattern here?

– Charles Jenks

**former President of Traprock Peace Center
Deerfield, M.A.**

It's about damn time!

"There is only one thing that moves government on any level: stark fear.

"And if you will recall when Richard Nixon sent the troops into Cambodia, in April of 1970, to look for Vietcong strongholds and shelters in that country, the United States went on a tear that culminated in 4 young people being shot down in Kent State, in 2 at Jackson State, and in the closing down of 300 colleges and universities, and it forced the president of the United States to walk to the Lincoln Memorial where students were gathering and tell them that he was withdrawing the troops from Cambodia because he was scared shitless.

"And that is the only thing that moves them.

"Not whether you vote for them tomorrow or the next day.

"Electoral politics doesn't really bother them that much."

These are the words of William Kuntzler, who spent a lifetime defending people in court from the government which tried to prosecute them for fighting against the Vietnam war. His words are as true as ever.

Polls show that 6 in 10 want a full or partial withdrawal from Iraq, and even a few Republicans in Congress have signed onto a bill calling on Bush to draw up a timetable for "victory" and withdrawal from Iraq. Now is the time to put the stark fear Kuntzler talked about into the government.

Eight months after Kerry handed Bush the election, the anti-war movement has called for mass demonstrations in Washington on Saturday September 24. It's about damn time! But eight months late is better than never.

Soldiers, military families, veterans, and everyone against the war needs to mobilize as many people as possible for the march. While March 20, 2003 showed that a couple of big anti-war marches can't stop a war, Vietnam showed that mass demonstrations, combined with direct action on campuses and soldiers organizing against the war in the military, **CAN** force the government to bring the troops home now. It may have a taken years for this process to happen, but happen again today it must.

The lives of tens of thousands of American troops and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children depend on it.

The demonstrations (they are separate as of this writing) are being sponsored by International ANSWER and United for Peace and Justice. Information about the times and places where the marches and rallies will be on September 24, visit either www.internationalanswer.org or www.unitedforpeace.org.

Send an email to contact@traveling-soldier.org if you are on active duty, a veteran, or a military family and you'd like to go.



**Got an opinion?
Want to *do* something?**

Send email to:
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Or write to:
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Words from the front-lines

“Will we have another wall for Iraq like we do for Vietnam? I’m not gonna wait for another damn wall for Iraq to be filled with the names of my fellow soldiers, and I hope you’re not either. The cause we fight for is noble and just, it is to save the lives of American soldiers who are tragically dying over here needlessly.” – **Leonard Clark, 860th Military Police, Arizona Army National Guard.**

“I have no idea what we’re doing here, mom. I don’t know why we’re here. We’re not helping anyone – there’s no rebuilding. The Iraqis don’t want us here, they want us out of here.” – **Patrick McCaffrey, California National Guard, in a conversation with his mother before he was killed on June 22, 2004.**

“We were sent there, and boys are coming back in coffins, all because of a massive lie. ... I’m not politically minded in any way, but I’ve got a brain. I’m not anti-regiment or anti-military, but now I can see that we should not have been there in the first place. ...

We shouldn’t be there and we shouldn’t have gone there. I think it’s important that someone like me says that. I think there should be someone who was a soldier saying that, not someone in a suit and tie, saying it for their own ends, but saying it for the sake of the men and women left out there.” – **Corporal Dave Corrigan, British Parachute Regiment , 16th Air Assault Brigade.**

“Let’s trust the President – about as far as we can throw him. ... There was no more hard-core Republican than me until I went to Iraq. I’m against abortion and gay rights, and don’t mess with my guns, but I have grown up a lot. When you have spent a year in hell and you have seen the waste of money I have seen ... I’m neither party now. ... What I don’t understand is how we can rebuild everything we are rebuilding over there, but here in America our infrastructure is falling apart. I had to borrow \$776,000 for this city for

water. They are spending it just like nothing over there. That’s reckless, and that’s wrong.” – **Staff Sgt. Paul Bunn, 39th Infantry Brigade, Arkansas National Guard. He is also the mayor of Bradford, AK.**

“Nobody really knows what the soldiers are going through. They see on TV two soldiers get wounded today and they think, yeah, he’ll be all right. But that soldier is scarred for life both physically and mentally. ... All the reasons we went to war, it just seems like they’re not legit enough for people to lose their lives for and for me to lose my hand and use of my leg and for my buddies to lose their limbs. I just

had a big conversation with my buddy the other day and we want to know. I feel like we deserve to know. – **Specialist Robert Acosta, 1st Armored Division.**

“Don’t bash others because they think this mission is complete crap, because it is. It’s stupid and we’re risking other soldiers’ lives. For what? Iraqi liberation? Weapons

of mass destruction? Neither one of those has been even close to being found. Bring soldiers home to protect what we’ve come to

love so dearly — the United States, to protect those freedoms we take for granted, to protect our people, our children, wives, sons, daughters and husbands.” – **Pfc. Bradley Robb, Camp Striker, Iraq.**

“To this day I still think about that raid, that family, that boy. I wonder if they are attacking us now. I would be. If someone took the life of my son or my daughter nothing other than my own death would stop me from killing them. I still cry when the memory hits me. And I cry when I think of how very far away I am from my family. I am not there, just like the boy’s father wasn’t there. I have served my time. I have my nightmares. I have enough blood on my hands. Just let me be a father, a husband, a daddy again.” – **Sgt. Zachary Scott-Singley, 3rd Infantry Division.**



**One Vietnam was enough.
Bring the troops home NOW.**