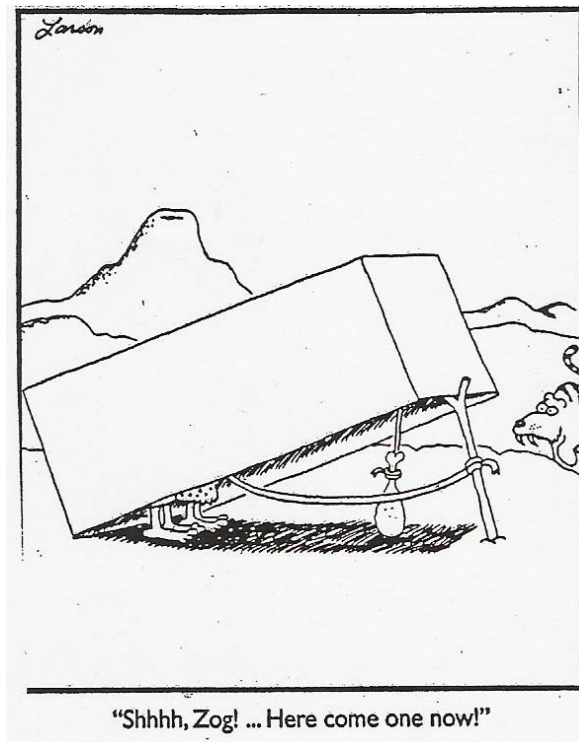


## GI SPECIAL 3C42:

### THE GEORGE W. BUSH STRATEGY FOR VICTORY IN IRAQ



## “I Think The War On Terror Is A Sham” Soldier Says

"I've always been against war," Lewis insisted. "I don't think being in the military means that I am a lover of war. It just means that I believe that this country needs to be defended. When I took that oath of office, I didn't take the oath to kill people. I took it to defend the country from enemies foreign and domestic." He said that he believes many of his fellow servicemen and women feel similarly but fear even discussing such notions.

31 August 2005 By Rob Patterson, Salon.com [Excerpt]

**George W. Bush may not have made it to Camp Casey, but the military was there in full force.**

**Army Reserve Spc. David Lewis, who recently returned home from serving in Tikrit, traveled from Binghamton, N.Y., to tell the story of how he joined the armed services after 9/11 because "it sort of became the least worst option.**

"I was not being able to afford school. I was working part-time. I was just sort of eking by and going to school part-time. I was looking at not finishing and just getting into debt. And the Army seemed like the easy way to get out," he explained.

Lewis believed he was joining a noble cause. "Afghanistan had happened already, they were getting Osama bin Laden. And I was like, you know what, all I'm going to do is help secure the peace. I'm going to be a force for peace in the world. Because now we are going to get Osama bin Laden and no more wars because we're gonna ..." His voice trailed off.

**"And then I'm in basic training," Lewis continued. "And we don't have cable television in basic training. We don't even have a newspaper. So I don't know what the hell's going on out there. And the drill sergeant started to make fun of us. 'You know you'd better shape up or else you're not going to make it in Iraq!' I'm like, Iraq? What are you talking about? The sergeant's reply was, 'Yeah. You should hear the president ...'**

**"I've always been against war," Lewis insisted. "I don't think being in the military means that I am a lover of war. It just means that I believe that this country needs to be defended. When I took that oath of office, I didn't take the oath to kill people. I took it to defend the country from enemies foreign and domestic." He said that he believes many of his fellow servicemen and women feel similarly but fear even discussing such notions.**

**Does he believe that Iraq was a threat to the United States? "It is now! I think the war on terror is a sham. I don't know what else to say."**

**Air Force veteran Carl Cook of Dallas was standing by the side of the road holding a sign that read: "Bush... You're Fired." "I joined to get the technical training and get a leg up in life, and it worked out," he said. "I think everyone should do a national service. Like AmeriCorps or Peace Corps or the military. It shouldn't necessarily be mandatory. But I think it's appropriate."**

**However, he feels the current U.S. misadventure in Iraq is not. "This is an immoral war," he said. "It was started on false pretenses. We're sacrificing our people unnecessarily. This is destructive to the nation."**

**Vietnam veteran and Gold Star father Steve DeFord came to Crawford from Salem, Ore., to honor his son, Oregon National Guard Sgt. David Johnson, who was killed in Iraq last year on Sept. 25 at the age of 37. Johnson had already served in the Army and then joined the Guard after Sept. 11.**

"He wanted to help the people of Oregon," DeFord explained. "He was a cook by profession; he cooked at one of the larger restaurants in downtown Portland. They didn't need cooks in Iraq because Halliburton was cooking. So he was made a machine gunner on a Humvee.

"He was in a headquarters company out of Baghdad in the Green Zone. They were escorting water to various units in the country. And there was a 500-pound United States bomb that had been dropped that didn't detonate. So the enemy picked it up and set it next to the road and detonated it with a cellphone and C-5. It blew the Humvee up in the air and turned it totally around. And when it came back down, everybody was getting out and going, God, we're lucky, everyone is here. Fine. And they looked up in the turret and my son had been hit in the back of the head with shrapnel."

And it wasn't just a matter of DeFord and his wife losing a son. "He was due to be married in three weeks. He'd been over there six months and he was due for his break. He was going to meet his fiancée in Rome and get married."

**She has been hailed as a hero and slandered as a traitor. But Sheehan remains resolute. "I don't think what I did was heroic," she said. "I just think it was something I had to do. I did it for myself, really. I did it in honor of Casey and all the other ones who have been killed. I did it for the people that are in harm's way.**

"At the end of the day I have to live with myself," she added. "And if I don't stand up for what I think is right and for what I am against and I think is wrong, I can't do that. I'm hoping one of these days to have grandchildren - I have three other children - and be able to look them in the eye and say, 'Your grandma did everything she could.'"

Certainly the people who joined Sheehan at Camp Casey -- an estimated peak of 1,000 on Saturday and 500 or so on Sunday - represented a vast swath of the American electorate. There were the fellow mothers and fathers of those killed in Iraq, and the activist organizations that are opposed to the war.

**There were military men and women, and veterans of Iraq, Vietnam and the peacetime armed services.**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

# **Two Georgia Guards Killed, Barrow Man Wounded In Iraq**

September 3 by The Associated Press

**ATLANTA - Two soldiers from a Griffin-based Georgia Army National Guard unit were killed Thursday when their Humvee hit a roadside bomb. Two others were wounded, including a Barrow County man.**

Staff Sgt. Robert ``Bobby" Hollar, of Thomaston and Sgt. George R. Draughn of Decatur died in the attack.

Two wounded are Spc. Buddy Mays, of Thomaston, who suffered fractures and a concussion. He will be transported to a hospital in Germany, said Linda Sperry, chairwoman of the Griffin Family Readiness Group.

Sgt. Wyatt New of Bethlehem suffered facial burns but was treated and released, Sperry said.

The 108th operates from three forward operating bases near Mahmudiyah, a rural area in the ``Sunni Triangle" south of Baghdad.

**Hollar was a postal worker in Jonesboro and is survived by his wife, Amanda; two children, Brody and Wesley; and his parents, Tim and Dianne Mobley of Thomaston.**

**Draughn was a Coca-Cola Co. delivery driver and had previously been injured about three weeks ago when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device, said his sister, Charlene Demming.**

His survivors also include his son, Akeem; his parents, George and Lucy; and his sisters Lessie White and Stephanie Barfield, of Douglasville.

The Brigade includes about 150 members of a Gainesville-based unit.

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### **Notes From A Lost War:**

# **Tal Afar: Futility Squared**

September 3, 2005 By Jonathan Finer, Washington Post Foreign Service

**TALL AFAR, Iraq, Sept. 2 -- It was a clear and quiet dusk, with only the call to prayer echoing from minarets across this city, when a roadside bomb blasted an M1-A1 Abrams tank, shaking nearby buildings and filling the indigo sky with a plume of black smoke. Crackling small-arms fire clanged off the damaged vehicle from an adjacent house.**

U.S. soldiers answered with increasingly violent volleys -- .50-caliber machine gun bursts, tank rounds and a TOW missile -- but the shots from inside the house kept coming. Finally, an ear-splitting succession of five rounds from the tank's big gun reduced the building to flaming rubble and lit the empty streets with white sparks from exploding power transformers.

**In the largest urban assault since the siege of Fallujah last November, more than 5,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops entered this northern city before dawn Friday.**

**But the 45-minute firefight at day's end suggested that the insurgents who have controlled much of Tall Afar for almost a year would not relinquish it easily.**

One year ago this month, U.S. and Iraqi forces stormed into the city after a series of roadside bomb attacks on their supply convoys.

**But soon after that offensive -- in a pattern repeated elsewhere in Iraq -- the bulk of the troops withdrew from the region, leaving about 500 behind to police a vast swath of northwestern Iraq, including Tall Afar and a more than 100-mile stretch of the Syrian border.**

"The September operation basically made people angry, which the insurgents were able to take advantage of," said Maj. Bob Molinari, 35, of Fort Carson, Colo., the planning officer for the 3rd Armored Cavalry, which was shifted from Baghdad in late April as the situation here deteriorated.

The offensive "had the opposite effect than was intended. We created a power vacuum and they filled it."

All but a few dozen local police officers quit, many siding with the insurgents.

[So, as Cindy Sheehan asks, what exactly is the "noble cause" here? Why, it's making Bush look good! What could be more noble than that?]

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## **THE WORST CORNER IN HELL: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



**U.S. Army soldiers search for explosive devices on the side of a road in Baghdad August 5, 2005. REUTERS/Thaier Al-Sudani**

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### **Resistance Action:**

02 September 2005 Aljazeera.Net

**Two Afghan government soldiers were killed in a clash in Helmand province on Thursday night, another Taliban hot spot in the south, an official in that province said.**

Taliban attacked a police checkpoint in the Greisht district of Helmand province Thursday, triggering a shootout that left one rebel dead and two wounded, said Khan Mohammed, the head of police in the district.

He said one Afghan policeman was also wounded in the attack.

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## NEW ORLEANS WAR REPORT

**Murderous Traitor Asshole Brig.  
Gen. Gary Jones Declares War  
On American Citizens In New  
Orleans:**

**Orders “Combat Operations,”  
Boasts “This Place Is Going To Look  
Like Little Somalia”**

**The Answer To This Thug:  
“Resistance To Tyrants Is Obedience To  
God”**

**John Brown**

[Thanks to Mark S, who sent this in.]

September 02, 2005 By Joseph R. Chenelly, Army Times staff writer

**NEW ORLEANS — Combat operations are underway on the streets “to take this city back” in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.**

**“This place is going to look like Little Somalia,” Brig. Gen. Gary Jones, commander of the Louisiana National Guard’s Joint Task Force told Army Times Friday as hundreds of armed troops under his charge prepared to launch a massive citywide security mission from a staging area outside the Louisiana Superdome.**

**“We’re going to go out and take this city back. This will be a combat operation to get this city under control.”**

Dozens of military trucks and up-armored Humvees left the staging area just after 11 a.m. Friday, while hundreds more troops arrived at the same staging area in the city via Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters.

While some fight the *insurgency* in the city, other carry on with rescue and evacuation operations. Helicopters are still pulling hundreds of stranded people from rooftops of flooded homes.

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# **Murderous Traitor Asshole Lt. Gen. Steven Blum Says Soldiers Should Use “Lethal Force” On New Orleans Civilians: The Answer To This Thug: “Resistance To Tyrants Is Obedience To God” John Brown**

Sep 2 Associated Press

**General Steven Blum of the National Guard said 7,000 National Guardsmen arriving in Louisiana on Friday would be dedicated to restoring order in New Orleans. He said half of them had just returned from assignments overseas and**

are highly proficient in the use of lethal force." He pledged to "put down" the violence "in a quick and efficient manner."

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## Shoot Her. Kill Her.



A barefooted elderly woman walks down St. Charles street without a store receipt for the water bottle she is holding as evacuees remain stranded during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans September 3, 2005. (Shannon Stapleton/Reuters)

When asked about the looting, the mayor said that except for a few "knuckleheads," it is the result of desperate people trying to find food and water to survive. 03 September 2005, By Marjorie Cohn, Truthout Perspective

**Murderous Traitor Asshole  
Kathleen Blanco, Democrat  
Governor Of Louisiana, Wants  
Troops To "Shoot And Kill" New  
Orleans Citizens:  
The Answer To This Thug:  
"Resistance To Tyrants Is Obedience To  
God"**

# John Brown

September 3, 2005 Kurt Nimmo, Another Day in the Empire

**Kathleen Blanco, the Democrat governor of Louisiana, dispensed with a bit of threatening machismo: "These troops are battle-tested. They have M16s and are locked and loaded. These troops know how to shoot and kill and I expect they will."**

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## **“Look, I'm Only Getting Necessities,” He Said [That’s Tough Shit: The Generals Want You Dead]**

**About a dozen people who headed down the street to look for food and water were turned back by a soldier who pulled a gun.**

**"We had to get something to eat. What are they doing pulling a gun?" said Richard Johnson, 28.**

01 September 2005 By Allen G. Breed, The Associated Press & 03 September 2005, By Robert Tanner, The Associated Press

An old man in a chaise lounge lay dead in a grassy median as hungry babies wailed around him. Around the corner, an elderly woman lay dead in her wheelchair, covered up by a blanket, and another body lay beside her wrapped in a sheet.

"I don't treat my dog like that," 47-year-old Daniel Edwards said as he pointed at the woman in the wheelchair.

**"You can do everything for other countries, but you can't do nothing for your own people," he added. "You can go overseas with the military, but you can't get them down here."**

"We've got people dying out here — two babies have died, a woman died, a man died," said Helen Cheek. "We haven't had no food, we haven't had no water, we haven't had nothing. They just brought us here and dropped us."

**Tourist Debbie Durso of Washington, Mich., said she asked a police officer for assistance and his response was, "Go to hell — it's every man for himself."**

**Outside a looted Rite-Aid drugstore, some people were anxious to show they needed what they were taking. A gray-haired man who would not give his name**

**pulled up his T-shirt to show a surgery scar and explained that he needs pads for incontinence.**

"I'm a Christian. I feel bad going in there," he said.

**Earl Baker carried toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. "Look, I'm only getting necessities," he said. "All of this is personal hygiene. I ain't getting nothing to get drunk or high with."**

**Donald Dudley, a 55-year-old New Orleans seafood merchant, complained that when he and other hungry refugees broke into the kitchen of the convention center and tried to prepare food, the National Guard chased them away.**

**"They pulled guns and told us we had to leave that kitchen or they would blow our damn brains out," he said. "We don't want their help. Give us some vehicles and we'll get ourselves out of here!"**

**About a dozen people who headed down the street to look for food and water were turned back by a soldier who pulled a gun.**

**"We had to get something to eat. What are they doing pulling a gun?" said Richard Johnson, 28.**

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## **“Black Folk Gone Wild”**

01 September 2005 By Chris Floyd, [chris-floyd.com](http://chris-floyd.com)

**Almost all of the early "looting" was like this: desperate people - of all colors - stranded by the floodwaters broke into abandoned stores and carried off food, clean water, medicine, clothes.**

**Perhaps they should have left a check on the counter, but then again - what exactly was going to happen to all those perishables and consumer goods, sitting around in fetid, diseased water for weeks on end? (The mayor now says it could be up to 16 weeks before people can return to their homes and businesses.)**

Obviously, most if not all of it would have been thrown away or written off in any case. Later, of course, there was more organized looting by criminal gangs, the type of lawless element - of every hue, in every society - whose chief victims are, of course, the poor and vulnerable.

**These criminal operations were quickly conflated with the earlier pilferage to paint a single seamless picture of the American media's favorite horror story: Black Folk Gone Wild.**

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# **Rumsfeld Says The Looting No Big Thing: “Yes, People Are Ransacking Hospitals, Burning Down Buildings And Fighting Each Other In The Streets, But It's Not That Bad. Stuff Happens”**

September 3, 2005 Lori Price, Citizens For Legitimate Government

**"While no one condones looting, on the other hand, one can understand the pent-up feelings that may result from decades of repression."** --Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, explaining why some Iraqis resorted to looting during the Iraq war, in 2003.

Rumsfeld on looting in Iraq: 'Stuff happens' 12 Apr 2003 Declaring that freedom is "untidy," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Friday the looting in Iraq was a result of "pent-up feelings" of oppression and that it would subside as Iraqis adjusted to life without Saddam Hussein.

He also asserted the looting was not as bad as some television and newspaper reports have indicated and said there was no major crisis in Baghdad, the capital city, which lacks a central governing authority.

**The looting, he suggested, was "part of the price" for what the United States and Britain have called the liberation of Iraq. "Freedom's untidy, and free people are free to make mistakes and commit crimes and do bad things," Rumsfeld said.** Looting, he added, was not uncommon for countries that experience significant social upheaval. "Stuff happens," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld: There's nothing wrong with a bit of looting: 11 Apr 2003 The United States Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has tonight dismissed reports of mass chaos and lawlessness in Iraq as "exaggerated". **"The so-called looting is not as bad as some reports have suggested," he said at a Pentagon briefing. "Yes, people are ransacking hospitals, burning down buildings and fighting each other in the streets, but it's not that bad. Stuff happens."**

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## **Endless Abuse Just Like Iraq;**

# Louisiana Guard Soldiers Sent To Flood Duty Unprepared

September 02, 2005 By Joseph R. Chenelly, Army Times staff writer

The floodwater is littered with debris, stinks and is too murky to see the ground in many areas. But soldiers do not have rubber boots or waders.

Spc. Adam Catlin, an engineer with the 527th Engineer Battalion, said he asked for waders because he doesn't think being in the water could be healthy. He was told there weren't any available.

Most of the soldiers working here are soaked from the waste down; some spend hours wading through the standing water.

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## Vet Says "They're Housing Us Like Animals,"

September 1, 2005 By JOSEPH B. TREASTER, New York Times

"They're housing us like animals," said liesha Rousell, 31, unemployed after four years in the Army in Germany, dripping with perspiration in the heat, unable to contain her fury and disappointment at being left with only National Guardsmen as overseers and no information about what might lie ahead.

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## "Military Officials" Say Relief Effort Ruined By Bush's Iraq War: Supplies, Troops Inadequate To Save Lives: Now He's Killing Americans at Home Too

The equipment the Guard needs to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is in shorter supply because the gear is in use in combat zones, is battle-damaged, or has been loaned to cover gaps in other units, the officials said. The National Guard Bureau estimates that its nationwide equipment availability rate is 35 percent, about half the normal level, according to Pentagon statistics.

September 2, 2005 By Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff

**WASHINGTON -- The National Guard's scramble to bring aid and order to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast is hamstrung by the fact that units across the country have, on average, half their usual amount of equipment -- helicopters, Humvees, trucks, and weapons -- on hand because much of it has been siphoned off to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to military officials and security specialists.**

**The equipment the Guard needs to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is in shorter supply because the gear is in use in combat zones, is battle-damaged, or has been loaned to cover gaps in other units, the officials said. The National Guard Bureau estimates that its nationwide equipment availability rate is 35 percent, about half the normal level, according to Pentagon statistics.**

**"In the four years since 9/11 that we have been at war, equipment has been beaten up, blown up, or simply left behind," said John Goheen of the National Guard Association of the United States. "States have had to borrow equipment and make do with a lot less equipment. We are short literally thousands of Humvees."**

**Meanwhile, in Louisiana and Mississippi, the states hit hardest by the hurricane, up to 40 percent of their National Guard troops are on active duty in Iraq.**

**As a result, Guard commanders responding to the storm's havoc have been forced to look further afield for military police and other National Guard units and equipment from states as far away as Maryland, stealing precious time from the relief efforts.**

While officials said that Louisiana and Mississippi would need help from out-of-state Guard units even if their home militias were still there, the majority of the units that are coming to the Gulf Coast will take far longer to get to the disaster scene.

**Delay, however, could prove critical. Frank Carlucci, a former secretary of defense tapped by President Nixon to coordinate relief efforts after Hurricane Agnes battered the Northeast in 1972, said yesterday that National Guard forces are most effective in the initial shock of a catastrophe.**

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**“How Many Thousands Died While The Emperor Strummed A Guitar And Knocked A Golf Ball Around?”**



As New Orleans citizens drown, President Bush plays a guitar presented to him by Country Singer Mark Wills, right, Aug. 30, 2005. (AP Photo/ABC News, Martha Raddatz)

### **03 September 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Truthout Perspective [Excerpt]**

George Bush has been an incompetent failure his entire life.

Fortunately for humanity, he was just partying his way through school, running companies into the ground, and being an alcoholic and cocaine abuser for most of that time - and his incompetence was limited to hurting the people who worked for him and his own family. The people in his life who were hurt by his incompetence probably have been able to "get on" with their lives.

Now, though, his incompetence affects the world and is responsible for so many deaths and so much destruction. Dangerous incompetence should never be rewarded, let alone be rewarded so handsomely as in George's case.

**The Camp Casey movement has been struggling with how best we can help the government-ravaged people of New Orleans and the surrounding areas. We sent a busload of supplies into Covington, La., which is a poor, African-American town across Lake Ponchartrain from New Orleans. I had the privilege of visiting Covington with my friends, Buddy and Annie Spell last July. It was a community filled with love and laughter.**

The Bring Them Home Now Tour bus that went into Covington is the Veterans For Peace Impeachment Tour bus that I rode in and out of Crawford on.

**They took about 10,000 pounds of leftover Camp Casey supplies and we had 2 trucks filled to the brim with leftover water from the camp to Covington. The tour bus also has satellite, so it is the only communications that Covington has with the outside world now.**

**This is an email that our tour received from Gordon, who is one of the bus drivers who bravely drove to Covington. I left it intact without editing:**

"I can't recommend coming here but, if you must, we do need help! During the day we are going out into the community with water and baby supplies and lunch foods. But, there has been an attack on the Armory and the cops are scared. We have move into Covington middle school, and we are giving the red cross our assistance with medical supplies and food services. Until we arrived, they only had MRE's. They just brought in 5 new born babies from the hospital as they are expecting more casualties. We brought in a generator and solar powered lights, no power, no phone service here, our satellite link is the only connection to the outside. The Marshal Law enforcement that will be coming to New Orleans with the Army, could create mass panic. That will lead to more refugees, we have twenty right now and room for 100. Don't come here unless you're prepared to work!.

"I should say, stay out on the road and raise money for the relief effort. But make up your own minds.

"We need to keep the public aware of what is going on here and all over SOLA.

"If you want to help go an established refugee camp and provide your internet access to document who is there and what they plan to do to the website. Use your satellites access to maximize the story of the relief effort!

"Gordon"

There it is.

**I think we should finish the tour so we can talk about what an abject failure this administration is. The unnecessary tragedy in New Orleans is directly related to the unnecessary tragedy in Iraq: Unnecessary being the operative word.**

Innocent people are dying daily in this world. In the crush of the hurricane story, the fact that 950 people (mostly women and children) were trampled to death in Iraq was buried in the back sections.

**Those are 950 people who would still be alive if George Bush were not president. 950 people in Iraq and how many thousands in the Gulf States died while the emperor strummed a guitar and knocked a golf ball around?**

**Additionally, eight of our brave and wonderful soldiers have been needlessly killed in Iraq since Monday.**

**I really believe that George and his band of incompetent and dangerous thugs need to resign. It would be the only honorable and competent thing to do. But wait....**

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## **They Knew The Poor Could Not Escape New Orleans**

[Thanks to Liz Burbank for posting]

By George E. Curry, NNPA, Blackpressusa.com [Excerpt]

*From the study: "What if Hurricane Ivan Had Not Missed New Orleans?" published in the Natural Hazards Observer, a major journal headquartered at the University of Colorado in Boulder. It was written by Shirley Laska of the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology at the University of New Orleans.*

**"For those without means, the medically challenged, residents without personal transportation, and the homeless, evacuation requires significant assistance."**

Laska spelled it out in even more detail.

During Hurricane Ivan in 2004, she continues, "Residents who did not have personal transportation were unable to evacuate even if they wanted to. Approximately 120,000 residents (51,000 housing units x 2.4 persons/unit) do not have cars.

"A proposal made after the evacuation from Hurricane Georges to use public transit buses to assist in their evacuation out of the city was not implemented for Ivan. If Ivan had struck New Orleans directly it is estimated that 40-60,000 residents of the area would have perished."

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## TROOP NEWS

# **"I Am A Veteran Of Operation Iraqi Plunder"**

August 11, 2005 by Susan Van Haitsma, CommonDreams, [Excerpt from report on Veterans for Peace Convention, August 2005]

During the convention's opening plenary, Iraq Veterans Against the War co-founder, Mike Hoffman took the stage along with seven other IVAW members.

To a standing ovation at the convention, Hoffman said, "Bush hides behind the troops when he is criticized. He claims that critics don't support the troops. Troops are his shield. Well, IVAW will be the shield of the peace movement!"

**One IVAW member said, "I am a veteran of Operation Iraqi Plunder. To call it Operation Iraqi Freedom is an insult to Iraq and an insult to humanity." He described symptoms of PTSD he is experiencing: fits of rage, sleepless nights, tearful outbursts.**

Another IVAW member said, "When people tell me they are proud of what I did in Iraq, I say, 'Well, I'm not. You don't even know what I did over there.'"

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

## “TO ALL THE TROOPS” “BUSH. HELP AMERICA”



© Steve Bell 2005 [Thanks to NB, who sent this in.]

**From:** Rose Gentle  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** September 03, 2005 1:21 AM  
**Subject:** how will bush, help

[This is a message to Americans troops from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

BUSH. HELP AMERICA, DONT SHITE ON THEM, YOUR GOOD AT IT.

MR BUSH, YOU HAVE DAMAGES IN AMERICA

WILL YOU HELLP AMERICA, OR WILL YOU KILL MORE

STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS,  
TELL BUSH, NO MORE KILLING, IN IRAQ, GET THE TROOPS  
HOME TO HELLP AMERICA,  
  
WILL BLAIR HELLP AMERICA NOW,  
WE ALL HOPE SO. AMERICA, HAS TO GET THE HELLP NOW,  
  
THIS MAN LIED TO YOUS ALL, LETS HOPE HE WILL NOT  
DO IT NOW, GOD HELLP YOUS, I WISH I COULD,  
  
TO ALL THE TROOPS, WE STAND BY YOUS. MY BOY  
WAS IN THE SCOTTISH DIVISION.....R.H.F. KILLIED IN BASRA,  
BUT, YOUS ARE ALL KIDS TO A MUM.  
  
ROSE GENTLE, SCOTLAND

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## **53% Of Public Supports Cindy Sheehan**

[Thanks to Don Bacon, Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

31 August 2005 By Richard Morin and Dan Balz, The Washington Post

The survey [Washington Post-ABC News poll] also found that Sheehan, who has been protesting the war outside Bush's ranch near Crawford, Tex., has become the most visible symbol of the antiwar movement. Fully three in four Americans have heard or read about her.

Sheehan met last year with Bush at an event for military families and has been seeking another meeting with him. Slightly more than half of the country -- 52 percent -- said Bush should meet her again; 46 percent said he should not.

**Fifty-three percent supported what she is doing and 42 percent opposed.**

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

## **“Think A Women With PMS Is Bad...Wait Till You Come Up Against A Woman Who's A PMM (Proud Military Mom)”**

To make a long story short, one member of our group chose to give Mr. Holden a way out by saying, “I realize the government needs to find a way to save face in this matter...” I stood up and responded with, “as the mother of a young military policeman, who made it home alive from Iraq, I'm here to find a way to save other lives...not save face! Military families will not tolerate the return of their loved ones in coffins for much longer. We will shortly demand your children and loved ones suit up, train, and ship out.” Mr. Holden calmly looked at me and uttered, “I don't have any children.”

From: Alycia A. Barr  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 02, 2005  
Subject: Apathy in the Peace Movement

After writing and sending pics to you from our Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 17th "Vigil for Cindy", elation abounded because of the response and turnout for the main organizer, Melissa Manning, and myself.

The following Wed. vigil produced 5 people, 3 of whom were my family members, and 2 were Melissa's.

Just this last Wed., we had 7 vigilers. Two stayed for only half the time, two showed up late (better late than never), and two were walk-ups, who just happened to pass by and wanted more information on Cindy and H. Res. 375. That number did not include our family members there.

**Having said that, Aug. 24th's vigil was short notice, and the 31st was held in the threat of Katrina's remnants. However, some responses to the vigil's announcement included, "I would but..."**

**This kind of "one shot" show of support isn't the first in the Peace Movements history, that's why it took so long to get our guys out of Nam. Maybe those 2nd**

**event "no shows" are anxiously awaiting to see what the results of their one time sacrifice will be, then they'll consider another go at it, if necessary.**

It's not our delivery system to coordinate these events. It's the same as was used for the 17th, minus MoveOn.org assistance. As a matter of face, we obtained even more email contacts that night, and dutifully sent a notice out to anyone who had expressed interest in a continued vigil.

**We who have loved ones in Iraq, or who are on a deployment list, struggle to make clear to these armchair peace advocates, that it is imperative to the lives and safety of our troops that we make time to remind the administration, the Congress, the media and the pro-war community, "We're not going away.. We're done protecting this president's ridiculous and dangerous policies!"**

**Two week ago, I spoke with our Pa. Rep. Holden, who proceeded to tell our small group about the lies he knew were perpetrated and continued to promote this war. He then followed those statements up with, "but, if you're waiting to hear me say 'bring the troops home', don't, because I won't..."**

He claimed if we were to withdrawal, he was convinced civil war would ensue. I asked him where he obtained that information, then cautioned him not to reference Gen. Abizaid, Casey, or Myers, as they were embroiled in the political struggle of the administration to obstruct the additional photos and videos of Abu Ghraib from being released. Their bias was too obvious to overlook and any opinion from them would be tainted, as well as corrupted.

**To make a long story short, one member of our group chose to give Mr. Holden a way out by saying, I realize the government needs to find a way to save face in this matter..."**

**I stood up and responded with, "as the mother of a young military policeman, who made it home alive from Iraq, I'm here to find a way to save other lives...not save face! Military families will not tolerate the return of their loved ones in coffins for much longer. We will shortly demand your children and loved ones suit up, train, and ship out." Mr. Holden calmly looked at me and uttered, "I don't have any children."**

We, the military families, need the support of every American who knows this war is wrong, and be willing to stand up to show solidarity in numbers with courageous people like Cindy Sheehan, week after week, because our representatives WON'T.

**There is nothing that important in our lives that should take precedence over saving the lives of our soldiers, along with hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.**

<p><b>PENNSYLVANIANS: Get your butts out to the nearest vigil, instead of using the "but" in "I would but..." If you choose not to participate you are allowing the bush policies to stand and, in essence, are supporting bush and sacrificing our troops.</b></p>
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In Peace and Humanity,  
Alycia A. Barr -

(think a women with pms is bad...wait till you come up against a woman who's a pmm (proud military mom))

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### **Capitalism At Work:**

# **Biggest War Contractors Raise CEOs' Pay 200% Since 9/11; Marine-Killer Gets \$250 Million**

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

**For example, David H. Brooks, CEO of bulletproof vest maker DHB Industries, earned \$70 million in 2004, 3,349% more than his 2001 compensation of \$525,000. Brooks also sold company stock worth about \$186 million last year, spooking investors who drove DHB's share price from more than \$22 to as low as \$6.50.**

***In May 2005, the US Marines recalled more than 5,000 DHB armored vests after questions were raised about their effectiveness. By that time, Brooks had pocketed over \$250 million in war windfalls.***

August 30, 2005 United For A Fair Economy And The Institute For Policy Studies & Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff

2004 was a banner year for CEOs and a dismal year for workers, according to a new report from the Institute for Policy Studies and United for a Fair Economy, "Executive Excess 2005: Defense Contractors Get More Bucks for the Bang."

**The ratio of average CEO pay (now \$11.8 million) to worker pay (now \$27,460) spiked up from 301-to-1 in 2003 to 431-to-1 in 2004.**

If the minimum wage had risen as fast as CEO pay since 1990, the lowest paid workers in the US would be earning \$23.03 an hour today, not \$5.15 an hour.

**The report found that CEOs are individually profiting from the Iraq War, with huge average raises at the biggest defense contractors.**

**At the 34 publicly traded US corporations among the 2004 top 100 defense contractors with 10% or more of their revenues from defense contracts - companies such as United Technologies, Textron, and General Dynamics - average CEO pay increased 200% from 2001 to 2004, versus 7% for all CEOs.**

**For example, David H. Brooks, CEO of bulletproof vest maker DHB Industries, earned \$70 million in 2004, 3,349% more than his 2001 compensation of \$525,000. Brooks also sold company stock worth about \$186 million last year, spooking investors who drove DHB's share price from more than \$22 to as low as \$6.50.**

**In May 2005, the US Marines recalled more than 5,000 DHB armored vests after questions were raised about their effectiveness. By that time, Brooks had pocketed over \$250 million in war windfalls.**

**The pay ratio between defense CEOs and army privates soared to 160-to-1, up from just 89-to-1 in 2001.**

**46 large companies paid no federal income tax in 2003, despite collectively earning \$30 billion in profits. Some of the savings wound up in the pockets of their CEOs, who made \$12.6 million in average pay in 2004.**

**Over the last 15 years, the cumulative pay of the ten highest paid CEOs in each year together totals more than \$11.7 billion.**

In one example, compensation for William H. Swanson, chief executive of Raytheon Company in Waltham, more than doubled to \$5.3 million over his predecessor Dan Burnham's salary in 2001, according to the study by the Institute for Policy Studies, a liberal Washington think tank. After helping rescue the struggling company a few years ago, Ronald N. Tutor, CEO of Perini, a construction management firm in Framingham with reconstruction contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan, took home \$14.3 million, the study found.

Others highlighted in the study were United Technologies CEO George David, who earned \$88 million in 2004, almost four times more than the \$23 million he made in 2001. J. P. London, CEO of CACI, whose employees have served as interrogators in Iraq, saw his pay jump 170 percent to \$3 million in 2004. Ronald Sugar, CEO of Northrop Grumman Corp., earned \$6.7 million in 2004, an 8 percent reduction from 2001.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Sadr Praises Resistance, Condemns “New World Order”**

September 2, 2005 Al-Hayat

Young Shiite nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr, in his first sermon at Kufa in over a year, launched a vehement critique of the United States and its 'new world order.'

**He praised "the noble Resistance." Hundreds of his followers put on burial shrouds and marched from Kufa to the shrine of Imam Ali in Najaf. Muqtada said, "The global situation that we live with arose with the collapse of the old Soviet Union, and it is called 'the New World Order.'**

“It is a colonial regime,” he said.

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## Resistance Attacks Cut Off Kirkuk Crude Oil Exports

Sep 3, 2005 (Reuters)

**All exports of Iraq's Kirkuk crude oil through a major pipeline to Ceyhan on Turkey's Mediterranean coast were stopped on Saturday after a bomb blast set the pipeline on fire, an oil ministry source said.**

**"The blast halted all exports, it stopped them completely," the source told Reuters.**

The pipeline was hit by an explosion early on Saturday and caught fire for several hours, a guard on the pipeline, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

The pipeline runs from the major northern Iraqi oilfield of Kirkuk to Ceyhan. The explosion took place near Fatha, between Kirkuk and the city of Baiji.

Another guard said a roadside bomb had been placed beside the pipeline some 4 km (2.5 miles) from Fatha, which is 95 km (60 miles) southwest of Kirkuk.

By 2:30 p.m. (1030 GMT) the fire had been extinguished, a fire department official from Iraq's North Oil Company told Reuters. But he added that oil leaking from the pipeline had spilled some 2 km (1.2 miles) from the site of the explosion.

**It was not immediately clear how long it would take to repair the line and bring it back to full capacity. [Don't matter. As soon as it's fixed, they blow it up again. Only being going on since 2003.]**

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## Assorted Resistance Action

3 September 2005 (AFP) & (Reuters) & Aljazeera

**Unknown gunmen killed 19 Iraqi police and troops and wounded another 16 in three separate attacks near Baquba, north of Baghdad, on Saturday, police and hospital sources said.**

**The first attack came in the morning at an Iraqi army checkpoint 30 km (around 20 miles) north of the mainly Sunni Arab city, when four soldiers died. Later, six police officers were killed by armed gunmen at a checkpoint in the center of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad.**

**The third attack was on a checkpoint manned jointly by police and soldiers 4 km (2.5 miles) south of Baquba, in which seven police and two soldiers were shot dead.**

**And four soldiers on patrol were killed in Odhaim, 120 kilometres (80 miles) northwest of the capital, the army said.**

**Meanwhile, the local head of a private security firm was captured on Saturday by armed fighters in south Baghdad, Iraqi security officials said.**

Leith Kazim Al Azawi, described as the local head of Lucent security, was seized by up to eight armed fighters when his car was stopped on a highway in the southern district of Dura.

He was bundled into a car, but his driver was left at the scene.

**BAIJI - Five Iraqi soldiers were killed and nine wounded by a roadside bomb in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, on Friday, police said.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“If We Were Invaded We Would Fight Till  
The Invaders Left”**

August 31, 2005 By Stan Moore, Middle East Times [Excerpt]

**If America withdrew the troops the fighting would cease. Iraqis would not attempt to follow the American army back to America to battle us here.**

Iraqis would like to heal and restore their nation and live in peace and prosperity, but they cannot do so under the barrel of American guns and tanks and with warplanes and attack helicopters threatening their every move.

If not for oil the US Army would not be in Iraq, and the spectacular gamble to take over and control Iraq's oil is not working, because Iraqis know that American success in controlling their oil is tantamount to colonial subjugation. Iraqis have been there and done that with colonial Britain and many would rather die than be subjugated. And so they fight on.

Americans should get a grip on reality.

If we were invaded we would fight till the invaders left. That is what Iraqis are doing and will continue to do until they drive us out.

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

## Changing The Name Of The Hurricane

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 03, 2005 5:06 AM  
Subject: Changing the name of the hurricane

**While it is still early, I think we should change Hurricane Katrina to "HURRICANE GEORGE." Once this gets legs, you never know where it will go.**

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran

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## Body Counts

September 1, 2005 By Will Bunch, Attytood [Excerpt]

**The president told us that we needed to fight in Iraq to save lives here at home.**

**Yet -- after moving billions of domestic dollars to the Persian Gulf -- there are bodies floating through the streets of Louisiana.**

**What does George W. Bush have to say for himself now?**

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## 1945: U.S. Soldiers Go On Strike

From: MAX WATTS  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 03, 2005

**The American soldiers, in the Philippines, were told they would be going to China to help Chiang-kai Chek (official version) disarm the large Japanese armies there.**

**In fact, they were to help him put down the communists.**

But this was not "told".

Some U.S. units were already there, and they ran an airlift from south china to Manchuria, transporting nationalist armies.. to take over from the soviet army which had captured Manchuria and a million plus Japanese soldiers (and their guns!)

The soviets, to the enormous annoyance of Mao and Chou en Lai, kept the comms out of Harbin, Mukden, etc. until the Americans brought in the nationalists.

This incidentally is a "distant root" of later Chinese/soviet un-friendship

Stalin was bending over backwards not to antagonise the USA.

**The U.S. soldiers in the Philippines couldn't know (well, some did) of the dirty plans, but were not interested in defending Chiang kai Chek and struck massively in late 1945, early 1946.**

**All attempts at putting these strikes down (there were similar ones in Europe, though less organised) failed, and the soldiers went home.**

The U.S. army had to be reorganised from bottom up..

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## COUNT US OUT

From: Z  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 02, 2005 12:54 PM  
Subject: count us out

**A major US city is disintegrating before our incredulous eyes while the heartless brainless nonentity who stands at the apex of US power is doing his damndest to dismantle and subjugate overseas societies.**

**A thought experiment: If the man in question happened to catch fire, how many citizens of the Big Easy do you suppose would cross the road to piss on him?**

**OK, how many people living on either side of the Mississippi would do it?**

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### Some 'Good News' From Iraq

September 2, 2005 Imad Khadduri, Free Iraq

**USAID trained 183 Iraqis in beekeeping basics in an effort to help vulnerable groups gain a sustainable income.** The relatively inexpensive costs of maintaining an

apiary and the sustainable income produced from its products makes beekeeping an ideal income generator for populations with few options.

Iraq Reconstruction Update #41 has been posted to the USAID web site August 11, 2005

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Bush Popularity Hits New Low: People Say Democrats Also For Shit**

31 August 2005 By Richard Morin and Dan Balz, The Washington Post

Rising gas prices and ongoing bloodshed in Iraq continue to take their toll on President Bush, whose standing with the public has sunk to an all-time low, according to the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll.

**The survey also provided bad news for Democratic leaders, who are judged as offering Bush only tepid opposition. Slightly more than half of those surveyed expressed dissatisfaction with congressional Democrats for not opposing Bush more aggressively.**

Self-identified Democrats were particularly impatient. More than three in four said congressional Democrats have not gone far enough to oppose Bush on Iraq or on administration policies in general.

**"Somebody needs to speak up," said Michelle Burgess, 41, a home health aide in St. Louis. "Enough is enough. I don't understand why we're over there in Iraq or what he's doing on other issues. There are too many lives being lost."**

**Independents were similarly dissatisfied with Democratic leaders for not challenging the president over the war and other issues, with six in 10 saying Democrats have been too meek.**

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

**Telling the truth - about the occupation 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 - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or 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 War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

**Received:**

**Re: GI Special 3C41: "I Have Refused To Go"**

From: D (Military mom)  
To: GI Special  
Sent: September 03, 2005 11:47 PM  
Subject: Re: GI Special 3C41: "I Have Refused To Go"

I could not say it better then the report from the soldier - well one thing there are poor white people here in the south - one on them is homeless James Webb my son that got wounded now seeking and begging the VA to help him.

And they say no man left behind there are thousands left behind, not only soldiers but citizens black and white.

The government has let down all of the citizens in the USA.

D

**Web Copies:**

For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .  
The following that we know of have also posted issues:  
<http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>,  
[www.williambowles.info/gispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial),  
<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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