

## GI SPECIAL 4F16:

### ENOUGH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. Army soldier rests in Ramadi June 18, 2006. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

# 2 U.S. Soldiers Captured By Insurgents

June 18, 2006 Dexter Filkins, The New York Times

BAGHDAD

American soldiers on Saturday went house to house, scanned the streets from helicopters and dove into irrigation canals to try to find two of their comrades who had been reported captured by insurgents in an ambush south of the capital.

The two Americans, who were not identified, were taken prisoner at dusk on Friday by a group of masked guerrillas who mounted a surprise attack on their Humvee near Yusufiya, a town that is a stronghold of Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, Iraqis in the area said.

The American command in Baghdad confirmed that two Americans were missing on Friday after insurgents attacked a checkpoint they had set up on a canal crossing near the Euphrates River.

**One soldier was killed in the attack, which appeared to be an elaborate lure intended to isolate part of the force.**

"We are currently using every means at our disposal on the ground, in the air and in the water to find them," said Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the spokesman for the American military.

According to Iraqis in the area, who were interviewed by telephone from Baghdad, the two American soldiers who survived the gun battle were led away by the insurgents to a pair of cars.

Hassan Abdul Hadi was tending to his date palms and apple trees near the village of Karagol when he heard gunfire and explosions. When he walked to the road, he spotted an American Humvee, he said.

"I was shocked to see the Humvee - nothing seemed to be wrong with it," Hadi said. "Then I heard the men shouting 'God is great!' and I saw that they had taken the Americans with them. The gunmen took them and drove away."

At the time of the attack, the American soldiers were at a traffic control checkpoint on the edge of Karagol. According to the Iraqis, the checkpoint was guarded by about a dozen American soldiers who had arrived in three Humvees.

**The checkpoint came under fire from insurgents operating from the fruit groves that line the road. The Americans in two of the Humvees took off in pursuit as the insurgents retreated into the groves, possibly to lure them in, the Iraqis said, leaving one Humvee and only three or four American soldiers at the checkpoint.**

**The checkpoint then came under attack from another direction by a group of seven or eight guerrillas, wearing kaffiyehs over their faces and black track suits, the Iraqis said. At least one of them carried a heavy machine gun, and two of them carried rocket-propelled grenades.**

Minutes after the two Americans were taken away, a team of Americans arrived and began searching door to door in the area, the Iraqis said. By Saturday morning, the search had intensified, with soldiers scouring the area, helicopters surveying the landscape from above and divers going into canals, the American military said in a statement.

"The Americans are going house to house, detaining any men they find," said Yusef Abdul Nasir, who lives in Jurf Al Sakhar, a village next to Karagol. He said he had heard rumors that the soldiers were being held in Jurf Al Sakhar.

**Nasir said the Americans were threatening to hold the men they had detained unless the two soldiers were turned over.**

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# IRAQ WAR REPORTS

## Mentor Native Killed



Mark T. Smykowski

6/8/2006 Reported by Jeff Maynor, WKYC-TV

### MENTOR

One of the Mentor Seven, a tight-knit group of high school friends who enlisted to fight in Iraq, is gone.

We don't know quite what it was that instilled patriotism and duty to country in seven boys at Mentor High School.

But it came together on the Mentor hockey team where teammates became a bunch of buddies and then a band of brothers.

Sgt. Mark T. Smykowski, 23, was the oldest and first off to the Marines. It was no surprise to his coach.

"He had the heart of a lion," Mentor Hockey Coach Jack Smeltz said. "His senior year, he was voted outstanding team player."

That's leadership. Mark and his teammates Matt and Brian left for the Marines in 2000. And in the Marines one of them stood out.

"He was unbelievable," Brian Halan said. "He was one of those Marines that people say 'You should be more like him.'"

They all faced combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mark took the toughest assignments: Paratrooper school, sniper school.

And when they were home on leave, a group of younger brothers and friends decided to enlist to make Mentor's band of seven.

The others are home now, but mark re-upped.

Mark's friends know his life was well lived.

"I know if he had to do it all over again, regardless of the outcome, he wouldn't change a thing," Matt Neath said.

So Thursday, his buddies from Mentor High School and the hockey team remember a buddy who became a brother.

Mark died June 6 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was killed by a remote car bomb.

Mark's body will be returned here for a memorial. This young "Marine's Marine" will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Smykowski's death brings the total number of Iraq war dead from Ohio to 112.**

**Only California, Texas, Pennsylvania and New York have lost more service men and women than Ohio.**

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## Tupper Laker Severely Wounded

June 10, 2006 By: NED P. RAUCH, Staff Writer, The Press Republican

### TUPPER LAKE

A young soldier from Tupper Lake was wounded in Iraq on Thursday.

Josh Jones, a graduate of the Tupper Lake High School and grandson of a former chief of Tupper Lake Village Police, and another soldier were injured when an explosion rocked their Humvee.

According to the Saranac Lake-based radio station WNBZ, Jones' right leg was amputated just above the knee. Doctors saved his left leg. The soldier with Jones suffered severe injuries to his legs also.

The Press-Republican spoke briefly with Jones' aunt, who confirmed the injury, on Friday afternoon. She said Jones' mother, her sister, Debbie, was focusing on her son and would prefer not to talk to reporters.

WNBZ said an Army captain had called Mrs. Jones Thursday to inform her of her son's injury and that she had spoken with Jones Friday morning as he recovered in a Baghdad hospital.

Sandra Strader, the town administrator and former mayor of Tupper Lake, said Jones' family has deep roots here, especially through his mother's side. It was her father, Clarence Bell, who served as chief of the local police department.

Strader knows the family well and said they are tight-knit and well-liked.

She said Debbie came by Town Hall Friday to pick up her birth certificate as she made arrangements to fly to Germany, where her son is being transported.

Like other small North Country communities, Tupper Lake has sent its share of loved ones to Iraq.

"We're supportive of the kids. We're proud of every one of them that's gone over there, 100 percent," she said.

"It kind of makes you sick when you hear something like this happening."

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## **Lexington Marine Injured In Roadside Bomb Blast**

Jun 8 Bennett Haeberle, WTVQ-TV, Action News 36

A Lexington Marine was seriously injured in Iraq Tuesday after the humvee he was driving was destroyed by an improvised explosive device, according to his mother.

Cpl. Kris Freeman was listed in serious condition at a military hospital in Germany following the blast that killed another marine in the Anbar province on June 6, Jane Freeman said Thursday in a phone interview with WTVQ-TV.

Freeman, 20, graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 2004, and is enlisted with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, based out of Camp Lejuene, N.C.

Jane Freeman said her son suffered injuries to right side of his body that she believed included a broken femur, hip and dislocated elbow.

If doctors decided to postpone operating on her son, he could be returned to the U.S. within the next 24 hours, she added.

"They're sending the Marines home based on the order of their injuries," she said.

During the interview, Freeman recalled how her son had once described his resolve after breaking a collar bone during basic training: "He told me in the Marines 'You don't have to be strong – just stubborn,'" she said.

When asked if her son would return to duty, said she was uncertain at this time. His tour of duty was expected to end this October.

"I don't know," she said. "Sometimes they patch Marines up and they want to go back."

Anthony Orr, Dunbar's principal, said he was glad to hear Freeman's injuries weren't life-threatening.

"It's very fortunate," he said, "we're very happy for the family to get that good news because it could have been so much worse."

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
HOPELESS WAR:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



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## **Our (CIA) Man In Kabul**

June 16, 2006 Stephen Lendman, Uruknet.info [Excerpt]

The country's US selected and nominal president Hamid Karzai (a former CIA asset) is a caricature of a man and willing stooge who's little more than the mayor of Kabul. He has no mandate or support and wouldn't last a day on his own without the heavy protection afforded him round the clock by the US military.

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# Assorted Resistance Action

June 18, 2006 Tini Tran, ASSOCIATED PRESS

One attacker on a motorcycle detonated his explosives yesterday near a group of Afghan soldiers in southwestern Nimroz province, killing himself and wounding two soldiers and three bystanders, provincial officials said.

Seven militants and one police officer also were killed during a gunbattle that lasted until dawn in southern Kandahar, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

Four police officers were killed in southern Kandahar province on Friday when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle, provincial officials said.

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

## TROOP NEWS

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The casket of Sgt. Daniel Robert Gionet is brought into St. Patrick's Church in Pelham, N.H., June 16, 2006. Gionet, a newlywed and Army medic, was killed June 4 when an explosion hit his tank in Taji, Iraq. He was 23. (AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

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# **Navy War College Hears That Iraq War Is “The Plague” “Applause; At Once Polite, Sustained And Thunderous”**

**“Every time I look at the situation in Iraq today, I think of Vietnam, and I think of The Plague, and I just don't think there's very much we can do at this point. It is just out of our hands.**

June 14, 2006 By Phillip Weiss, The New York Observer

**Yesterday the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, opened its annual conference on international strategy with a speech from the Navy Secretary in a vast hall, followed by a panel on American power composed of three scholars, all of whom had opposed the war in Iraq.**

**Indeed, in the biographical notes that were given out to the audience of officers, men and women wearing their dress whites, one of the scholars stated bluntly that he had written about the "folly of invading Iraq."**

For an hour the panelists gave their reasons for why they believe America will remain the most powerful country in the world well into this century, regardless of the morass in Iraq. There were about ten questions. The last one was from a Navy commander named Cladgett from Syracuse, who rose in the middle of the audience.

**"My question to the panel is, What is the path to success in Iraq?"**

**There was a damburst of laughter in the audience, then the scholars took it on, one by one.**

The first, Stephen Walt of Harvard, said "This was a huge strategic blunder, there are no attractive plans forward." The greatest danger, an international conflict in Iraq, would be there no matter when we left. The next man, Robert Art of Brandeis, said, he thought it was extremely important for America's image in the Arab world not to have permanent bases in Iraq.

**The last one to speak was the one who had used the word "folly" in the program: John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago.**

**Mearsheimer is 58. He told the audience that when he was a teenager, he had enlisted in the Army. Then he'd spent 1966-1970 at West Point.**

**Then he said this:**

**“I remember once in English class we read Albert Camus's book The Plague. I didn't know what The Plague was about or why we were reading it.**

**“But afterwards the instructor explained to us that The Plague was being read because of the Vietnam War. What Camus was saying in The Plague was that the plague came and went of its own accord.**

**“All sorts of minions ran around trying to deal with the plague, and they operated under the illusion that they could affect the plague one way or another. But the plague operated on its own schedule. That is what we were told was going on in Vietnam.**

**“Every time I look at the situation in Iraq today, I think of Vietnam, and I think of The Plague, and I just don't think there's very much we can do at this point. It is just out of our hands.**

**“There are forces that we don't have control over that are at play, and will determine the outcome of this one. I understand that's very hard for Americans to understand, because Americans believe that they can shape the world in their interests.**

**“But I learned during the Vietnam years when I was a kid at West Point, that there are some things in the world that you just don't control, and I think that's where we're at in Iraq.”**

**The panel was over.**

**For a moment or two there was stunned silence, and then applause; at once polite, sustained and thunderous.**

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## **All Italian Troops Coming Home: Getting Out Of Iraq By October, Never To Return; “The US Was Not Happy”**

16 June 2006 Aljazeera

**Lorenzo Forcieri, Italy's junior defence minister, said his country will complete the withdrawal of its troops from Iraq within four months.**

**"In three months, four at the most, all the Italian troops will have returned from Iraq," Forcieri was quoted by the Ansa news agency as saying during a visit to Malta.**

Romano Prodi, the Italian prime minister, has said the whole of the Italian contingent, once the fourth largest in Iraq, will be pulled out by the end of the year.

On Wednesday Italy began a further reduction of its troop strength, which will be down to 1,600 men by the end of June.

Forcieri said the precise timetable for withdrawing Italian troops was a "technical" matter.

"The military is in the process of deciding, but we are talking about three, four months for the complete withdrawal of our troops," he said.

Speaking on the margins of an EU summit in Brussels late on Thursday, Prodi said the US was not happy about the withdrawal but will accept the decision when it is fully explained to them on Friday.

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## **60% Of Americans Want Timetable For Withdrawal From Iraq**

16 Jun 2006 FAIR

A New York Times poll from last month (5/4-8/06) found 60 percent support for setting a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops, vs. 36 percent opposed.

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## **Blair Regime Says Enough Troops In Afghanistan, So More Being Sent**

[Thanks to ISO AMHERST, for sending in.]

16 June 2006 By Andy McSmith, Independent News and Media Limited

**Another 130 British servicemen are being sent to Afghanistan, despite a recent government claim that there were enough troops there already.**

**The 34 Squadron of the RAF Regiment will be sent to help protect Kandahar airfield "within the next week", the Defence Secretary, Des Browne, announced.**

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## **Most Canadians Now Oppose Afghan Mission**

[Thanks to Anna Bradley, who sent this in.]

June 6, 2006 (Angus Reid Global Scan)

Many adults in Canada think their country should not have extended its commitment to the military intervention in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Decima Research released by the Canadian Press.

54 per cent of respondents are opposed to the decision taken by the House of Commons.

On May 17, the House of Commons voted 149-145 to extend Canada's mission in Afghanistan until February 2009.

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## **10% Of Total British Military In Iraq Down With PTSD**

[Thanks to ISO AMHERST, for sending in.]

15 June 2006 By Andy McSmith, Independent News and Media Limited

The number of soldiers diagnosed with psychiatric problems brought on by the stress of service in Iraq has dramatically escalated since the beginning of the war, according to new figures from the Ministry of Defence.

In 2005, the military authorities were notified of 727 cases of troops with psychiatric disorders brought on by their period in Iraq - an average of 60 each month, or two every day.

**The figure is nearly 10 per cent of the total British military presence in Iraq. It includes 66 troops who developed such serious mental problems that they had to be airlifted out for treatment back home.**

It is also a sharp increase on official statistics released four months ago, which revealed that 1,333 servicemen had needed treatment in the first two and a half years after the outbreak of the Iraq war, an average of around 40 a month.

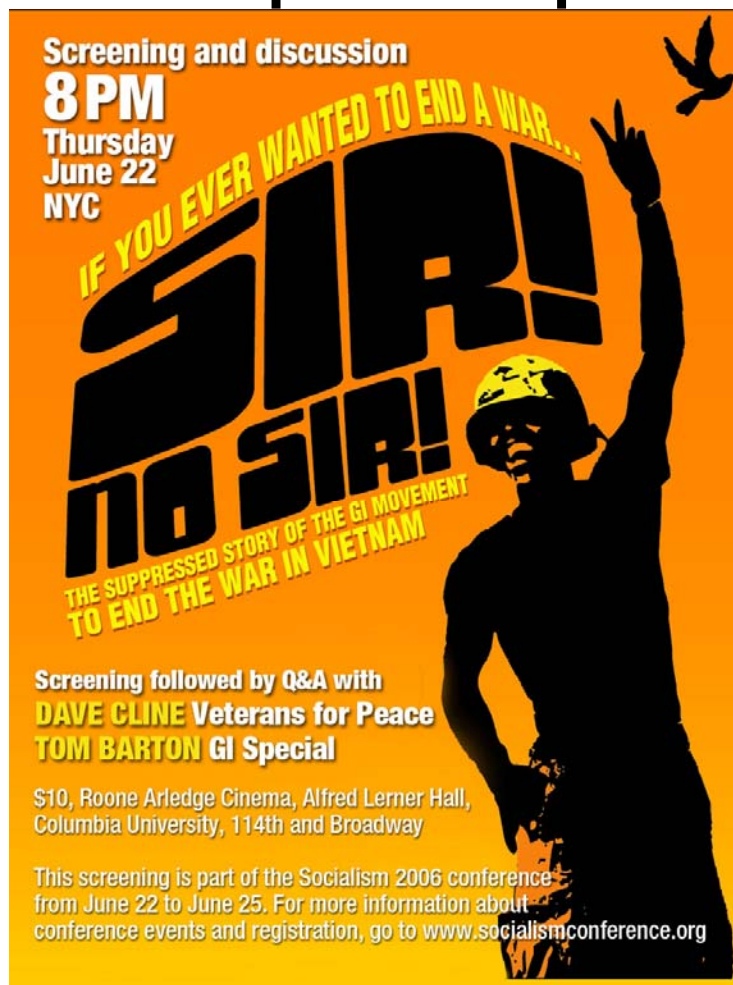
**These can be added to the total of at least 6,700 British casualties in Iraq, including 113 killed and 4,000 who injured or ill enough to need to be flown out for treatment.**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“These Troops Have Simply Awakened And Pointed Their Weapons At Those Who Order Them To Kill”**

**“Let’s Make Sure That ‘Sir! No Sir!’ Gets To This Generation’s Enlisted People In Iraq”**



Screening and discussion  
**8PM**  
Thursday  
June 22  
NYC

**IF YOU EVER WANTED TO END A WAR...**

**SIR!  
NO SIR!**

THE SUPPRESSED STORY OF THE GI MOVEMENT  
TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Screening followed by Q&A with  
**DAVE CLINE** Veterans for Peace  
**TOM BARTON** GI Special

\$10, Roone Arledge Cinema, Alfred Lerner Hall,  
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This screening is part of the Socialism 2006 conference  
from June 22 to June 25. For more information about  
conference events and registration, go to [www.socialismconference.org](http://www.socialismconference.org)

A number of movie reviewers in the corporate press attacked Zeiger because, to them, the film seemed sympathetic to the fragging.

**“Is he for violence?” one asked, apparently forgetting that those who “frag” are soldiers and marines who are trained and ordered to kill Vietnamese people who did them no harm. These troops have simply awakened and pointed their weapons at those who order them to kill.**

Jun 16, 2006 Film Review by John Catalinotto, Workers World

From the first moments of “Sir! No Sir!” the film grabbed me and hurled me back to the sights, sounds and political taste of 1968: to the struggle to stop the war against Vietnam, to the struggle to stop the war against Black America and to the hundreds of thousands of U.S. youths who, while wearing a uniform of one of the armed forces, fought to end that war, fought racism and tried to upend the U.S. war machine.

If you lived through that period, see the film to remind yourself what it was like.

**If you didn’t, see it for a glimpse of what was possible, and imagine what can be possible.**

Producer and director Dave Zeiger’s portrayal of the events he chose to show was accurate, though one’s heart beat faster seeing five years condensed into 90 minutes. Moving back and forth between more recent interviews and archival footage, he lets GIs and dissident officers and Jane Fonda tell their stories.

Some of the best archival footage is from the FTA—not Fun, Travel and Adventure but Fuck The Army—tour that Fonda, Fred Gardner and Donald Sutherland did in 1970 as an anti-war version of Bob Hope’s USO tour.

Fonda had to perform off base, but still played before tens of thousands of GIs in Japan and Okinawa.

Zeiger was himself part of what was known as the “coffee-house movement.” These were anti-war activists, youths for the most part, who set up “coffee houses” in towns near the large military bases where tens of thousands of GIs were being trained. Zeiger was at the coffee house in Killeen, Texas, near Fort Hood, called The Oleo Strut—named after a helicopter part.

I don’t remember ever meeting Zeiger, but we experienced many of the same events, at a different angle. I was a civilian organizer from 1967 to 1971 with the American Servicemen’s Union (ASU) and circulation manager for The Bond, the ASU’s monthly newspaper, which reached tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of GIs. In August 1968, and again in October of that year, I was in Killeen and at Fort Hood with other ASU members to help with the legal and political defense of the Black soldiers known as the Fort Hood 43.

“Sir! No Sir!” manages to cover a broad span of military resistance.

It shows the moral repugnance to an unjust war felt by officers like Capt. Howard Levy, who refused to train Special Forces to cure skin ailments, a talent they used to try to win the confidence of villagers in order to better murder the political leaders of the Vietnamese liberation movement.

It also shows how some Black soldiers, fed up with racism, identified more with the Vietnamese than with their white officers, and how all were affected by the revolutionary upsurge in the Black communities in 1968.

After Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in April of that year, there were rebellions in 100 U.S. cities, some of which were repressed through the intervention of the U.S. Army. So should it be any surprise that 50 to 100 Black GIs at Fort Hood, all having recently returned from a tour in Vietnam, balked at being sent to Chicago for the Democratic National Convention?

**Zeiger examines “fragging,” the action by rank-and-file GIs of killing particularly vicious, racist and bloodthirsty officers and sergeants with fragmentation grenades. It happened a lot during the Vietnam War. The film focuses on the case of Billy Dean Smith, a Black activist GI who was obviously framed on a fragging charge because he was politically outspoken. He finally won the court-martial, but only after spending a long time locked up.**

**A number of movie reviewers in the corporate press attacked Zeiger because, to them, the film seemed sympathetic to the fragging.**

**“Is he for violence?” one asked, apparently forgetting that those who “frag” are soldiers and marines who are trained and ordered to kill Vietnamese people who did them no harm. These troops have simply awakened and pointed their weapons at those who order them to kill.**

Even more reviews chided Zeiger for “not presenting the other side.” We hope as many people watch “Sir! No Sir!” as watched the one-sided, racist “Rambo” fantasy or distortions of history like “Forrest Gump.”

The voices you hear first and most often in “Sir! No Sir!”—at least those giving the most complex explanations for their resistance—are from dissident officers like Levy and Lt. Susan Schnall, Special Forces Master Sergeant Donald Duncan and a group of Air Force codebreakers.

Their explanations about why they were ready to face punishment are honest, centering on their moral revulsion to the war, in stark contrast to the hypocrisy of the Johnson and Nixon administrations and the Pentagon brass.

**The movie represents best that part of the 1960s movement that was not oriented toward the working class and the class struggle, but that had a revolutionary spirit, a growing solidarity with the Black liberation struggle and with the Vietnamese and a disdain for authority.**

There was, however, another dimension to the GI movement.

**The military is an instrument of rule by the capitalist class over the working class. The military’s own structure also reflects, in a more rigid way than in civilian life, the class differences and class privileges in society. Instead of the civilian worker, supervisor and boss, in the army there are enlisted people, officers and**

**generals. Rules that forbid fraternizing and make obedience to orders a prime virtue help exacerbate these differences.**

**Breaking this rigid system, breaking the chain of command in any way, has revolutionary potential.**

There's no doubt that the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people to liberate their country was a driving force of the resistance of enlisted people inside the U.S. military, and that the Black liberation struggle had an additional impact.

But in addition, the GIs who joined the ASU also hated being forced to salute their officers and call them "sir"; they hated the orders and those who handed them out; they hated the privilege of rank and wanted to elect their own struggle leaders.

**This class attitude came through in "Sir! No Sir!" in the scenes with the Black enlisted men. Also in one of the interviews with a white GI in Vietnam about fragging, the interviewer asks him about attitudes toward the officers and sergeants. "Well," the GI answers, "you know we call them 'pigs.' That's our name for them."**

If you go to the site [www.sirnosir.com](http://www.sirnosir.com) you'll find a schedule of where the film is showing, and lots of GI movement history, including many references to ASU organizers Pvt. Andy Stapp, Pvt. Terry Klug, Pvt. Tom Tuck and others who made it clear during the organizing from 1967 to 1974 that the battle of GIs against the Pentagon is a class struggle.

**They too were willing to risk punishment, but their goal was to organize enough of their class brothers and sisters to win that struggle.**

**Today, let's make sure that "Sir! No Sir!" gets to this generation's enlisted people in Iraq.**



**Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War**

**Sir! No Sir!:**  
**At A Theatre Near You!**  
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

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.

## **“2,500 Dead: How Many More?”**

14 June 2006 By Cindy Sheehan, The Progressive [Excerpt]

Over the last year, I've spoken at high schools that have about 2,000 to 2,500 students on campus. I ask them to close their eyes and visualize an empty school.

Only then can they begin to relate to this devastating number.

But for those of us who have lost a son or a daughter or a brother or a sister or a father or a mother in this war, the number one is more than enough.

One empty chair at the table.

One folded flag on the mantel.

One driverless car sitting in the driveway waiting for the finance company to come and pick it up.

One person never coming home.

One broken family that cannot be repaired.

How many more?

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**“I Doubt That Astute Iraqis Call It A  
‘Civil War’ Unless They Are In The  
Service Of The Occupation”**

Jun 16, 2006 By Luciana Bohne, Online Journal Contributing Writer [Excerpts]

That Iraqis live in a state of terror is hard to dispute, but I doubt that astute Iraqis call it a "civil war" -- unless they are in the service of the occupation and training to suppress the people's call for ending the occupation.

**Ordinary Iraqis, judging from independent journalistic sources and accounts in the foreign press, complain of murder and abductions, of rapes and disappearances, of massacres and detentions, of bombing raids and chemical weapons -- and they have no doubt that this violence is generated under and because of the occupation.**

To give you an example, the late-departed Italian neo-fascist government had re-interpreted the Italian struggle of WW II resistance against the Nazis and their Italian quislings as a civil war in order to defame the legendary liberation efforts of the anti-fascist left, but it was a struggle between the people and their occupiers and the occupiers' local collaborators.

**The collaborators were fighting for the survival of Italy within Germany's control.**

**How could that be a civil war?**

It was murder and chaos, before the resistance organized itself into a disciplined and nationally supported army.

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## **“The Similarity Between The Parties Is Unfortunately Greatest Where It Matters Most, In The Middle East”**

**Because the administration has encouraged public adulation of the armed forces, it is hard for the administration to quell protest, even from retired generals, by public defamation and bullying.**

June 9 2006 By Anatol Lieven, Le Monde Diplomatique [Excerpts]

Discontent with the administration within the armed forces has also burst into the open, with public attacks by several senior retired generals on the Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, and his conduct of the Iraq war.

They clearly reflect the opinions of many of their serving comrades.

These unprecedented attacks are partly motivated by the strong desire of many in the military to prevent a new conflict with Iran.

**Bush and his followers have underestimated the capacity of institutions such as the military and intelligence agencies to undermine governments not by open revolt, but by a steady stream of damaging resignations and leaks, tactics which Goss's hamfisted attempts to impose "discipline" have only encouraged.**

These are weapons that such institutions have often used against liberal and leftwing governments in other countries in the past, and it is a pleasant irony to see them used against a US government that has repeatedly boasted of its commitment to security.

**Because the administration has encouraged public adulation of the armed forces, it is hard for the administration to quell protest, even from retired generals, by public defamation and bullying.**

That they have emerged as the most effective opposition to the Bush administration is not a testimony to their ambition but the result of the failure of Congress until now to exercise its constitutional functions of oversight and control, and of the failure of the Democratic party to act as a real opposition in foreign and security policy.

There is certainly a desire among leading Democrats for greater pragmatism and restraint than has been shown by the Bush administration, but the Democrats are no more capable than the Republicans of fundamentally rethinking present US approaches to the world.

**This Democratic party leadership is just as much part of the modern US security establishment as is its Republican equivalent; indeed, it created that establishment under Harry Truman (1945-53), then John F Kennedy (1961-63) and Lyndon Johnson (1963-69).**

The Clinton administration's version of global hegemony was more benign than that of the Republicans, and more committed to the US leadership of alliances rather than unilateral diktats. But it was just as grand in its ambitions.

Both parties share an exceptionalist US nationalism that treats the goodness of US power and the legitimacy of its mission to the world as unquestionable articles of faith.

**The similarity between the parties is unfortunately greatest where it matters most, in the Middle East.**

As Clinton demonstrated, both parties are committed to US hegemony over the region through Israeli supremacy, despite the probability of repeated war that this involves. Both are opposed to any qualification of that hegemony and to any compromise with states that the US establishment defines as rogue.

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to**

contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request.  
Replies confidential.

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **Bush's Citadel Of 'Democracy': "One Small Dot On The Map In Central Baghdad"**

June 17, 2006 Mike Whitney, Uruknet.info [Excerpt]

Three years after Bush's "Mission Accomplished", the U.S. still does not control one inch of territory beyond the pock-marked parapets and block walls of their Baghdad fortress. Even within the Green Zone, security is so stretched that Bush had to be spirited out of the country a mere 5 hours after his arrival.

What does that tell the world about the magnitude of America's failure?

Bush would never have put himself at risk by driving through the battered landscape of downtown Baghdad.

Just like the Iraqi government and the American high-command, his movements were limited to one small dot on the map in central Baghdad; Bush's citadel of "democracy".

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

### **Pakistani Drivers Cheated Out Of Pay; War Profiteers Grab Their Life Insurance And Unpaid Salary If They Are Killed**

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistanis visit Iraq from Kuwait through different companies and are only paid 400 Dinars by their companies instead of agreed

**salary of 2000 Dinars. In the case of any mishap, these companies get the Life Insurance and pending dues are also not paid.**

June 18, 2006 PakTribune.com

KUWAIT: The killing of Pakistani working in Iraq is continuing and in a recent incident another Pakistani named Rasheed Shahid Khan has been killed near Iraqi city, Nasria due to crossing firing.

According to a TV report, deceased who was the resident of Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir is survived by a widow and four sons.

**According to the details, Rasheed Khan who was working in KBR Company as driver sustained injures when on his way to Nasria from Balad city with a convoy and later died on the spot.**

His body was brought to American military base camp Arfajan in Kuwait but the body was not handed over initially to his heirs due to the unavailability of necessary papers but after the gap of one day handed over to them.

The funeral of Rasheed Khan was held in Kuwait attended by his relatives, the Pakistani community and colleagues. His body has been kept in cold room of Health Department and after completion of the remaining process, the body would be send to Pakistan.

"Online" when contacted the Community Welfare Attaché of Pakistan's embassy in Kuwait, Mr. Inam Ghani about the incident, he informed that according to a medial report issued by a Iraqi hospital, the death occurred due to heart attack while his relatives have termed his death as the result of the firing.

**It is pertinent to mention that Pakistanis visit Iraq from Kuwait through different companies and are only paid 400 Dinars by their companies instead of agreed salary of 2000 Dinars.**

**In the case of any mishap, these companies get the Life Insurance and pending dues are also not paid.**

There is also no information about another Pakistani driver Muhammad Shafique who was disappeared in Faluja on 10th of April.

It has been learnt that the company has brought all its vehicles from Iraq including the one which was driven by Muhammad Shafique but there is no information about his fate by his company.

**The friends of Muhammad Shafique feared that he might be murdered and the company in an attempt to save insurance and dues is trying to conceal the facts.**

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# Pentagon Says Iraq Will Be “Haven” For Bush Regime If U.S. Military Leaves “Before Job Is Done”

Jun 16, 2006 Liz Sodoto, The Seattle Times Company

The Pentagon prepared a battle plan for the debate, distributing a highly unusual 74-page "debate prep book" filled with ready-made answers for criticism of the war.

"Iraq will become a haven for terrorists, murderers and thugs," if the United States leaves "before the job is done," the booklet says.

**THUG  
TERRORIST  
MURDERER  
WHITED SEPULCHER  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



Bush, 5.22.06 in Chicago. (AFP/Paul J. Richards)

## **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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))

# To: Anybody Who Thinks The Democratic Party Has Anything Whatever To Do With Stopping The Iraq War

June 15, 2006 AMERICAblog

**The Senate Democrats are calling for the Iraq government not to release any prisoners who have killed or tried to kill American soldiers. The Republicans, I hear, are opposed to the resolution. Why? Apparently they have a soft spot for evil-doers who hate America and kill American soldiers.**

The Dems just issued the following press release:

## **DEMOCRATS FIGHT TO STOP AMNESTY FOR IRAQI TERRORISTS**

Offer Senate resolution demanding reversal and retraction of reported Iraqi proposal

**Washington, DC: Democrats today demanded an immediate retraction and reversal of the reported proposal that terrorists and insurgents who kill American soldiers in Iraq may be granted amnesty by the new Iraqi government.**

**“It is shocking that the Iraqi Prime Minister is reportedly considering granting amnesty to insurgents who have killed U.S. troops,” said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid. “On the day we lost the 2,500th soldier in Iraq, the mere idea that this proposal may go forward is an insult to the brave men and women who have died in the name of Iraqi freedom. I call on President Bush to denounce this proposal immediately.”**

Democrats offered a Resolution demanding that this policy be repudiated, and that President Bush immediately inform the government of Iraq—in the strongest possible terms—that the United States opposes granting amnesty to anyone who attacks American soldiers. The text of the Sense of the Senate resolution is attached below.

“We ask you Prime Minister Maliki, are you willing to have ‘reconciliation’ on the pool of American blood that has been spilled to give your people and your country a chance for

freedom?" said Senator Menendez, a sponsor of the resolution. "We reject that notion and are outraged that the sacrifice of American troops and the American people could be so devalued."

"Terrorists and insurgents shouldn't be rewarded for killing American soldiers," said Senator Bill Nelson, of Florida, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee who also sponsored the resolution.

Four years into a war, the Bush Administration's management of which has been marked by failure and incompetence, the American people expect better than to have American troops killed without threat of punishment. It is time for a change.

Sense of the Senate:

(1) The Iraqi government should not grant amnesty to persons who have attacked, killed, or wounded members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving heroically in Iraq to provide all Iraqis a better future.

(2) President Bush should immediately notify the government of Iraq that the United States government opposes granting amnesty in the strongest possible terms.

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## **Cabinet Secretary Misuses Medical Emergency Jet To Promote Bush's Agenda: Cost To Taxpayers: \$720,000**

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

June 17, 2006 By JOHN COCHRAN, ABC News

Most government VIPs are supposed to fly commercial on official trips. Until this year, the only exceptions were for those involved in national security such as the secretary of defense.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt was not one of those exceptions, until last year, when Congress authorized him to use the jet in certain situations. After the Hurricane Katrina disaster, Congress said Leavitt could use a private jet leased by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during "emergencies and in the days following such emergencies."

The CDC uses the plane to move its people to medical emergencies.

**Leavitt was not supposed to use the jet for normal business travel, but according to Health and Human Services records, he used it to travel to 91 cities this year for**

meetings on health policy and to sell the administration's controversial Medicare drug prescription plan.

Leasing the private jet costs \$3 million a year. In the first five months of 2006 Leavitt's travels cost an additional \$720,000 in hourly charges.

Keith Ashdown from the Washington-based Taxpayers for Common Sense was blunt in his reaction: "This is a gold-plated airplane being used for political purposes."

*Twice this year, the CDC has needed the plane for medical emergencies, but Leavitt was using it. So the CDC had to hire another jet at additional expense.*

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **Iraq War Just Terrific For Oil Company Profits**

June 15, 2006 by Nick Mottern, ConsumersforPeace.org [Excerpt]

**In addition, uncertainty in the world oil market caused by the Iraq War and its unpredictable effects on oil production and shipments from the Middle East have been major factors in pushing oil prices to the \$70 a barrel level, a level that has brought enormous profits to major oil companies.**

**The Iraq War has a key factor resulting in an estimated \$7 billion in unearned war profits for ExxonMobil out of its record \$36 billion profit in 2005, according to Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C.**

We have not obtained estimates of such unearned profits for other oil firms.

However, a report on the cost of the Iraq War, published in January, 2006 by Linda Bilmes, of Harvard University, and Joseph Stiglitz, Noble Prize-winning economist at Columbia University, estimates that \$25 billion was lost by U.S. consumers in 2005 because of oil market conditions traceable directly to the Iraq War.

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## **Sick Flags: Racist Scum At Work**

**[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. He writes: SIX FLAGS TO BLACK: YOUR HAIR IS "UNAMERICAN."]**

Jun 17 The Associated Press

The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating complaints from more than a dozen black employees at a Six Flags theme park who were told their hairstyles were inappropriate.

Jonathan DeLeon, 17, was hired at Six Flags America in Largo, Md., in March to wear the costumes of Sylvester and Daffy Duck. A few weeks later, he said he was told to cut his braids, which were at least 3 feet long.

Though his mother cut more than 2 feet of his hair, park officials were dissatisfied, he said.

"They told me I had to cut them even shorter or go home," DeLeon told The Washington Post.

**"They said they wanted an all-American thing. That's what they said to all the black people. I had already cut it a lot, so I just left."**

**Some employees said they tried to adjust by buying wigs to cover their hair or by paying to have their hair braided into cornrows, but they too were told that the hairstyles were inappropriate.**

**[They don't have any problem grabbing all the cash they can from visitors, however, even if they're wearing fright wigs. They just fuck with the workers.]**

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## **“Police Attacks Have Sparked A Massive Popular Mobilization” “10 Municipal Presidencies Have Been Taken Over”**

June 16, 2006 New Democracy [Excerpt] & Mexico.indymedia.org

To the peoples of the world  
To the people of Mexico  
To the civil society  
To the social political, and humans rights organizations,

Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, June 14 of 2006

**Today, June 14, 2006, on of the most abhorrent manifestations of the exercise of power on behalf of the government has been perpetrated in Mexico.**

**At 4:40 a.m., an act of repression against the social movement in Oaxaca began. At dawn today, state government police forces brutally and violently evacuated teachers who were occupying streets and the central square of downtown Oaxaca. We are speaking of more than fifty thousand teachers.**

Armed federal and state police accompanied by helicopters dropping tear-gas grenades attacked an encampment of teachers in the center of Oaxaca, Mexico.

They also beat other people and destroyed the radio equipment of Radio Plantón, 92.1 F.M., a wireless station that is been continuously transmitting the situation of the teachers movement. This community radio, which has been operating for a year, has played an important role in the transmission of clear and transparent information as it occurs in Oaxaca and our country.

This act is yet another piece of evidence of the repression that governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz has orchestrated against those who disagree with policies that violate human rights and those who stand up to denounce social injustice and the state of siege lived in today.

**There are disappeared teachers, people hurt and intoxicated with tear gases, apprehensions, and domiciliary persecutions. Also mentioned are the death of two children and at least three teachers.**

**After five hours of skirmish, the teachers armed themselves with rocks and sticks and fought back to beginan to re-occupy the central square while "the forces of the order" regroup in other places of the city to reinitiate the aggression.**

**The city's inhabitants are very disturbed and have begun to organize in support of the teachers. Similarly, social organizations are pronouncing themselves against the repression.**

**Due to the destruction of Radio Plantón, groups of students and teachers took over Radio Universidad, the station of the Independent University Benito Juárez of Oaxaca, and are transmitting minute by minute what is happening in the streets of the city.**

**In addition, the University has announced its total support to the teachers, declaring that this conflict has taken on a widespread social character and invites the society in general to join the movement.**

About 70,000 teachers Oaxaca state have been on strike since May 22 and thousands of them have been camping in the city center to press their demands.

The main demands of the teachers are: adjustment of wages according to the cost of the life in Oaxaca; strengthening of support programs to the schools, mainly regarding infrastructure; allowance of equipment and diverse educational materials to students who live in the municipalities of greater marginalization; finally, an end to repression against education workers; clarification on cases of the disappeared; and the liberation of the political prisoners.

For this reason, the teacher's movement, social organizations, and a great number of inhabitants of the city hold the governor of Oaxaca, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz responsible of the chaos and the violence currently affecting the most indigenous state of the country.

**Finally, while a mega-march is being planned for next Friday, the government has sent orders of apprehension to the leadership. We hope to count on your support, and request the most ample circulation of this information.**

The strike is taking place amid increasing state repression against workers and popular activists.

**Apparently the police attacks have sparked a massive popular mobilization.**

**According to one unconfirmed eyewitness report, "In the face of this barbaric repression, more protests have (been) sparked: 10 Municipal Presidencies have been taken over, among which are Juchitán, Zimatlán, Huautla de Jiménez, Teotitlán de Flores Magón, Matías Romero, Huajuapán of Leon, Port Angel and Puerto Escondido.**

**Farmers are marching in from Tuxtepec.**

**Inhabitants of San Salvador Atenco make their way towards the State Capital. The future seems uncertain, but hope grows."**

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

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

[http://robinlea.com/GI\\_Special/](http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/); <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; <http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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