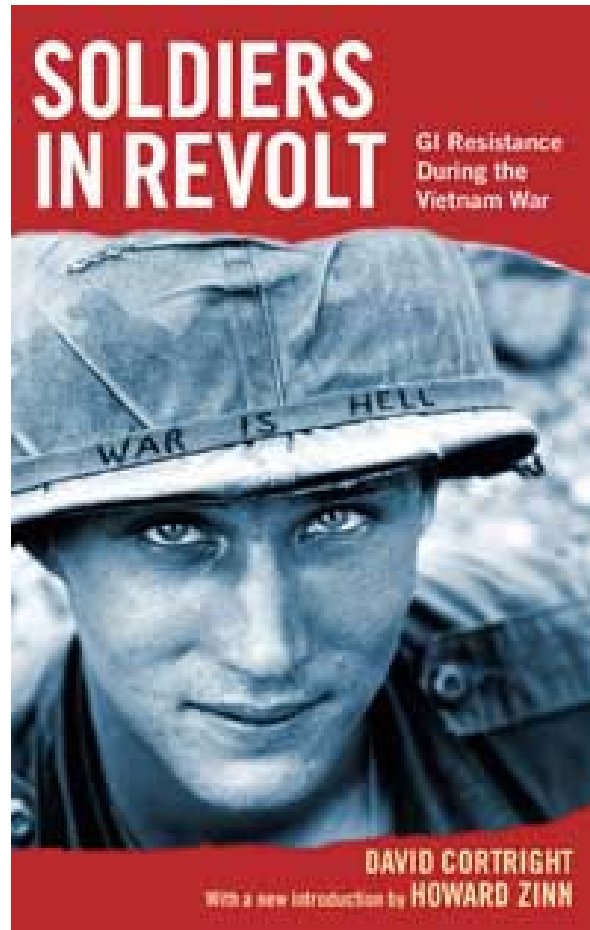


**GI SPECIAL 4J7:**



**ya been took!!**  
**“Daily Revelations Of The  
Treachery Of Their Superiors  
Makes For Some, To Put It  
Mildly, Unruly Troops”**

# **“They Want To Talk About Their Situation And Sometimes I Think They're Surprised That Anyone Is Interested In What They Have To Say”**

They want to talk about their situation and sometimes I think they're surprised that anyone is interested in what they have to say.

Often people in the Anti-War/Peace Movement bombard them with Information, Criticism and a "Holier than Thou" Attitude. I would suggest those well-meaning people take a deep breath and, for the most part, listen to what these brothers and sisters have to say.

From: Stop The War Brigade; stopthewarbgde@hotmail.com  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 03, 2006  
Subject: RE: ya been took!!

I had a plan when I submitted the email about the Rap "Just Say NO" which was published in G.I. Special #4116. One piece at a time.

We have done three raps since 1990. "Just Say NO", "Ya Been Took" & "Hey Joe (George)".

I didn't want to overwhelm people with the so much history. But there is a story to tell here.

**Our work is unique because we concentrate most of our efforts on soldiers who are still in place, on Active-Duty, standing in formation and chowing down at the Mess-Hall.**

**For any number of reasons, even though they hate the war and oppose it, they have chosen to grit it out hoping to survive and come back in one piece.**

Most of these soldiers face death on a daily basis and have a lot of time to contemplate their fate.

They cannot escape the simple fact that some of them will never return and those who do return will have a myriad of afflictions ranging from psychological disorders to serious physical injury.

They exist in an environment where they are forced to strike out at the "enemy" and simultaneously at those in their own ranks. The issues take on a new dimension and suddenly what was important Yesterday has no meaning the following day.

**Daily revelations of the treachery of their superiors makes for some, to put it mildly, unruly troops.**

**They begin to live minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day. Their lives are micro-managed down to a few tenths of a second. Bam!! Who's next?**

**The only way out for them is, quite frankly, Rebellion.**

**That realization is becoming increasingly clear and Nature will run its course.**

**It's inevitable.**

I was talking to some soldiers a few days ago and it's always a pleasure hear their viewpoints.

When I mention that I'm a Viet Nam Vet they really open up.

I'm automatically accepted as one of their own and the flood-gates open.

**They want to talk about their situation and sometimes I think they're surprised that anyone is interested in what they have to say.**

**Often people in the Anti-War/Peace Movement bombard them with Information, Criticism and a "Holier than Thou" Attitude.**

**I would suggest those well-meaning people take a deep breath and, for the most part, listen to what these brothers and sisters have to say.**

Sure, some of them try to justify their actions with weak arguments but, not being fully aware is not a crime, and their learning curve is extremely high.

During our conversation I told them that they were in a no-win situation.

They offered no rebuttal.

I might add that some of these soldiers have been "down Range".

**Any US soldier who's sent to fight in this so-called "War on Terror" is on a Suicide Mission. Point Blank.**

**That's where we dig in.**

In 1991, an Active-Duty Soldier at that time and a member of the Just Say NO Posse, Stephen B. Maskall, wrote the sequel to the rap "Just Say No".

We were all impressed with his deft writing style and his ability to get to the heart of the issue. He was well-known to all of the soldiers at his installation. He was the local DJ at the club and went by the name G.I. Jack. He is also a great composer and musician.

Ciao,  
Darnell Stephen Summers; STWB

Here it is:

# ya been took!!

Inflation, bad enough it's blowing my concentration  
to continue my fight for education  
so i can maintain a decent occupation  
not a drug operation.

so me and my homey  
joined the army, the service  
make dollars, "be all that you can be"  
do some traveling,  
see the world for free  
what suckers were we.

a year and a half has passed  
of being yelled at,  
cussed at and getting gassed.  
they got me by the collar.  
is this what i signed up for  
to make dollars?  
and to make matter worse  
they sent me to the desert  
my homey went back in a hearse.

stop the naked aggression  
but the killing machine  
as always it seems, has its collection of  
jokers, misfits, has-beens and such.  
but to the man it doesn't matter too much.  
getting caught like a fish on a hook.

ya been took!!

A militant brother with a mind  
the one of a kind the class,  
the mass of brass  
does find to be dangerous  
in today's society they put us in "combats"  
kill us all for free.  
now if I shot a man today,  
guaranteed life in the can.

take me away!!

so where does it justify a man  
with a gun and a salary  
becoming the part of a shooting gallery?  
common sense you achieved can be lost  
not to mention your life,  
at your own cost.  
just like in chess ,  
they grabbed your last rook.

ya been took!!

So now the battle is done  
but the war goes on.  
keep up the fight before you're gone.  
and what about all the casualties,  
you think the man will give a damn  
about you and me?  
you're a fool if you think so.  
remember the last show? Just Say NO!!

yeah, you know we ruffled some feathers then,  
and now we're back again  
with a new word my friend.  
don't be taken or your faith will be shaken  
and whatever you hold true  
will be fake and phony  
just like the lie that they told me  
"the life in the army is the one and only"

guess i had stupid on my face  
and the "judas goat" got me.  
but that ain't the case today.  
the wool is off my eyes  
and now i realize they was nothing but lies.

in the rear the copped an attitude  
but then they had to cool it.  
'cause there were some crazy brothers out there  
who had a bullet or two.  
the brass knew it  
so they put on a mask,  
and took up the task  
to pat me on the back.

**but who asked you to substitute  
for my friend killed in wartime?  
his chance for life is gone,  
but i'm getting mine.**

**and as the anger explodes out my head  
beside his graveside just to see him dead.  
you were never there to witness his life end.  
you give his family money they can't even spend.  
the grief, the pain and the suffering,**

**your dirty money can't even begin to the loving  
for the feelings of his girl, the feelings of his kid  
you aint even aware of the pain that you did  
and while his girl is pulling her hair  
you're worried about your quota and  
getting another sucker out there.**

**but this one will be a little smarter,  
use his wits to play a little harder to get.  
but when the "goat" gets the contract keep in mind,  
he don't care about you just his behind.  
but when you raise your right hand,  
give him a look, the finger, and then book.**

**before you get took.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Text: Stephen B. Maskall

Music: Just Say NO Posse

p.s. I perform part of this rap in a play, "Wallenstein" by Friedrich Schiller

The play has been adapted to the current world situation and supplants the original characters with people out of real life. It's a brilliant undertaking.

The play is the work of a progressive collective of Directors by the name of "Rimini-Protokoll" (Helgard Haug, Stefan Kaegi & Daniel Wetzel)."

Dave Blalock, a good friend, colleague and member of the Stop The WAR Brigade is also in the cast. His performance is breath-taking by all critical accounts.

The play was voted one of the ten best plays in the German speaking area of Europe(Germany, Switzerland & Austria) of 2005 and is still being performed on stage and is being made into full length movie.

**Incidentally, Frederick Douglas called Friedrich Schiller the "Voice of Freedom".**

Coming soon, a little background on "Hey Joe (George)"

"Stop The WAR Brigade"

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Soldier Killed Near Bayji**

07 October 2006 MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ COMBINED PRESS INFORMATION CENTER Release A061007b

Tikrit, Iraq: A Multi-National Division-North Soldier assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., died Friday, Oct. 6, as a result of enemy action while conducting operations near the city of Bayji.

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### **New York Marine Killed in Iraq**

September 26, 2006 WIVB

Another Buffalo native has died in Iraq. Marine Lance Corporal Howard March, Junior was killed Sunday while battling enemy forces in the Al-Aanbar province. News 4's George Richert spoke to his family Tuesday afternoon.

Lisa Leeper said, "He was a very, very good boy, loving, protective, just a good boy."

Lisa Leeper of North Buffalo has lost her only son. Twenty year old Lance Corporal Howard March, Jr. was killed on Sunday while serving in the Anbar province of Iraq, where the second Battalion 8th Marine Regiment routinely did roadside vehicle inspections.

Leeper said, "He was a wonderful decisive young man who knew what he wanted to do with his life and he did it."

He and his best friend joined the Marines right after they graduated from Hutch Tech two years ago.

The body of Lance Corporal Howard March, Jr. will arrive Wednesday afternoon at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and then be flown to Western New York this weekend.

Funeral plans have not been finalized.

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# Friends From Central Illinois Killed In Iraq

[Thanks to Max Watts, GI Resistance organizer, who sent this in.]

Oct. 05, 2006 Associated Press

**Two friends from this central Illinois town who played together in their high school band before serving together in Iraq have been killed in action, their families said.**

Army Specialists George Obourn Jr. and Kristofer Walker, both 20, graduated in 2004 from East Peoria Community High School, where officials say they will be honored Friday night during the school's homecoming game against Pekin.

"I have just so much pride, I just, I can't even explain it," Obourn's father, George Obourn Sr., told WGN-TV Thursday evening. "They went over there knowing what they were getting into. They enlisted freely, and they wanted to be there, and they wanted to be doing their part. ... They said they wanted to go over and contribute to serving our country."

George Obourn Sr. and his wife, Debbie, now live in Naperville.

The soldier's families said they were notified of the casualties this week. Walker's father, Kevin Walker, said he was told by the military that his son was killed by an improvised explosive devise, but did not know when or where it happened. "We are proud of his service there," Kevin Walker said.

"They were good students in school, quite active with the band. It is our understanding they joined (the Army) together," East Peoria Superintendent Cliff Cobert said.

High school Principal Paul Whittington said the pair joined the band as freshman, with Walker playing the trombone and Obourn playing the trumpet.

"They were quiet kids," Whittington said. "They were the kind of students who blended in. They weren't students you saw in the principal's office a lot."

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**DISHONORABLE WAR:  
DISHONORABLE TACTICS:  
NO SANE JUSTIFICATION FOR BEING IN THIS  
PLACE AT THIS TIME:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



**A U.S. soldier from Alfa company 1-17 regiment of the 172th brigade confronts Iraqi citizens, mostly children, gathering where a U.S. armored vehicle got stuck in a ditch, in eastern Baghdad, Oct. 3, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic)**

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## **Marine Wounded In Iraq**



**LANCE CPL. DALE DUNFORD II Submitted Photo / The Star Beacon**

October 04, 2006 By ELLEN KOLMAN, Staff Writer, The Star Beacon

**JEFFERSON - -** On Sept. 24, just 10 days after being deployed to Iraq, Jefferson native Lance Cpl. Dale Dunford II, of the U.S. Marine Corps, was wounded in action by a sniper's bullet.

Dunford, 19, is expected to make a full recovery. He's recuperating from his wounds in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

"At Al Anbar, a province in western Iraq, I was called up onto a roof to help watch and provide security when a sniper shot me in the shoulder," Dunford said, Tuesday, during a telephone interview from Kaneohe Bay.

"At first, I didn't know what actually happened. I fell onto the roof and thought there had been an explosion," he said. "After I was dragged away to safety, I realized I must have been shot."

The bullet broke into three parts upon impact. One part exited the left side of his neck, a second part was removed later from the back of his neck, and the last piece remains where it is lodged in his neck, Dunford said.

"The doctor told me the third piece needs to stay because it would do more damage to remove it," he said.

Dunford endured surgery to remove the one of the bullet pieces while still in Iraq. He then was flown to Ramstein Air Force Base, in Germany, for a couple of days to recover from surgery and to change his dressings. From there, he was flown back to the base at Kaneohe Bay, Dunford said.

Meanwhile, a USMC spokesman called at 11:15 p.m. Sept. 30, to tell Dunford's family members that they could join their son in Hawaii.

"Everything moved so fast. We got the call and immediately left for the Cleveland airport," said Dunford's mother, Kim Dunford of Jefferson.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Canadian Soldier Killed In Panjwai**

10/07/06 Reuters

Insurgents attacked a NATO patrol in Afghanistan on Saturday, killing a Canadian soldier in a southern district that the alliance said had been cleared of Taliban fighters after a two-week offensive last month.

The NATO patrol was hit by a bomb and small-arms fire in Panjwai district, about 25 km (15 miles) west of the city of Kandahar.

A spokeswoman for Canadian forces in southern Afghanistan, Lieutenant Sue Stefko, said the soldier was killed by the bomb blast.

NATO forces mounted a two-week offensive in September to clear hundreds of entrenched Taliban from Panjwai. **[So much for that.]**

The commander of NATO's Afghan force, General David Richards, said the Taliban had probably suffered their greatest single defeat since 2001 in the operation. A NATO commander said about 1,000 Taliban had been killed.

The Taliban dismissed that, saying they had suffered far fewer casualties.

Hours after the ambush, a car bomb exploded near an ISAF patrol on the outskirts of the eastern city of Khost, causing minor damage to a vehicle, police said.

It was the third attack in Khost since NATO took command of the province and the rest of the east from a U.S.-led coalition force on Thursday.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**“We Write On Behalf Of Fellow  
Active Duty Service Members To  
Ask You To Engage In A World-  
Wide Effort To End The U.S.  
Occupation Of Iraq And Bring Our  
Troops Home”**

From: Appeal  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 07, 2006

**We write on behalf of fellow active duty service members to ask you to engage in a world-wide effort to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq and bring our troops home.**

**As active duty members of the Navy and Marine Corps, we took an oath to defend our country against all enemies foreign and domestic. Almost four years after the start of the current Iraq War, our country and service-members are in a quagmire which has claimed thousands of American lives, permanently injured and mangled thousands more service-members, has cost our country over 300 billion tax-payer dollars and has diverted much needed resources from home-land security, jobs, education and the American way of life.**

Under the Military Whistle-blower Protection Act (DOD directive 7050.6) all military members have a right to send a protected communication to a member of Congress. Our goal is to organize thousands of active duty members throughout the world to file appeals with supporting Congress-persons. The language of this appeal is simple and states:

As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for U.S. troops to come home.

**These appeals can be sent on-line at [www.appealforredress.org](http://www.appealforredress.org). There is information on the website on mailing the appeals in as well.**

**This project is supported by a national task force comprised of veterans peace organizations including Veterans For Peace (VFP), Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and Military Families Speak Out (MFSO).**

**All questions and inquiries on this project can be directed to Opio Sokoni at (360) 241-1414. You can also email him at [osokoni@yahoo.com](mailto:osokoni@yahoo.com).**

Thanks and we shall overcome one day!

**In solidarity,**

**Seaman Jonathan W. Hutto, Sr.  
United States Navy**

**Sergeant Liam Madden  
United States Marine Corps**

**Dr. David Cortright  
United States Army Veteran  
President of the Fourth Freedom Forum**



## Appeal for Redress

from the War in Iraq

**A**s a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for U.S. troops to come home.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Nonmilitary Email \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Duty station \_\_\_\_\_ Home zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Duty status:**

Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Active Reserve or Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Inactive Reserve or Guard \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you served in the Iraq theater?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Service Branch:**

Navy \_\_\_\_\_ Army \_\_\_\_\_ Marines \_\_\_\_\_ Air Force \_\_\_\_\_ Coast Guard \_\_\_\_\_

**Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature**

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**Nature of Grievance:**

- The fabricated justification for war (nonexistent weapons of mass destruction)
- The failure to provide troops adequate protection and preparation for combat
- The human cost in thousands of deaths and severe injuries among American service members
- The economic cost to American taxpayers and diversion of resources from other priorities (inadequate response to Katrina, etc.)

*The information submitted will be sent to members of Congress and the Senate. The information you supply to Appeal for Redress will not be released to any other person or organization.*

**Complete and sign form and return to: Appeal for Redress, P.O. Box 53052, Washington, DC 20009-3052**

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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 or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

## No Court-Martial For Iraq Combat Veteran Who Refused More Iraq Occupation Duty: “I Am Proud To Be A Resister Of This War”



Darrell Anderson (L) talks to Iraq Veterans Against The War member Joshua DeSpain (R), who served in Iraq, before a news conference at the Colvin Community Center in Radcliff, Kentucky, October 3, 2006. Anderson, who served in Iraq, went AWOL to Canada rather than return to participate in what he views as a war without justification. REUTERS/John Sommers II (UNITED STATES)

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

October 6, 2006 The Courier-Journal

Army Spc. Darrell Anderson, who drew wide attention for deserting the Army rather than face a possible second tour in Iraq, was released Friday from Fort Knox and is expected to be discharged without a court-martial, his lawyer said.

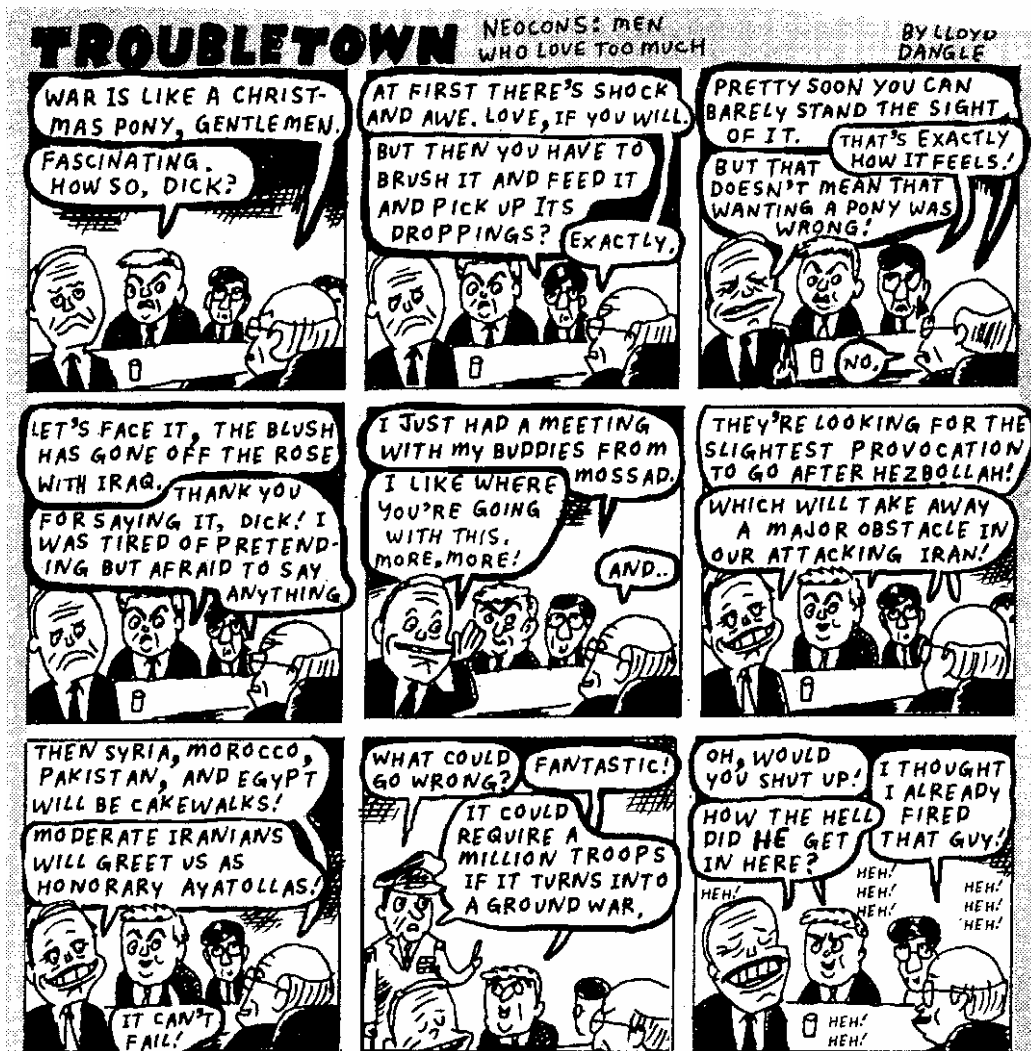
“It’s really great he doesn’t have to face a court-martial,” said his attorney, Jim Fennerty of Chicago. “I’m all excited, he’s excited.”

Fennerty said Anderson expected to receive papers within 30 days formally giving him a less-than-honorable discharge.

Anderson, 24, turned himself in at Fort Knox on Tuesday, almost two years after fleeing to Canada.

He said he could not return to a war he believes is immoral.

"I am proud to be a resister of this war," Anderson said on Tuesday. He served in the 1st Armored Division and received a Purple Heart after being wounded in Iraq.



## Reasons To Like Joel Zumaya

[Thanks to Katherine G, Military Project, who sent this in.]

October 6, 2006 By JOE LAPOINTE, The New York Times Company

The phrase "he had blood in his eye" is usually a figurative expression suggesting aggression. For Joel Zumaya yesterday, it was also a statement of fact.

Zumaya, a rookie reliever, retired all five Yankees hitters he faced in a 4-3 victory for the Detroit Tigers at Yankee Stadium, striking out Derek Jeter, Jason Giambi and Alex Rodriguez. The Tigers evened their best-of-five American League division series at 1-1.

Vance Wilson, the Tigers' backup catcher, said of Zumaya in late August: "On just strict talent alone, he's got the best arm I've ever caught. It's a heavy ball."

Wilson said the challenge was to control Zumaya's emotions. That can be difficult, especially in Detroit, because the fans get excited when Zumaya jogs in to "Voodoo Child" by Jimi Hendrix.

*He originally asked the Tigers to play an antiwar anthem, "B.Y.O.B." by System of a Down, but the team would not because the song includes profane language.*

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **"The Cause Of All The Misery In This Country Is America"**

Oct 7, 2006 By Abdul Saboor, (Reuters) [Excerpts]

The anniversary of the start of the U.S.-led offensive is not being marked in Afghanistan. Most people are not aware of it.

"Since the Americans invaded Afghanistan there has been no change to the lives of ordinary Afghans, especially security," said Kabul resident Qayoom Khan.

"The cause of all the misery in this country is America."

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</b></p>
--

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

11:27

10.7.06 by Mujahid Mohammed, AFP & (Reuters)

Police in the northern town of Tall Afar said an attacker ran a lorry laden with explosives into a house being used by soldiers as an observation post, killing four soldiers and wounding four more.

"This army post was set up after the last battles of Tall Afar in spring. It's not well guarded and that's why there was a lot of casualties," said Tall Afar police chief Brigadier General Sabah al-Mohammedawi.

Defence spokesman Ibrahim Shagr said the blast followed a similar attack on Thursday on Tall Afar military recruitment centre that had killed two people and wounded 11.

**In March, US President George W. Bush praised a US-led security operation designed to regain control of the town and boasted that Tall Afar "is today a free city that gives reason for hope for a free Iraq."**

A group of guerrillas attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint wounding four soldiers near the small town of Ishaqi, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad on Friday. A security source said one attacker was killed.

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

# **CASEY AT BAGH-DAD**

**From: Don Bacon; smedleybutlersociety@msn.com**

To: GI Special

Sent: October 06, 2006

Subject: CASEY AT BAGH-DAD

By Don Bacon:

**The outlook isn't bright  
for the coalition forces this year.  
For a long three years Iraqis have held Baghdad  
with seemingly nothing to fear.**

**Shock and Awe was mission accomplished,  
the sign behind the President read.  
Iraqi resistance? "My answer is bring 'em on"  
our fearless leader said.**

Baghdad is an ancient and storied place,  
with many centers of antiquity.  
Its suburbs include Abu Ghraib, Adhamiya,  
Kadhimain, Karradah Sharqiyah, Mamoon and Sadr City.

The Iraqi army was defeated there,  
April ninth in oh-three,  
But then regular Iraqis took control,  
and now people must fight or flee.

In June *Operation Together Forward* was announced  
by the new Iraqi Prime Minister,  
as if he could really command,  
or had the freedom to administer.

The operation was a failure,  
with more and more GIs and Iraqis dying,  
As the Islamic militias strengthened their hold,  
there was no more use in trying.

But wait! There's hope for us yet,  
perhaps the situation's not so bad,  
General Casey, mighty Casey,  
will he be taking control of Baghdad?

There was ease in Casey's manner  
as he moved to his rightful place,  
There was pride in Casey's bearing  
and confidence on his face.

Casey said that the next six months will be decisive,  
and will determine Iraq's fate.  
What a man! What a call!  
Inspirational and moving, and none other could speak as great.

Except maybe Casey himself,  
in his last bogus pre-election prediction.  
"We'll have the majority of the country pacified by New Year's"  
was that years fiction.

Oh someday in Iraq there will be freedom,  
when people can do as they please.  
Their oil and water will be theirs,  
and they won't be brought to their knees.

But 'til then there will be airstrikes,  
cluster bombs and depleted uranium,  
Kidnapping, shooting and torture,  
and other forms of military mayhem.

Until men like General Casey learn

what to the rest of us is plain,  
You can't militarily pacify a foreign land--  
it's Vietnam all over again.

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## MAIL ABOUT A PHOTOGRAPH

[GI Special 4J5 ran this article. Two letters have been received concerning it. They appear below the original article. T]

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE:

## A Letter From A Blind Major



**Spc. Jarrod Nordby, of Charlie Company, 4-23 Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, between missions near Rabea'a, Iraq, on June 27. The**

**bulk of the 172nd Brigade was still in Iraq when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld last month extended their deployment.** Overall, the brigade has about 3,900 troops. (AP Photo/U.S. Air Force, Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey)

## **“Weapons Safety Under Fire”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
October 02, 2006

**A photograph [above]** of a soldier assigned to the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team is shown on page 8 of the Aug. 28 Army Times.

The specialist is resting with his head on the butt of the weapon and the muzzle-bore in the dirt.

I sure hope he cleaned his weapon and cleared the bore before going on his next combat mission.

Once more, we see how basic weapons handling and weapons safety is ignored. This violation could result in a weapons malfunction when firepower is needed, and thus, unwarranted casualties.

Maj. Doug Rokke (ret.)

**[First, the Maj. mentions “dirt”, implying earth or soil, which could plug the weapon. The surface is, obviously, paved. One may see scratches on the surface of the paving. Duh. Second, more to the point, that’s what comes to the Majors’ mind when he sees this photo? Nothing about the soldier, the human in the uniform? He’s blind to that too. The Major might as well be expressing his views of some piece of machinery as risk of malfunction. Typical. T]**

## **Letter #1**

# **“I’m Going To Have To Side With Major Doug Rokke, (USA Ret) On This Issue Of Weapons Handling”**

From: David Honish, Veteran  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 06, 2006  
Subject: Re: GI Special #4J5

I dunno T, think I'm going to have to side with Major Doug Rokke, (USA ret) on this issue of weapons handling. Sure the GI in the photo was having a bad day at the office, but

sloppy weapons handling can only make that bad day worse. It doesn't take much dirt to obstruct the bore of the .22 caliber M-16 / M-4. Firing with an obstructed bore can cause the rifle to blow up, injuring the shooter. Not being able to fire a dirty weapon when one needs to in Iraq can have some pretty severe health consequences as well.

Additionally, resting a firearm on the muzzle is never a good idea, as any marring of the muzzle crown can adversely affect the accuracy of the weapon. Then there is the matter of possible accidental discharges. If somebody screws up and accidentally loses a 5.56mm round with a muzzle velocity of about 3100 fps, my preference would be to have it go up in the air away from friendlies instead of ricocheting or splattering in the dirt near friendlies.

I think you owe the former Major an apology on this one. Were you aware that Doug Rokke was the Depleted Uranium expert for the Army, who was exposed to DU in Iraq while evaluating the radiation hazard it posed after Gulf War I? While his health has suffered from DU exposure, I don't think that his eyesight has. As a civilian he has been an expert witness for DU victims, and has testified before Congress on the issue. He's one of the good guys, and is on our side. Let us not divide our forces against the real enemy, which is the Bush administration.

## **Letter #2**

### **“Major Dumb Shit**

From: Soldier X [veteran]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: October 06, 2006 12:05 AM  
Subject: Major Dumb Shit

If this commander was at all concerned for the welfare of his men and the success of his mission his letter should read as follows.

“The specialist is resting with his head on the butt of the weapon and the muzzle-bore in the dirt. Obviously the soldier is suffering from a great deal of stress and depression to neglect his weapon in such a way.

“However since my main priority is the well-being of my soldiers, and not his expendable equipment, I sure hope Spc. Nordby received face to face therapy provided by a mental healthcare professional and the proper amount of rest and relaxation before going on his next combat mission.”

“Once more, we see how basic leadership failed and safety is ignored. This violation could result in the soldier experiencing compound trauma that will result in long term disorders when he returns home after he served his country honorably.”

Signed

"a better commander than Doug Rokke (ret.)"  
Soldier X

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# **“While Masquerading As The ‘Party Of The People,’ The Democrats Stand For ‘Plan B,’ That Is, Corporate America's Alternative”**

By TODD CHRETIEN, September/October 2006 International Socialist Review [Excerpt

**Lest there be any doubt about the Democrats' belief in American control of the Middle East, Israel's war on Palestine and Lebanon is clearing that up.**

In mid-July, the Senate voted 100 to 0 to support Israel's attacks on Hamas and Hezbollah and the House voted 410 to 8 to do the same.

**Russ Feingold's support of Israel's war points out how little difference there really exists among the Democratic leadership. In the House, even Barbara Lee and Dennis Kucinich, the heroes of the Progressive Democrats of America, abstained on the vote. Apparently the popular Bay Area saying, “Barbara Lee speaks for me” (coined after her lone vote against the invasion of Afghanistan) does not apply to Palestinians and Lebanese people.**

**When Iraqi puppet prime minister Nouri al-Maliki came to Washington in July, Democrats leapt at the chance to demonstrate their allegiance to Israeli militarism. Nancy Pelosi denounced al-Maliki for not condemning Hezbollah and Howard Dean called him an anti-Semite for not being sufficiently hostile to Iran.**

“The senator (Lieberman) and I are both committed to Israel's well-being,” [Ned] Lamont remarked recently during an appearance on the Colbert Report.

He then criticized Lieberman for supporting the occupation in Iraq to the detriment of focusing on Iran: “A bolder Iran makes Israel even more vulnerable.”

While Republicans continue to raise more money than Democrats, the gap is much narrower this year as big money and big business decides to hedge its bets.

The shift includes backers of the Republican Party in the insurance, pharmaceuticals and tobacco industries, such as American International Group, Wyeth, and Reynolds American, according to PoliticalMoneyLine, a nonpartisan tracker of campaign contributions.

Most companies say they give political donations to candidates who support their businesses, regardless of party affiliation. But corporations also tend to channel funds to politicians they think will hold power. So any shift in corporate campaign giving toward Democrats could signal that businesses believe Democrats will have more sway in Washington after the 2006 midterm elections or the 2008 presidential contest.

This only goes to show that while masquerading as the “party of the people,” the Democrats stand for “Plan B,” that is, Corporate America's alternative when their preferred Republicans can't sell their program any longer.

The contradiction that the Democrats face is that they stand the best chance of winning elections if they criticize the war, yet as a party they are committed to winning in Iraq, not losing.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Alfa company 1-17 regiment of the 172th brigade orders Iraqi women and children to sit on their kitchen floor while other occupation troops search through their personal belongings in their own home in eastern Baghdad, Oct. 3, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic)

[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, make them sit on their floors while others trash their belongings, butcher their families at checkpoints, 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 charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab 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? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org) or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Al Qaeda Wants Bush To Stay The Course: “Prolonging The War Is In Our Interest”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

October 06, 2006 By Dan Murphy, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

**In appearances across the US, President Bush has been campaigning against withdrawing troops from Iraq, arguing that to leave now would hand a historic victory to Al Qaeda and inspire new generations of jihadists to attack the US.**

**But a letter that has been translated and released by the US military indicates that Al Qaeda itself sees the continued American presence in Iraq as a boon for the terror network, which has recently shown signs of expanding into the Palestinian territories and North Africa.**

**"The most important thing is that the jihad continues with steadfastness ... indeed, prolonging the war is in our interest," says the writer, who goes by the name Atiyah.**

The letter, released last week, was recovered in the rubble of the Iraqi house where Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, former leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, was killed by a US bomb in June.

If the letter is accurate, it provides a window into the group's strategic thinking on Iraq that differs starkly from the one the Bush administration has been expressing publicly - a view the president reiterated Wednesday when he said that Al Qaeda believes that "America is weak, and if they can kill enough innocent people we'll retreat. That's precisely what they want."

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## **2,715 GI's Dead in Iraq and Rancid Puke Trent Lott Says "Who Cares?"**

Oct 5, 2006 By M.J. Rosenberg, Tpmcafe.com [Excerpt]

The brouhaha over Trent Lott's stupid comment about how Shiites and Sunnis look the same obscured the old confederate's far more sickening comment. This is from CNN.

**"President Bush barely mentioned the war in Iraq when he met with Republican senators behind closed doors in the Capitol Thursday morning and was not asked about the course of the war, Sen. Trent Lott, R-Mississippi, said. "No, none of that," Lott told reporters after the session when asked if the Iraq war was discussed.**

**"You're the only ones who obsess on that."**

**"We don't and the real people out in the real world don't for the most part."**

### **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))**

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# Chile: June 2006 The Kids Rebel: [And Shame The “Adults”] Mass Student Protests The Biggest Movement Since Pinochet

International Socialist Review, September/October 2006

*The following is an eyewitness report from FEDERICO MORENO, a member of the International Socialist Organization living in Argentina, who traveled to Chile in solidarity with the student movement.*

I WAS there for the climactic mobilization on June 5, before the whole thing started calming down. It was pretty crazy because Chile is still heavily militarized, and the repression is outright and brutal.

**That Monday (June 5) there were clashes all day. In the morning there were barricades. Street battles literally all day. Towards the evening, people tried to gather on the Alameda (the main thoroughfare) and it was a constant coming and going.**

**We would gather, the police would shoot their water cannon and we would run. Some would run into lines of carabineros (military police), get beaten up, and thrown into a police wagon. We would gather again (there would be more people), they would repress and disperse us again...we would gather again....**

**More than the protests, what was most exciting were the occupations.**

**Literally, on every other block you would see a wall that looked like a medieval fortress.**

**At the high schools, the kids had taken out the tables and chairs and propped them against the fences with the legs sticking out. Some had even sharpened the legs. At every school there were 40—100 kids permanently there.**

**They had gotten used to routine attacks by cops or Nazis, and had a twenty-four-hour rotating watch. Kids on the roof and behind the gates, with boxes of prepared Molotovs, rocks, and clubs. I even saw a kid with a paintball gun at one school. We're talking 15 or 16-year-old kids.**

**At one school, there was an elementary school kid, eleven years old...at the assembly (at every school we stopped at in our long tours that went on into the night, they would call an immediate assembly to hear us out and discuss things with us) talking down the LOCE, neoliberalism with incredible clarity.**

### **Eleven years old!**

The level of politicization and radicalization was incredible, and without the baggage of left jargon... it was clear that these kids weren't taking theory to practice...but arriving at a Marxist analysis from their experience.

I realized this at one occupation, where the kids had been there with little to eat and no heating for a month, weariness and low spirits were visible. At one point in the assembly, someone asked if the whole of what they were fighting for was even possible, because Bachelet had said there wasn't enough money.

We began to explain that the price of one of the jets the government had just bought, or 2 percent of the extra money given to the armed forces last year, or .02 percent of the copper royalties were each enough to pay for the entire list of demands.

(We argued that) the money is there, but that the government serves the interests of another class, and so winning is possible but only by fighting to tear the money away from them, as we had already seen in the recent retreats from "there's no money for anything" to "PSU and passes for free for 4/5 of students"

The kids said "Yeah." They saw it, they understood immediately and you could see how their spirits were lifted significantly by the time we left.

**In Valparaiso, we stayed a couple of days at the occupied university. The stories they told of the fights with cops and Nazis were serious street battle images.**

**At one point, a cop tank smashed a student into a gate, shattering his pelvis, yet the rain of Molotovs and bricks from the roof meant the cops have always had to retreat.**

**Here, too, there were twenty-four-hour watches at the gates of each faculty, escorts of four students with clubs for anyone wanting to go from one faculty to another. We chased off a car of Nazis one night.**

**It really is a massive movement.**

**I've never seen anything with this level of massive radicalization.**

Imagine this... at one point a small group of socialists got a call in their office from a student from a Catholic high school. The students got their number from a little flier the socialists had distributed.

The student asked for help to occupy his school. Six of them came to the office and ended up asking if they could organize the occupation there at the office.

So the next day, 100 students showed up at the office and, by the end of the week, they had occupied their school.

### **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://gispecial.iraq-news.de>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

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

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