

## **GI SPECIAL 3D19:**

### **ENOUGH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



US Marines in an occupied Iraqi building in Zaidon. (AFP/David Furst)

## ***Amazing News!*** **Vital Military Jobs Go Unfilled: Army And Marines Fell Short Of Goals For Hiring Roadside Bomb Defusers**

The report found that, in all, the military, which is engaged in the most demanding wartime recruitment effort since the 1970's, had failed to fully staff 41 percent of its array of combat and noncombat specialties.

November 18, 2005 By DAMIEN CAVE, The New York Times Company

**The military is falling far behind in its effort to recruit and re-enlist soldiers for some of the most vital combat positions in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a new government report.**

**The report, completed by the Government Accountability Office, shows that the Army, National Guard and Marines signed up as few as a third of the Special Forces soldiers, intelligence specialists and translators that they had aimed for over the last year.**

**Both the Army and the Marines, for instance, fell short of their goals for hiring roadside bomb defusers by about 20 percent in each of the last two years.**

The Army Reserve, meanwhile, failed to fill about a third of its more than 1,500 intelligence analysts jobs.

**And in the National Guard, there have been consistent shortages filling positions involving tanks, field artillery and intelligence.**

**The report found that, in all, the military, which is engaged in the most demanding wartime recruitment effort since the 1970's, had failed to fully staff 41 percent of its array of combat and noncombat specialties.**

**Officials with the accountability office, the independent investigative arm of Congress, found that some of the critical shortfalls had been masked by the overfilling of other positions in an effort to reach overall recruiting goals.**

As a result, the G.A.O. report questioned whether Congress had been given an accurate picture by the Pentagon of the military's ability to maintain the force it needs for Iraq and Afghanistan.

**"The aggregate recruiting numbers are rather meaningless," said Derek B. Stewart, the G.A.O.'s director of military personnel.**

"For Congress and this nation to truly understand what's happening with the all-volunteer force and its ability to recruit and retain highly qualified people, you have to drill down into occupational specialties. And when you do, it's very revealing."

The report found signs of wasted spending. In many cases the military offered enlistment bonuses to people who signed up for jobs that were already overfilled.

**An Army recruiter in New York, who insisted on anonymity because he had not been authorized to speak to the news media, said it was not uncommon for noncombat positions to be opened up at the end of a tough recruiting month even the Army did not need more people to do the job.**

As a result, the report found that shortfalls in many occupations were more severe than overall recruiting totals. The active-duty Army missed its target of 80,000 soldiers by 8 percent last year, but fell short of its goal for human intelligence experts by 35 percent.

The Marine Corps, which reached its recruitment goal last year after missing a few monthly quotas, struggled to fill several positions. It hired only about three out of every four linguists for the Middle East and Asia that it said it needed for last year.

Even the Navy and Air Force, which met their annual targets for overall recruitment last year, could not find enough qualified people for several combat and intelligence positions, according to the report.

**The war, several military experts said, has scared many young people away from dangerous work.**

**"Prospective recruits, when they think about rewards and sacrifices of military service, realize that some positions are simply a lot more dangerous than others," said James R. Hosek, a military personnel analyst at the RAND Corporation. [No shit?]**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **ONE SOLDIER KILLED, TWO SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN ACCIDENT NEAR TAL AFAR**

November 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-11-30C

**LSA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq – One 101st Sustainment Brigade Soldier was killed and two Soldiers were injured in a vehicular accident while performing a combat logistical patrol north of Tall Afar at about 8:25 a.m. Nov. 17.**

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### **Bomb Kills Two US Soldiers, Two Iraqi Policemen In Baquba**

November 19, 2005 People's Daily Online

**A car bomb detonated near a US-Iraq joint patrol north of Baghdad on Friday, killing two US soldiers and two Iraqi policemen, a police source told Xinhua.**

"The joint patrol was attacked near Baquba, about 60 km northeast of Baghdad.

**"Another seven Iraqi policemen and two US soldiers were wounded," the source said.**

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## Patterson Soldier Killed

November 18, 2005 kcra

**PATTERSON, Calif. -- For the second time in a week, a Northern California serviceman has died in Iraq.**

The Department of Defense confirmed Friday that PFC Antonio Mendez, of Patterson, was killed in Kirkut when vehicles in his convoy collided.

The 22-year-old received a Bronze Star. He is a 2001 graduate of Del Puerto High School.

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## North Dakota Soldier Killed

Nov. 04, 2005 Associated Press

BISMARCK - An Army soldier from New Salem, N.D., has been killed in Iraq, almost exactly a year after the last North Dakota soldier to die in the Middle East.

Spc. Dennis Ferderer Jr., 20, died in Ad Duluiyah, Iraq, on Wednesday, when a hand grenade was thrown at his Humvee, the Department of Defense said. Ad Duluiyah is about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Ferderer was serving with the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, which is based in Fort Benning, Ga.

He was the son of Dennis Sr. and Claudina Ferderer, and had one brother. Claudina

**"You kind of knew in the back of your mind that (New Salem) wouldn't be lucky forever. You knew that sooner or later that the luck was going to run out, that they're not all going to come home," Renee Doll, a study aide at New Salem High School when Ferderer was a student there, told The Bismarck Tribune.**

**"Now Iraq is in our back yard," she said.**

Ferderer began his Army career after graduating from New Salem High School in 2003. His unit had been in Iraq for about nine months, and is scheduled to return to Georgia in January.

**He was the 11th U.S. service member from North Dakota or serving with a North Dakota military unit to be killed while on duty in Iraq.**

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# Death Of Local Soldier May Have Been Friendly Fire



Staff Sgt. Jason A. Fegler.

November 8, 2005 By JACK DORSEY, The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH — Word of Jason Fegler's death stunned the tiny town of Harrisburg, Neb., where he spent his childhood before joining the military and serving three tours in Iraq.

Fegler, a 24 -year-old Army staff sergeant who lived in Virginia Beach, was raised on his step father's farm in rural Banner County, Neb., where his mother owns an embroidery store.

**His death Friday made him the 26th Hampton Roads service member killed in Iraq or Afghanistan since March 2002, the Department of Defense announced Tuesday.**

The tall, blond boy played basketball and football at Banner County High School, where most graduating classes number less than 20. He graduated in 1999. Fewer than 900 people live in the county, where football games and school activities are the glue that holds the sparse community together.

One of his high school teachers, who is also the mother of a classmate, said that from the time he was a boy, Fegler talked about entering the service.

Jeri Revelle, who teaches consumer science, health and computers, remembered Fegler as a good kid with a mischievous streak.

When he got in trouble for pranks, he'd look down at his shoes and murmur, "I know, I know," Revelle said. He had the same response when the coach would yell at him during a basketball game.

Since learning of his death on Saturday night, Revelle said the school's employees have talked a lot about Fegler.

"It was pretty tough on a lot of the teachers that he had, just because you do know everybody, and you spend lots of time with them," Revelle said. "School is really the center of the county's social activities. Everybody is very involved. ... That's just what life is like here."

Revelle said a stream of townspeople have been visiting Fegler's mom and step father since they got the news.

"He can't be replaced but just remembered for the good memories," Fegler's mother, Rita Snyder, told the Scottsbluff (Neb.) Star-Herald. "He died for what he loved doing, and he loved the military."

Fegler, whose wife and young son live in Virginia Beach, was killed in Baghdad during combat operations.

**Serving with the 101st Airborne Division, Fegler may have died in a friendly fire incident, according to the Department of Defense.**

**The Pentagon said the circumstances of his death "are under investigation as a potential friendly fire incident," but released no further information.**

He was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

His wife, Shianne, declined Tuesday to discuss what happened, saying, "Right now is not the time to talk."

Like her husband, Shianne is from Nebraska, where Fegler will be buried. She is a Navy petty officer second class, serving as a master-at-arms, and is assigned to Norfolk Naval Station.

The couple has a 2-year-old son, Aiden.

According to The Associated Press, Fegler had served for 4½ years in the Marines and transferred to the Army with the goal of entering its Special Forces, said his mother and stepfather, Eugene Snyder.

One requirement was to serve a tour of duty in Iraq, Snyder said. Fegler was promoted to his new rank a few days before his death, said Kelly Tyler, a spokeswoman at Fort Campbell.

He was about a month into his third tour of duty in Iraq, Snyder said.

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## **Bomb Kills Soldier Due Home Soon**

Nov. 10, 2005 By GARY HOLLAND, Herald

**An Army tank commander from Mississippi, who was scheduled to return home in three weeks, was among four American soldiers killed by a suicide bomber at a checkpoint south of Baghdad Monday evening, the Pentagon announced.**

Staff Sgt. Brian L. Freeman, 27, of Caledonia, and his team members were on foot patrol when the vehicle they stopped at a checkpoint blew up. "The car loaded with bombs

was headed for Baghdad where it could have done untold damage," said the sergeant's father, Glenn Freeman of Caledonia, in a phone interview.

His mother, Patricia, said she chatted with her son via his e-mail the morning before he was killed. "Brian said, 'I've got to run, mom. I can't talk any longer. We're going on a mission,'" she recalled.

Freeman, a career soldier "and a good one," according to his father, had served the Army for eight years, with tours in South Korea and Germany.

Freeman met his wife, Leah, over the Internet when she was attending Mississippi University for Women. "She saw he was from a small town (Laurel) and was interested," said his dad.

His unit, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colo., was to return home Nov. 29.

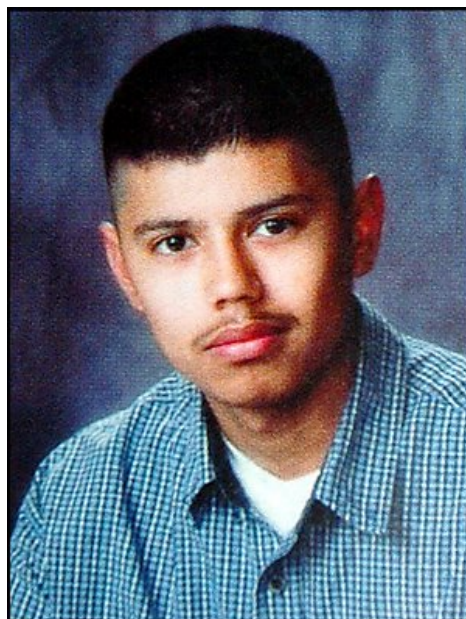
Freeman asked his mom, a retired cafeteria manager, in their last e-mail conversation if he could use her credit card to buy a gift for Leah's birthday Dec. 4. "He was getting a locket and asked if I could get the pictures reduced," his mom said.

Glenn Freeman has worked as a bus driver at the school for at least 13 years.

Sgt. Freeman graduated in 1997 and enlisted in the Army. He grew up in Caledonia, near Starkville, and was active at Kolola Springs Baptist Church, but his official military records list him as being from Lucedale.

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## Las Cruces Soldier Dies In Iraq Violence



Mario A. Reyes

November 10, 2005 By Rosa Ramirez, Rocky Mountain News

Fort Carson Pfc. Mario A. Reyes was young and wanted to travel. So right after graduating from Mayfield High School in Las Cruces, N.M., in 2004, he joined the Army.

Army Pfc. Mario A. Reyes died when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint south of Baghdad

"He was like any 19-year-old kid. He was eager to see the world," said Jaime Reyes, 27, Mario's cousin.

Born in Juarez, Mexico, Mario and his family arrived in the United States in 1996.

His mother and other family members remember Mario as a person who loved his family and had a passion for soccer. His favorite team was Las Aguilas del America, a Mexican soccer team.

"He was always close to the family," said Ernestina Reyes.

"He was always looking after his younger brother, Oscar."

Mario would call his mother regularly to tell her not to worry about him.

**Family members said Reyes planned to become a U.S. citizen after serving, and wanted to help his parents become citizens, too.**

"He was a good person," he said. "He had good grades in school. He enjoyed family gatherings."

Reyes last saw his family during Christmas of 2004; he was set visit Las Cruces at the end of November.

**Kevin Fausto, 15, a Mayfield freshman, said Reyes' death might keep people from taking the war lightly.**

**"We should really think about war as a serious thing," he said. "It's sad to have a fellow Trojan gone because of some stuff that shouldn't be going on."**

Reyes' father, Rufino Reyes, 45, said his son also wanted to buy him and his wife, Ernestina, a house.

During their conversations, they would talk about soccer, the family and 11-year-old Oscar, who is on the school's basketball team.

"He would say, 'When I get home, I'm going to train him . . . and do sit-ups with him,' " she said.

"He'd always tell me to give Oscar money for his video games."

Among the things Ernestina Reyes enjoyed the most was traveling to Juarez to buy Mexican candies for Mario.

"He'd tell me, 'Ma, send me more Sabritos, Rancheritos," she said, describing the saltines, chips and Mexican candy she'd buy for him.

"He'd say, 'Buy me some picositos and tamarindos.' "

Sunday was the last time she talked to Mario.

He asked her to take care of Guero, his cat.

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## **NO JOY HERE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



US Marine, LCPL Shawn Megill, Echo Company 2nd Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment, during foot patrol in Zaidon. (AFP/David Furst)

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## **Hotel For Foreigners Attacked**

Nov 18, 2005 By CHRIS TOMLINSON, The Associated Press & Reuters & By Edward Wong, The New York Times

**In Baghdad two car bombs destroyed the blast wall protecting a hotel housing international journalists.**

**The Hamra is a popular hotel for journalists, contractors and businessmen.**

The blasts near the hotel knocked down the concrete walls protecting the hotel and blew out windows but did no structural damage. However it brought down several residential

buildings and left a large crater in the road. Firefighters and U.S. troops joined residents in digging through the debris for victims.

"What we have here appears to be two suicide car bombs (that) attempted to breach the security wall in the vicinity of the hotel complex, and I think the target was the Hamra Hotel," U.S. Brig. Gen. Karl Horst told reporters at the scene.

Gunfire followed the blasts, which came less than a minute apart and echoed throughout downtown Baghdad. At first the target appeared to be an interior ministry building where U.S. troops on Sunday found about 170 detainees, some of whom appeared to have been tortured.

Saad al-Ezi, an Iraqi journalist with The Boston Globe, said from inside Hamra hotel that it was clearly the target.

"They were trying to penetrate by displacing the blast barriers behind the hotel and then get to the hotel," he said. "I woke up to a huge explosion which broke all the glass and displaced all the window and doors frames."

The Hamra Hotel consists of two towers separated by a swimming pool that was the scene of hedonistic parties in the summer of 2003, before the insurgency began.

**The building at the rear of the compound suffered extensive damage Friday, and several reporters said they would have to move out. Kim Sengupta, a writer for The Independent, said shards of glass flew across his room as he lay reading in bed. "I would've been killed if I had been standing up," he said.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **South Korea Gives Bush A Big "Fuck You": Slashing Troop Presence In Iraq By A Third**

11/17/05 AP & Aljazeera.

**SEOUL, South Korea** South Korea has announced plans to pull a third of its troops out of Iraq next year.

**Defence Minister Yoon Kwang-ung** reported the plan to withdraw about 1000 soldiers from Iraq to the ruling Uri Party on Friday.

**The announcement from the Korean Defense Ministry comes a day after President Bush met with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and praised him as a staunch ally in the Iraq conflict.**

**Meanwhile, the US has reacted with surprise to word that South Korea could cut its presence in Iraq by one-third in the first half of 2006, saying it had no official confirmation from Seoul.**

"At this point, the United States government has not received official confirmation of this reported withdrawal," said Fred Jones, a spokesman for Bush's National Security Council, on Friday.

Roughly 32-hundred South Korean troops are stationed in northern Iraq -- the third-largest contingent after America's and Britain's in the U-S-led coalition.

**At a news conference yesterday, Bush thanked Roh for the Korean contribution -- saying its goal was to "help democracy flourish."**

**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.**

## **Col. James Brown, Unbelievably Stupid Liar**

November 18, 2005 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times staff writer

**The job is not finished in Iraq, and U.S. troops don't want to leave until it is, said an Army Reserve brigade commander in the war zone.**

Col. James Brown, commander of the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the Texas National Guard, said the job his soldiers are doing conducting convoy operations in Iraq is important to the security of Iraq and the region.

**[So Col. James Brown is saying if he granted permission to every Texas National Guard member to leave Iraq forthwith, by the next available transportation, and go home, they'd beg him to stay? It would appear the 56th Brigade Combat Team troops have a drooling fool in command.]**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **“Our Enemies Are The Same”**

## **Open Letter To Cindy Sheehan**

**We have no enmity against Americans, and never had. Our enemies are the same: Those who are trying to create a colonial empire for the oil and arms companies.**

November 17, 2005 By Zaidom Ma'moon Fadhil Hasson AL-Samarr'ee, Albasrah.net  
[Excerpts]

**Watching your campaign on TV, I felt compelled to get in touch with you, to extend my condolences, compassion and solidarity.**

**Being a mother myself I have been following your campaign to pull out the US armed forces from Iraq.**

**Having lost my son, as yourself, on the same battle-field, IRAQ, but on opposite sides, I felt both compassion and relief to have an ally on the other side, we share the same pain, frustration and sorrow to lose our beloved ones in endless wars, launched by politicians who dream of creating new empires, without having to suffer the pain of sacrifices that others pay.**

I felt the importance of joining forces, exchanging thoughts, and planning together that no more young men are sent to fight to conquer foreign lands to create empires that last no more than a few decades, to make the rich richer and the poor die.

**The Bush administration claimed that Iraqis will welcome the US forces with roses and sweets. Those armed forces were received as any other occupying forces, with bullets and explosives.**

There is no safe haven for any American in Iraq. Iraq, after two years of occupation is still the most dangerous ground for Americans. If the US embassy personnel are relatively safe in the Green Zone, this zone is a small district in the capital, and receives more than 5 mortar attacks every single day. As for the US armies, they receive the roses of death, every minute of their term in Iraq. There is nowhere to hide for them.

**We have no enmity against Americans, and never had. Our enemies are the same: Those who are trying to create a colonial empire for the oil and arms companies.**

***Remember that every creature would defend itself if attacked. Iraqis are defending their home and country against the invading forces, there is no other way to act.***

**Iraq is boiling with wrath and anger at the US presence. Not as Americans, as the Bush administration tries to convince you, but against the colonial rule they try to create in Iraq.**

**American soldiers should be pulled out of Iraq NOW. Every single day more American lives are lost in Iraq, not to mention Iraqi lives.**

There is no way in Iraq but OUT.

No pretext should be accepted or delaying the evacuation of the US armed forces from Iraq.

**We are not against the American people, but against the American Empire.**

Peoples of the World demonstrated against this illegitimate war.

So they should ACT NOW against the US occupation of Iraq.

ACT NOW to stop the US war crimes in Iraq.

**ACT NOW to pull the US forces from Iraq NOW.**

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**“Is Iraq Threatened By Civil War?”**

**“But We Already Have A Civil War!”**

***Interview With A Resistance Leader***

15 November 2005 By Jean-Pierre Perrin, Libération. Translation: t r u t h o u t French language correspondent Leslie Thatcher.

**Sheikh Latif al-Oumyem is one of al-Anbar province's insurgency leaders.**

The Iraqi rebellion is at its most intense in the vast Al-Anbar Province, which earns it the distinction of having the majority of big American operations concentrated there.

Leader of the Assembly of the Al-Anbar People - one of the main armed opposition movements, composed of guerrilla fighters, tribal leaders, clerics and a good many of Saddam Hussein's former security officers in this province - Sheikh Latif al-Oumyem has taken refuge in Amman in Jordan.

His family originally comes from Ramadi, the provincial capital. This Sunni cleric, author of about forty books on Islamic law, was an intimate of Saddam Hussein, whom he frequently met. The former dictator assigned him the responsibility of imam for Friday prayer in Baghdad, a politico-religious position of the highest importance. In an exclusive interview for a western newspaper, the insurgent leader tells how it is.

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*What is the situation in Al-Anbar province?*

Very bad. Most of the cities are surrounded by the American army. Seven willayat (districts) are in a state of siege, which means the population has neither electricity nor water nor food and that there are illegal arrests and destruction of houses. An American bombardment killed 75 civilians. In Haditha, the city is cut in two by American soldiers. The inhabitants can't use the bridge over the stream to get supplies and have to go into the water to cross it.

*What is the guerrillas' strategy?*

**First of all, what we don't understand is the American army's strategy. You'd think that they have no plan.**

For our part, we are waiting until it finishes its operations and we wait with much patience.

The American army is an elephant and we are a bee. Neither can destroy the other, but the bee can hurt the elephant. The Al-Anbar province is the only one to really rise up against the Americans; in other provinces, they also fight against them, but not with as much determination. Now, we've understood that the Americans will begin to withdraw in the spring. And we know that then we'll have to sit down at the negotiating table.

*Is the rebellion divided?*

**There's no sponsor to guide our movement. There are several decision centers and that's very good. If there were only one, the enemy could either weaken or control it. I must say that the division of the rebellion is the best strategy to combat a superpower like the United States.**

*Do you fight in the name of Saddam Hussein?*

**No, He's not in the game. He's finished. The resistance has two components: one, nationalist; the other, religious.**

*No conflicts between them?*

That can occur. For the moment the conflicts are in suspended. But they certainly run a risk of intensifying in the future. When? I don't know.

*Is Iraq threatened by civil war?*

**But we already have a civil war! Before the January 30 elections, it was smoldering. Now, it's exploding.**

Hundreds of Sunni have already been killed by virtue of their ethnicity. Look at the case of this journalist who was recently murdered. He was named Haroun, like Haroun al-

Rashid (a famous Caliph, a contemporary of Charlemagne) of the same name and that was the only reason he was murdered.

*Many Shiites are also killed....*

**Not so many as Sunnis. Because those who kill Sunnis do so under the protection of the American umbrella.** Here's the real question: why do the Americans allow the Shiites to kill Sunnis? There's a certain understanding between the Americans and the Iranians on this question.

*What was your movement's attitude to the referendum on the new Constitution?*

It would have been a stupid decision to boycott it. Consequently we called for a "no" vote. In fact, few Sunni parties chose to boycott it. Frankly, we carefully studied whether or not to participate. We hesitated because it seemed to us that we weren't in a position to reject such participation.

That said, there was enormous fraud. I can give you the exact figures, because we had observers in every voting office. In Al-Anbar province, 100% of the voters voted against, not a single one for the "yes." In Salaheddine province, the "no" won by 68% and in Nineveh, by 58%.

*What pre-conditions are there to negotiations with Baghdad?*

Even if I must disagree with myself, I am ready.

*What has your reaction been to Saddam Hussein's trial?*

I was appalled. Everything about this trial is contrary to international law, beginning with the tribunal. There is not the least justice.

**It reflects what Iraq has become: a nation dismantled by superpowers which have destroyed everything, beginning with its sovereignty.**

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

11.17.05 Reuters & Nov 18 (Reuters)

**RAMADI - Iraqi police found the bodies of police Lieutenant Colonel Sulaiman al-Dulaimi and his son in Ramadi on Thursday after they were abducted a day earlier, police and medical officials said.** Both had gunshot wounds to the head and chest, a doctor at Ramadi hospital said. Dulaimi's son was also a police officer.

**BUHRUZ - Two Iraqi policemen were killed and seven wounded on Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near a U.S.-Iraqi patrol in Buhruz, an ambulance driver said.**

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## **Get The Message? Quit Fucking With Us!**



**Iraqis condemn the arrests of Iraqis suspected of being insurgents, in Mosul November 18, 2005. REUTERS/Namir Noor-Eldeen**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

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

# ***Do The Math:*** **The War Is Lost:** **The Only Question Is How Many** **More Will Die Before The Traitor** **Bush Is Forced Out**

18 November 2005 By Larry Johnson, Booman Tribune [Excerpts]

*“Mr. Johnson, who worked previously with the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. State Department’s Office of Counter Terrorism (as a Deputy Director), is a recognized expert in the fields of terrorism, aviation security, crisis and risk management.”*

**The situation in Iraq is clear. The United States does not have enough troops on the ground to contain and destroy the insurgency. The Iraqi insurgency consists of at least 26 different groups and draws upon as many as 250,000 supporters.**

These groups represent a spectrum of beliefs ranging from secular nationalists to hard core jihadists.

**The only thing they agree on is that they hate the invader; which is us.**

**To defeat the insurgency we will need at least 400,000 troops on the ground. At the present time, the United States does not have sufficient troop strength to ramp up to that level.**

**Our choice is simple--either we come up with the additional forces and commit ourselves to an effort that will stretch on for at least five years with 400,000 plus soldiers and marines in theatre or we withdraw.**

How do we get 400,000 troops on the ground? That will require a draft or a commitment by NATO forces and other countries to provide forces.

**Even if we start a draft tomorrow, we will not be able to field combat capable divisions for at least two years.** Basic training requires 10 weeks. Advance infantry training adds an additional six months. Once the troops are trained they need to train as units. The unit training, starting with companies and working up to division level exercises, will require at least 18 months (and that is an optimistic scenario).

In the interim we would need to call upon NATO forces to deploy to Iraq and conduct a coordinated counter insurgency effort.

**This effort, over the next two years, will likely produce at least 10,000 fatalities and 80,000 wounded. Are we willing as a country to pay that price? I don't think so.**

Meanwhile, our efforts on the ground are succeeding in killing and capturing a large number of suspected insurgents.

**But our kill capture effort is producing a blowback--Iraqis who are incarcerated and the surviving relatives of those killed respond to our effort by joining the insurgents. Instead of reducing the insurgency our efforts are providing a catalyst that recruits new insurgents faster than we can kill them.**

I see no political will on the part of the American public to accept a draft and to accept 90,000 casualties during the next four years.

### **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))

## **Support Our Troops? “Utilizing This Slogan Means Supporting Criminal Atrocities”**

**If antiwar activists really want to claim the banner of "Support Our Troops" then the clearest act of support would be turning all soldiers into anti-imperialist activists; then, indeed, they would be "our" troops.**

November 15, 2005 by T. Patrick Donovan, [dissidentvoice.org](http://dissidentvoice.org)

Long before this past Veteran's Day, in fact long before the invasion and occupation of Iraq, the idea that antiwar activists had to somehow include support for our troops as part of the package of their antiwar agitations was being promulgated.

Indeed, the seeds of this convoluted idea were planted during the Vietnam War, most especially with the archetypal and apocryphally conjoined images of returning U.S. veterans being called baby-killers and then being spat upon. Never again, the powers-that-be vowed. (See H. Bruce Franklin's *Vietnam and Other American Fantasies*, for a thorough debunking of this myth.)

With the war against Iraq these seeds have blossomed into weeds that are in danger of choking off real, anti-imperialist opposition to this war and to the wars that are set to bleed beyond the borders of Iraq.

"Support Our Troops" demands some serious unpacking with regards to just what this means and where its adoption and continued use may lead those who cling to this slogan as a way to avoid being branded unpatriotic and treasonous.

When the army of the American empire sallies forth, jackboots grinding across the soil of other countries and peoples, when the engine of U.S. military carnage rolls across borders and leaves in its wake death and carnage, what does "support" actually mean?

Furthermore, when we call these forces "our troops" are we agreeing with those who would foist upon the world a militarily enforced Pax Americana by disguising it as the spread of freedom and democracy?

In a number of recent Veteran's Day essays around the web, many voices have called for telling the troops the truth, having indicated that this is the best way to support our troops.

What is this truth that needs to be spoken?

Sadly, it is not that the war in Iraq was done under false pretenses, or that it was undertaken illegally. Leaving it at this level allows U.S. military conquest to be deemed okay the next time Congress "legally" authorizes it or enough votes are strong-armed within the U.N.

No, the deeper truth is that this war is an act of imperial aggression, undertaken to expand the U.S. empire by controlling oil and resources in the key geostrategic regions of the Middle East and Central Asia.

If this is the truth that must be brought to the soldiers' ears, then the support for the troops would consist of three things:

One, demanding the immediate withdrawal of all troops from Iraq;

Two, demonstrating against all further recruitment/enlistment efforts;

*And three, supporting all soldiers in their resistance within the armed forces.*

If antiwar activists really want to claim the banner of "Support Our Troops" then the clearest act of support would be turning all soldiers into anti-imperialist activists; then, indeed, they would be "our" troops.

Until then, utilizing this slogan means supporting criminal atrocities like the napalming of the Iraqi city of Fallujah, the torture dungeons like Abu Ghraib, and all the other acts that imperial armies have engaged in over the millennia.

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.

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **COLLABORATOR COPS TORTURED BY COLLABORATOR SPECIAL FORCES**



An Iraqi policeman shows bruises caused by torturers at a hospital in Baghdad Nov. 14. According to the victims they were arrested by Interior Minister special forces on Thursday. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

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## **Prisoners “Skins Got Stuck To The Floor”**

**Bush’s Servant Jabar Says:  
“You Can Be Proud Of Our Forces.  
Our Forces Respect Human Rights”**

18 November 2005 By Kim Sengupta in Baghdad, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd.

**Iraq's Interior Minister has defended the treatment of abused prisoners found in a government bunker, declaring that "no one was beheaded or killed".** But while Bayan Jabr insisted that the allegations of torture were "exaggerated" fresh details emerged of the horrific conditions endured by the captives.

**Witnesses said many of the 169 men and youths were emaciated and looked like "Holocaust survivors". Some had suffered beatings so severe that their skin had peeled off, and three men had been kept locked in a cupboard where they could not move. All the others were packed, blindfolded, into three rooms nine feet long and 11 feet wide.**

Instruments of torture and beating were found hidden in a false ceiling. Witnesses also said that the guards in charge of the detainees, all but three of whom were Sunnis, at an interior ministry bunker in central Baghdad, wore combat fatigues of the Shia Badr Brigades militia.

**"Because of the appalling overcrowding, some of the most badly treated were squashed on to floors and their skins got stuck to the floor," said a witness.**

Mr Jabr, a former member of the militia, insisted that only seven of the prisoners showed marks of torture, and those responsible will be punished.

**He continued: "You can be proud of our forces. Our forces respect human rights. We are the government and we are responsible for protecting you." [Time for Mr. Jabar to enjoy the unforgettable experience of having his skin stick to the floor.]**

## **DEAD MAN WALKING**



Jabar in Baghdad November 17. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

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**U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE  
IN HIGH GEAR;**

# RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS.



An Iraqi boy sits with his hands bound while U.S. Army soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division question other men near Balad, “Sovereign” Iraq, Nov. 4, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

[Fair is fair. Let’s bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it “sovereign” and “detain” anybody who doesn’t like it in some prison without any changes being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to occupy their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?]

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**WANTED FOR HIGH TREASON:  
THIS UGLY, CORRUPT, HOMICIDAL  
PIECE OF SHIT**



Cheney November 16, 2005. (Joshua Roberts/Reuters)

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## “The Democrats Are Not An Opposition Party, Nor Are They An Antiwar Party”

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

November 18, 2005 by Jeremy Scahill, Common Dreams [Excerpt]

**The refrain of the Democrats about being misled into supporting the invasion of Iraq has become really tired. And someone other than the White House smearmongers needs to say it: The Democrats cannot be allowed to use faulty intelligence as a crutch to hold up their unforgivable support for the Iraq invasion.**

What is DNC Chair Howard Dean's excuse? He wasn't in Congress and didn't have any access to Senate intelligence.

Still, on March 9, 2003, just days before the invasion began, Dean told Tim Russert, on NBC's Meet The Press, "I don't want Saddam staying in power with control over those weapons of mass destruction. I want him to be disarmed."

During the New Hampshire primary in January 2004, which I covered for Democracy Now!, I confronted Dean about that statement. I asked him on what intelligence he based that allegation. "Talks with people who were knowledgeable," Dean told me. "Including a series of folks that work in the Clinton administration."

A series of folks that work in the Clinton administration.

Manipulated intelligence is but a small part of a bigger, bipartisan 15-year assault on Iraq's people. If the Democrats really want to look at how America was led into this war, they need to go back further than the current president's inauguration.

**As bloody and deadly as the occupation has been, it was Bill Clinton who refined the art of killing innocent Iraqis following the Gulf War.**

One of his first acts as president was to bomb Iraq, following the alleged assassination plot against George HW Bush. Clinton's missiles killed the famed Iraqi painter Leila al Attar as they smashed into her home.

**Clinton presided enthusiastically over the most deadly and repressive regime of economic sanctions in history--his UN ambassador Madeline Albright calling the reported deaths of half a million children "worth the price."**

**Clinton initiated the longest sustained bombing campaign since Vietnam with his illegal no-fly zone bombings, attacking Iraq once every three days for the final years of his presidency.**

**It was under Clinton that Ahmed Chalabi was given tens of millions of dollars and made a key player in shaping Washington's Iraq policy.**

**It was Clinton that mercilessly attacked Iraq in December of 1998, destroying dozens of Baghdad buildings and killing scores of civilians. It was Clinton that codified regime change in Iraq as US policy.**

**Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq but he could not have done it without the years of groundwork laid by Clinton and the Democrats. How ironic it was recently to hear Clinton call the war "a big mistake."**

**It's easy to resist war with a president like Bush in the White House. Where were these Democrats when it was Clinton's bombs raining down on Iraq, when it was Clinton's economic sanctions targeting the most vulnerable?**

**Many of them were right behind him and his deadly policies the same way they were behind Bush when he asked their consent to use force against Iraq.**

As the veteran Iraq activist and Nobel Prize nominee Kathy Kelly said often during the Clinton years, "It's easy to be a vegetarian between meals."

The fact is that one of the great crimes of our times was committed by the Clinton administration with the support of many of the politicians now attacking Bush.

**Herein lies the real political crisis in this country: the Democrats are not an opposition party, nor are they an antiwar party-never were.**

**At best, they are a loyal opposition.**

**The Democrats ran a pro-war campaign in 2004 with Kerry struggling to convince people that Dems do occupation and war better.**

The current head of the DNC, Howard Dean, never met a war he didn't adore until he realized he could exploit the energy and sincere hopes of millions of peace-loving Americans. Dean wasn't ever antiwar. In fact, during the 2004 campaign he attacked Kerry for opposing the Gulf War while laying out his own pro-war record.

"In 1991, I supported Gulf War. I supported the first President Bush," declared Dean. "Senator Kerry who criticizes my foreign policy, he voted against that war. I supported the Afghanistan war, because I felt it was about our national defense-- 3,000 of our people were killed. I supported President Clinton going into Bosnia and Kosovo."

How can Howard Dean look people in the eye today and pretend to speak with any credibility as an antiwar voice?

**The bloody scandal of the Iraq occupation has opened a rare and clear window into the truth about this country: there is one party represented in Washington-- one that supports preemptive war and regime change.**

The epic scale of the disaster in Iraq calls for epic lessons to be learned at home. Like the Bush White House, the Democrats have lost their credibility.

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## **Tax-Cut Measure Faces Bush Veto Threat - Yahoo! News**

**11.18.05: A \$60 billion bill the Senate passed to continue expiring tax cuts and shelter 14 million families from higher taxes faces a White House veto threat because it also includes a hefty tax increase for oil companies.**

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. He writes: 'NUFF SAID']

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## **BUSH EXECUTES WHITE HOUSE TURKEY FOR ROLE IN CIA LEAK: Exonerates Libby, Rove, Cheney, Self**

November 17, 2005 The Borowitz Report

President George W. Bush cut short his trip to Asia today to rush back to Washington to execute the White House turkey for its role in the leaking of the identity of a CIA officer.

While the President usually pardons the turkey in a pre-Thanksgiving ceremony, Mr. Bush said that after launching an extensive investigation of his own he determined that the turkey and no one else was responsible for the leak.

By executing the turkey, Mr. Bush said he was fully exonerating former vice presidential chief of staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby, top aide Karl Rove, Vice President Dick Cheney, and possibly himself.

"A lot of people didn't think I would have the nerve to execute this turkey," Mr. Bush told reporters. "Well, when I was Governor of Texas, this kind of thing was just another day at the office."

Former New York Times reporter Judith Miller issued an official statement later in the day stating that she and the turkey "were not entangled in any way and certainly never dated."

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev) blasted the execution of the White House turkey, calling the President's decision a "rush to judgment."

"The notion that the turkey acted alone in leaking the name of a CIA officer strains credulity," Sen. Reid said. "For one thing, turkeys don't talk."

President Bush later offered this retort to Sen. Reid's comment: "Dead ones sure don't."

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

### **“International Terrorist Bush Go Home” [THEY GOT THAT RIGHT]**



4,000 protesters carrying anti-Bush banners march in Busan, South Korea, Nov. 18. Riot police sprayed water hoses at protesters, attempting to break through a barricade to reach the summit and raise their grievances against free trade. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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The following have also posted issues; there may be others:

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