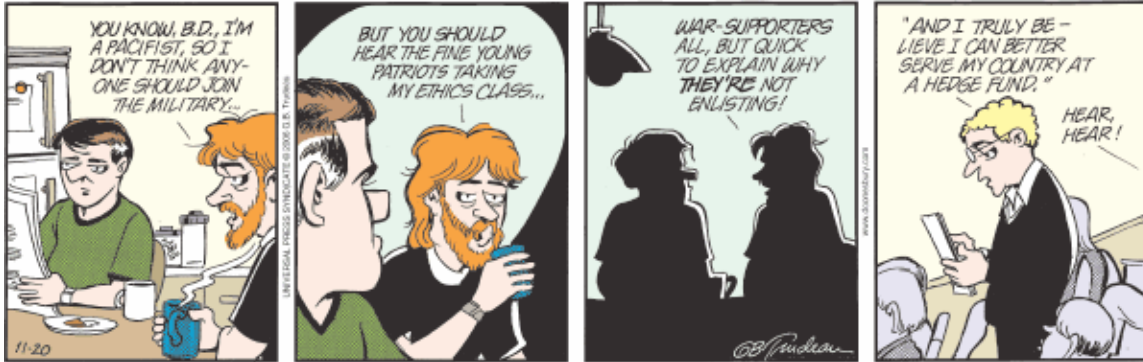


## GI SPECIAL 4K20:



# ***Criticism:*** **“You Have No Support For The Troops In Harms Way”** **“Remember We Are There For You”**

From: Brandon Crocker  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006 5:46 PM  
Subject: response to GI special

Good Evening Sir:

I was searching for an article that was written and found the GI special and was hoping you were the person I can respond to. My name is HM3(FMF) Brandon Crocker. I am the Navy Corpsman that the article in your newsletter was written about. I just wanted to let you know that what you are doing and saying has a couple good points.

**There are a lot of crappy things to the war and as members of the armed services we do have an opinion of whether the war is necessary or not, but do keep in mind that we signed the contract knowing that there is a possibility of war and we know the consequences.**

The reason why we are able to go to war and accept what happens is because we know that what we are doing is keeping everyone back home safe. I personally would go back and do it again if it meant keeping my family safe.

My family supports me on my decision even though they don't agree with it. I believe that it is the persons right to believe in the war or not but by advertising your negative feelings constantly shows that you have no support for the troops in harms way and remember we are there for you.

Thank you for listening.

***Response:***  
**“While In Iraq I Was Convinced,  
As I Am Now, That The  
Presence Of US Troops Was  
Only Making The Situation  
There Worse And More  
Dangerous”**

11.19.06 By Jeff Englehart, Former Specialist, Recon; 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division

To Brandon Crocker,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on a healthy and expedient recovery from injuries that you received while in Iraq.

**I think that you, as a combat medic, are of the noblest of all soldiers fighting on the front lines of history. Your services to your fellow man and your safeguard for life while mired in the chaos of war are awe-inspiring to say the least. While your heroics on the battlefield do not always receive the praise they deserve, I can honestly say from one former soldier to another that they are appreciated and respected dearly.**

Thank you for your input on GI SPECIAL.

**You mention in your letter that “advertising...negative feelings constantly shows that you have no support for the troops”, somehow insinuating that expressing antiwar sentiment is somehow detrimental to the well being of the soldier in Iraq.**

**I would have to strongly disagree.**

**There seems to be a common misconception of what supporting the troops really means. The military, the conservative Right, and especially this administration, are bent on convincing the American public that to support the troops, one must support the mission.**

**Simply put, to support the troops, one must support keeping troops in a misguided, disastrous and dangerous war.**

**The antiwar movement completely rejects this sort of inane mentality.**

The primary reason why many Americans support a withdrawal of troops is because so many soldiers are coming home distraught, severely injured, or in body bags.

**The fact that the war was started under false pretensions and is now seen as a bloody massacre with no end in sight is exactly the reason why an American withdrawal is now a popular sentiment.**

**While in Iraq I was convinced, as I am now, that the presence of US troops was only making the situation there worse and more dangerous.**

The idea of a foreign-western military trapped in a conflict between three warring factions in a Middle Eastern country was doomed from the start. The fact that the same soldiers are sent over and over to a jaded mission only to see the security of that region degrade more and more with each passing day is saddening.

The fact that the Bush administration ignores military leadership and continues to “Stay the course” with no solid plan for victory in Iraq only displays a rare kind of callous ignorance and is outrageous to say the least.

**Criminal acts of war profiteering within the military-industrial complex and the infringement of civil rights back home notwithstanding, perhaps the greatest injustice of all is the death of nearly 3,000 US troops and an estimated 650,000 innocent civilians in Iraq.**

**This is why I for one support a complete withdrawal of troops immediately!**

Please do not confuse antiwar sentiment with not supporting the troops. On the contrary, there is a huge difference between supporting the feverously greedy plans of corrupt leadership and supporting the honest well being and true intentions of our own men and women in uniform.

**Supporting the troops means removing them from doing the dirty work in a criminal war and embracing the veteran once s/he returns home.**

Supporting the troops means reaching out to them and helping them to cope with the harsh realities to which they are exposed.

Supporting the troops means guaranteeing them adequate health care once they return, and providing them the means for a promising future for them and their families.

**Supporting the troops means using them as an instrument of democracy, as defenders of true freedom and liberty, and not as hit-men for wealthy elitists.**

As citizens, it is our job to ensure that a corrupt government is not allowed to abuse it's ability to deploy troops for maniacal agendas; that it is our responsibility to use such force only when it is absolutely necessary for the defense of humanity, and not for preemptive bullying in third world nations.

Anything else would be betraying the trust of the soldier!

I wish you the best in your recovery and a warm welcome home.

The progressive and ever-growing Iraq Veterans Against War is an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran membership-organization, dedicated to the unconditional support for soldiers and veterans, while voicing opposition to the wars in which they fought. For more information about IVAW visit [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

Jeff Englehart



**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**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED**

20 November 2006 Multi-National Corps Iraq PAO RELEASE No. 20061120-02

BAGHDAD: A Soldier from 89th Military Police Brigade was killed by injuries sustained when his vehicle struck an Improvised Explosive Device southeastern Baghdad at approximately 8 p.m. Nov. 18.

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## **Marine Killed In Al Anbar**

20 November 2006 Multi-National Corps Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20061120-04

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Sunday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

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## **Queens Soldier Killed In Iraq**

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer., the Military Project, who sent this in.]

November 18, 2006 BY COLLIN NASH, Newsday Staff Writer

With his wife of just over a year expecting their first child in three months, Spc. Justin R. Garcia bubbled with excitement and expectation at the thought of being a parent.

But Garcia, of Elmhurst, who started his first tour of duty in Iraq in late June, was killed Tuesday when a roadside bomb detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Baghdad, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Friday.

"He wanted all those crazy things, a home, a family, all those things we take for granted," said his older sister, who asked not to be named. "He couldn't wait to be home with his baby."

Garcia, 26, a mortar man, enlisted in the Army in July 2004. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis in Washington state, at the end of November 2004.

"He wanted to go into the service because he had compassion and he wanted to serve his country," Garcia's grandfather, Sam Lim, said Friday, fighting back tears outside the modest, two-story frame house in Elmhurst where his grandson grew up. "He loved being a soldier."

The death of Garcia and that of Col. Thomas H. Felts Sr., of Sandston, Va., killed in the same incident, brings the total of military personnel killed in Iraq so far this month to 45. All told, 2,865 soldiers have been killed since the war began in March 2003, the Department of Defense said.

Garcia spent his childhood in Florida, where he lost both of his parents when he was 12, said his grandfather, who declined to elaborate.

Growing up in Elmhurst with his grandfather, Garcia attended St. Agnes Boys High School on the Upper West Side. While earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Rockland County, he met his wife-to-be, Michelle, Lim said. Ever the "protective" one, as his sister described him, Garcia aspired to become a state trooper.

"He's my little brother, but I always felt he was protecting me," she said. "I always felt safe when he was around."

He was a pillar, but he was also a regular guy, a rabid New York Knicks and Mets fan and ever the cutup, his sister said.

"He was a ham," his grandfather said.

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## Sacramento Marine Killed In Iraq



November 15, 2006 KCRA

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- A Sacramento Marine was killed Tuesday while serving in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Timothy Brown, 21, died after his humvee was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq's Al Anbar province.

Brown had only been in Iraq for two months when he was killed.

Speaking to KCRA 3's Edie Lambert Wednesday night, Brown's family described him as a prankster and an athlete. Brown was a wrestler at Sacramento's Foothill High School.

The family was planning Brown's wedding. He and his fiancée met when they were 15 years old.

"He would always tell me I was his soul mate and the love of his life and I felt the same way. I'm just going to miss his personality and his smile," said Brown's Fiancee, Ashley Milami.

While Brown's mother is mourning the death of her son, she's also battling cancer.

"They told me it was terminal cancer but he gave me all the hope because that's what I was living for, to dance at his wedding," said Susan Brown.

"Joining the Marines, he was proud. When he came home I saw a man, not a little boy that had left, but they made him into a man, a man that I really respected. And I felt that he wanted to be there to honor his country and he said no matter what, Mom, I'm there for our freedom," Brown said.

Timothy Brown will be buried next week at Mount Vernon Memorial Park in Fair Oaks, and he has now been awarded the Purple Heart.

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## **Falls City Grad Killed In Iraq; "Mom, Dad, I'm Worried This Time"**

11/17/2006 George Zarazua, Express-News Staff Writer

When Army Spc. Mitchel T. Mutz left for Iraq on his second tour of duty about two months ago, he shared for the first time since enlisting in the service some concern with his Falls City parents.

"Before he left, he said, 'Mom, Dad, I'm worried this time,'" said his father, Bobby Mutz, recalling that reports of growing violence in Iraq seemed to be weighing on his son's mind.

"We just reassured him, you know, that we loved him," said the former Karnes County sheriff.

So when the doorbell rang Thursday afternoon and the elder Mutz saw a chaplain and a uniformed Army officer standing at his front door, he said he knew what to expect.

"I told them, 'You don't need to tell me what happened,'" he said.

The Defense Department announced Friday that an improvised explosive device killed the 23-year-old and another soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Schuyler B. Haynes, 40, of New York. The two were on mission in the town of Baquba when the device exploded.

"He was a brave young man to do what he did," Mutz said of his son, who waited six months to be assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood.

Mutz said his son was intrigued with the work of a cavalry scout, adding he repeatedly watched the movie "We Were Soldiers."

"He said, 'That's what I want to do. I want to join the Army and do what needs to be done for the country.'"

Mitchel Mutz decided to join the Army in February 2003 after studying for two years at Coastal Bend College. He graduated in 2001 from Falls City High School, where he played basketball and golf.

Mutz last spoke with his family Oct. 21, the day his older brother, 27-year-old Nathan Mutz, a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper, got married. Bobby Mutz said his younger son was slated to be best man before he was deployed to Iraq for another year.

"He said, 'Mom and Dad, I want to go over there and get my year behind,'" his father said.

He said services are pending, and that he expects his son's body to arrive in Falls City on Monday.

In addition to his father and brother, Mutz is survived by his mother, Dixie; paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Mutz of Floresville; and maternal grandparents, Mary Louise and Roy Pullin of Kenedy.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Philip Mutz.

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



10.24.06: A US soldier at the wreckage of a car bomb after it exploded in downtown Baghdad. (AFP/Wissam Al-Okaili)

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

# **“We Know The Local Taliban; They Are Fighting Against Corruption And Abuses” “The Local Taliban Are The Sons Of Afghanistan”**

November 20, 2006 By Pamela Constable, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

A translator's body found in a sack, carved into pieces. A police officer taken hostage, blinded and garroted with wire.

In Helmand, a vast and arid region where much of the worst fighting has taken place and thousands of people have fled their homes, residents and elders have been sending urgent but contradictory signals about how to restore peace.

While the delegation of women recounted Taliban abuses, a group of visiting elders from another Helmand district described local Taliban fighters as "brothers" and said their worst problem was the devastation from months of bombing by foreign military forces.

If the authorities would allow tribal leaders to administer their district, they said, they would guarantee no further Taliban attacks.

"This bombing has destroyed hundreds of shops and many vineyards, but it has not driven the Taliban away," said Mohammed Rahim, a bearded farmer from Helmand's Nau Zad district.

**"We know the local Taliban; they are fighting against corruption and abuses."**

**As a result of the mixed messages from victims of the conflict, and the growing public resentment over civilian casualties from bombing, NATO and Afghan officials now confront a strategic question: whether to keep pressing to forcibly defeat the Taliban, or begin accepting its presence in areas where tribal elders promise to rein in the militia.**

Much of the south is still at war, with attacks and armed clashes occurring daily in Kandahar, Zabol and Uruzgan provinces. But in Helmand's Musa Qala district, NATO has cautiously agreed to test the tribal approach.

Under a deal brokered in September by the provincial governor, NATO agreed to pull back British forces from Musa Qala, and local elders pledged that Taliban attacks would cease.

So far, reports from the isolated region, which is also a major center of opium smuggling, are confusing and contradictory. Some residents and visitors say the district is effectively under Taliban control, and a recent BBC video report showed squads of armed insurgents patrolling Musa Qala in fast pickup trucks, much as they did during the era of repressive Taliban rule that ended in 2001.

But both NATO and senior Afghan officials say they are largely satisfied with the arrangement, which they said has brought fighting to a halt and allowed foreign troops to focus on creating a central zone for security and development around Helmand's capital city, rather than manning scattered outposts and chasing after bands of insurgents.

President Hamid Karzai defended the pact last week against criticism that it has been a major concession to the Taliban.

Speaking on Radio Free Europe, he said he had complete trust in the region's elders and in their promise not to allow any "saboteurs" in Musa Qala.

However, Karzai also expressed concern about reports that a local Islamic cleric was humiliated by Taliban fighters and that a senior tribal leader had disappeared.

Although Helmand residents disagree on the issue of negotiating with the Taliban, many express common anger and disillusionment with regional authorities. Both the Greshk women and the Nau Zad elders said that many police and civilian officials in Helmand are abusive and corrupt, and that this problem is creating local support for the Taliban.

The diplomats and academics on the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board agreed, stating in their report that the factors driving the insurgency in the south include poor government services, corrupt officials and lack of law enforcement.

"Some people call it a Taliban agreement, but that is wrong," said Mohammed Anwar, a member of parliament from Nau Zad who hosted the visiting elders in Kabul.

**"The foreign Taliban are terrorists, but the local Taliban are the sons of Afghanistan. They will speak with us and live under the flag with us. If the government cannot bring security and stop this terrible bombing, they should let the elders try."**

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## TROOP NEWS

### **Iraq Veterans Mom Condemns War:**

# **“There Came A Time When I Realized That Their Willingness To Die For Us Was Being Used And Abused By Our Government”**

**Even if the United States quits the war, Celeste Zappala, the mother of Pennsylvania National Guardsman Sgt. Sherwood Baker, killed in Baghdad in April 2004, will never forget Iraq. "The war in Iraq is not only a disaster, it is a betrayal of our military and the democracy they were charged to protect," she said.**

November 17, 2006 By DEBORAH YOUNG, Staten Island Advice Staff Writer

It was 130 degrees outside and Rob Timmins of Annadale had, the day before, seen his good friend's arm placed into a body bag, with the rest of him.

With images of his dead friend still swimming in his head, the 27-year-old Army specialist was assigned to guard an Iraqi military checkpoint so a fuel convoy could move through. Any suicide bomber could fire up the gallons of volatile liquid, killing hundreds.

**When an Iraqi bus driver refused to heed Timmins' orders to stop, the baby-faced soldier pulled the man out of the driver's seat and beat him brutally with the back of his gun.**

**"I feel like I lost a sense of my humanity that day," he told a crowd of about 150 people at the College of Staten Island last night, during a panel presentation by veterans and their families about the impact of the war in Iraq on them and their lives.**

"Every day, over there, people are going through this."

Timmins, a member of the nonpartisan Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said he felt even more isolated when, on his return from the war, Michael Jackson's shenanigans topped the newscasts and the topic of Iraq rarely arose in conversation.

**With the nation having voiced its dismay over the war by recently voting for new leadership in the House and Senate, it's the right time for ending hostilities, said Elaine Brower of Great Kills, whose son, James, 24, came home last week from a tour of duty.**

"I am proud of our soldiers and our military . . . but there came a time when I realized that their willingness to die for us was being used and abused by our government," said the mother, who is a member of Peace Action Staten Island and committed to voicing her objections to what she characterizes as the politics of deception.

The country was ill led into a war that has destabilized the region and encouraged war profiteering on a grand scale by corporations, she said. And to add insult to injury, she had to pay \$3,000 for her son's body armor.

Even if the United States quits the war, Celeste Zappala, the mother of Pennsylvania National Guardsman Sgt. Sherwood Baker, killed in Baghdad in April 2004, will never forget Iraq.

"The war in Iraq is not only a disaster, it is a betrayal of our military and the democracy they were charged to protect," she said.

During a passionate question-and-answer session, members of the panel urged audience members to become active in expressing their feelings -- no matter what they might be -- about the war.

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



The casket of Cpl. Michael Lasky, of Sterling, Alaska, who died while serving in Iraq, during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 15, 2006. The pick-up truck was by request of the family to carry on a family tradition. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

20 Nov 2006 Reuters & VOI

Guerrilla fighters attacked the convoy of an Iraqi deputy health minister on Monday, killing two of his guards, but the minister was unhurt, he told Reuters.

Hakim al-Zamily was the second top health ministry official to be targeted in two days.

"The convoy was blocked off by several cars and we were fired upon from within the cars and the area," Zamily told Reuters. "Two of my guards were killed but we were able to fight our way out and escape."

He said he was attacked very close to an area called Fadhil, where insurgent attacks are frequent.

Insurgents killed a police officer from the Facility Protection Services (FPS) along with his driver in the religiously mixed city of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In Baquba, 60 kilometres north of Baghdad, guerrillas killed a senior policeman in front of his house and opened fire at another senior police officer killing him and his personal driver.

Also in Baquba, insurgents attacked a police patrol killing a policeman and wounding three others.

In another development, state minister Mohammad al-Oreibi survived an attempt on his life when a bomb targeting his convoy exploded on the highway east of Baghdad. Two of his bodyguards were wounded.

A police colonel and two of his brothers were killed by gunmen on Sunday in Ishaqi, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber exploded his vehicle near a police checkpoint and killed a policeman, and wounded four policemen, in Ramadi, police and hospital sources said.

A car bomber rammed his car into a joint Iraqi police-army patrol and killed three soldiers and wounded four others, including a policeman, on Sunday in a town west of Mosul, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is**

not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

**“GI Resistance”**  
**“The Front Line In The Struggle**  
**Against The War”**  
**“Those Of Us In The Peace**  
**Movement Need To Find Ways To**  
**Engage With The GI Movement”**

**RESISTANCE WHERE IT COUNTS:**

**HOW ANTI-WAR SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN IRAQ**  
**ORGANIZED AGAINST THE WAR ON THE FRONT LINES**

**JEFF ENGLEHART, JOE HATCHER and GARETT REPPENHAGEN**  
**1st Infantry Division, Diyala Province, Iraq, 2004 - 2005**



**THERE HAS TO BE A POINT**  
**WHEN WE REACH A HIGH**  
**ENOUGH NUMBER OF**  
**TROOPS IN OUR PEACE**  
**EFFORT THAT A UNIFIED**  
**BOYCOTT OF ALL MILITARY**  
**ACTION WILL HAVE A**  
**DESIRED EFFECT**

**- SOLDIER X**

***Find out what you can do to support the G.I. Movement!***

**JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH**  
**55 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK CITY**  
**7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006**

**SPONSORED BY: THE MILITARY PROJECT,**  
**NEW YORK CITY LABOR AGAINST THE WAR (NYCLAW) AND**  
**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR (IVAW)-NYC CHAPTER**

**ENDORSERS:**  
**CITIZEN SOLDIER, GI SPECIAL, MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT,**  
**TRAVELING SOLDIER, VETERANS FOR PEACE (NYC - CHAPTER 34),**  
**AFTER DOWNING STREET, BRING THE RUCKUS (NYC), CONSUMERSFORPEACE.ORG, INTERNATIONAL**  
**SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION, LEFT TURN, NOT IN OUR NAME (NYC), WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG**

From: David McReynolds  
Sent: November 19, 2006 & November 20, 2006  
Subject: GI Resistance - an important new "front" for the peace movement [Excerpts]

**There was an excellent meeting Friday at Judson Memorial in NYC with over a hundred folks turning out. [See meeting notice above.]**

**[T]his is the front line in the struggle against the war.**

The panel of Iraq vets was really excellent - better and more on point than some in the audience.

(A couple in the audience made the point that the Constitution was "class based", which was true enough - no slaves, no women, no men without property were involved in its writing or could vote in the first elections, but I thought this missed two points.

(One, the Bill of Rights is part of our Constitution and was put there, like so many good things, by pressure from below.

(Second, sometimes those of us on the left, which is where in my old age I still am, miss how truly revolutionary even the limited American Revolution was - the total break with the divine right of Kings, the determination that laws had to be based on "the consent of the government").

Today, it was great to hear you, as well.

The Bush Administration does not plan to do the logical things: involve Iran and Syria in dialogue, cut back the troops immediately as part of a clear strategy to remove ALL US forces, make it clear all US military bases will be closed down, etc.

I think we have a hard road ahead, because since oil was the basic reason for going to Iraq, it will be hard to surrender the corporate hope of holding onto it.

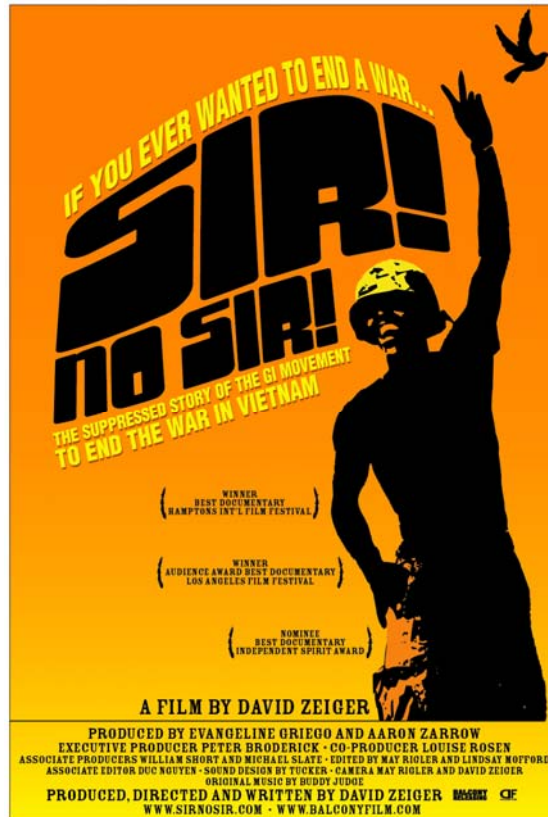
**Only actions such as the UFPJ demonstration in Washington in January, or resistance inside the military, will force the hand of the government.**

**So those of us in the peace movement need to find ways to engage with the GI movement.**

Peace,  
David McReynolds  
War Resisters League and Socialist Party  
NYC

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

# “A Film About GI Antiwar Activism During The Vietnam War”



September 21, 2005 Danny Schechter's News Dissector [Excerpts]

**Last night I dropped in a fundraising benefit for a film about GI antiwar activism during the Vietnam War. Its relevance was made clear by the presence of a leader of Iraq Veterans Against the War, an organization that now has several hundred members and plans to march in force in Washington on Saturday.**

The film is *Sir, No Sir*, directed by David Zeiger, who worked in the GI movement back in the day.

Featured in the film, and passionately supporting it, is none other than Jane Fonda, who explained she became an antiwar activist because of the GI's who opposed the war. She toured with an anti-Bob Hope-type show called *Fuck the Army* at the time, but always in the company of soldiers.

This is ironic, she noted, because of all the attacks on her by right-wing veterans who picture her as anti-military. She noted that the history of the antiwar movement has disappeared: "abra-cadabra!" was the term she used to suggest that it was made to vanish by the media and politicians.



Of John Kerry, once a soldier-activist, she said, "If he had owned his participation in that struggle, rather than denied it, he might have won."

Fonda has lost none of her fire and, in a sense, she has come "home" to her roots after a long period of taking shelter when denigrated as "Hanoi Jane," a punching bag and symbol of distortion and derision by the right. She said she believes in a strong military, but not one that serves unjust wars.

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

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at  
[www.sirnosir.com](http://www.sirnosir.com).**

Also available will be a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

## **Basic Training**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: Thomas F Barton ; Mike Hastie  
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2006 10:12 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Basic Training

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Basic Training**

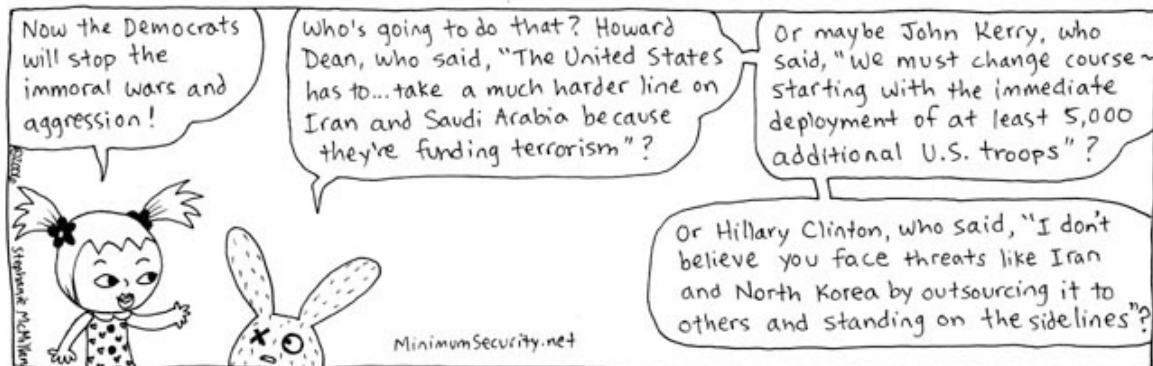
**In this jack-off country we live in  
with it's thin veneer called democracy  
Brad lives inside a cage  
in a man made hell they call a factory  
a fascist invention, where he works  
after the Vietnam War.  
After 11 months in 'Nam,  
Brad's cup was filled one day  
when his Texas truck driving, cattle hauling**

shit flying friend Dallas, the machine gunner  
took it in the forehead  
while Brad was feeding it ammo.  
They locked poor Brad and 1000's more  
inside a cage, a cell called

a Vietnam insane asylum.  
A psychiatrist glued his brain back together  
and slipped him into a coffin, a body bag  
called a uniform.  
Go home now, the doctor whispered,  
go home, go home, go home  
to the factory that is set up like the military.  
A pyramid with Ltn's, Captains over Privates  
and sometimes the General walks through  
They like ex-soldiers who know how  
to take orders.

---

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

# **Blessed Be The Peacemakers: “Elder Statesmen Hitler And Stalin Were Too Dead To Attend”**



From: Z  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 20, 2006 7:40 PM  
Subject: Blessed Be The Peacemakers

Peaceloving Presidents Dubya and Bubba at the recent dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr National Memorial in Washington DC.

**They are smiling because they have jointly brought perpetual peace to well over a million men, women, and children.**

**(Elder Statesmen Hitler and Stalin, who each delivered eternal peace to millions, were too dead to attend).**

Solidarity,  
Z

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## **Americans' Approval Of Bush Policy On War At A New Low, Poll Says;**

# **White House Says Fuck The American People: The Traitor Bush Will Do What He Pleases**

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

WASHINGTON -- Americans' approval of President Bush's handling of Iraq has dropped to its lowest level, increasing the pressure on the commander in chief to find a way out after nearly four years of war.

Of those surveyed in the latest Associated Press-Ipsos poll, 31 percent approved of his handling of Iraq, days after voters registered their displeasure at the polls by defeating Republicans across the board and handing control of Congress to the Democrats.

The previous low in AP-Ipsos polling was 33 percent, in both June and August.

A month ago, approval of the president on the issue certain to define his presidency was 36 percent.

A majority of the voters surveyed disapproved of the war in Iraq, thought the war has not made the United States more secure, and wanted to see troops start coming home, those polls indicated. All of those groups voted for Democratic candidates.

**"The president recognizes that the American people are understandably concerned about the violence in Iraq," said White House spokeswoman Emily Lawrimore.**

**"He shares their concerns, but believes that our policy in Iraq must be determined by victory in the war on terror, not public opinion polls."**

**LIAR  
TRAITOR  
TROOP-KILLER  
DOMESTIC ENEMY  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

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

## **Iraq Study Group Comes Up With Iraq Victory Plan!**

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

November 15, 2006 The Borowitz Report

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group issued recommendations for winning the war in Iraq, including putting former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in charge of the insurgents.

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### **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

**Income For 90% Of Americans Up  
2% In 14 Years:  
Up 112% For The Top 0.1%**

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

November 19, 2006 By ERIC KONIGSBERG, New York Times [Excerpt]

Let's define the terms first, or at least make some attempt to.

The merely rich are those whose income puts them in the top 1 percent of the population. According to a recent study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, the average real income for the top 1 percent of American taxpaying households was \$940,000 in 2004 - a difficult group to feel pity for. But to stand for a moment on its shores (let's pretend) and look toward the rapidly growing ranks of the superrich is to stare across a vast chasm indeed.

The superrich might be the top tenth of 1 percent (average real household income for 2004: \$4.5 million) or the top hundredth (the \$20-million-a-year households). Income inequality is growing fastest the higher we go up the chart.

**While the percentage change in average real household income between 1990 and 2004 was an increase of 2 percent for the bottom 90 percent of American households, it was 57 percent for the top 1 percent; and shot up to 85 percent for the top 0.1 percent; and up to 112 percent for the top .01 percent.**

That is, the richest are getting richer almost twice as fast as the rich.

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## GET THE MESSAGE?



Indonesian students protest against the visit by U.S. President George W. Bush Nov. 20, 2006 in Bogor, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Irwin Fedriansyah)

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# **Clashes During Crippling Strike Leave 25 Injured In Bangladesh Demonstrators Defy Police Ban On Political Rallies**

[Thanks to J, who sent this in.]

11/21/2006 AP

Dhaka: Violent clashes during a crippling strike left at least 25 people injured and dozens of vehicles damaged yesterday as Bangladesh's interim government intensified efforts to end an impasse over electoral reforms.

**Dhaka, the capital city of 10 million people, was cut off from rest of the country after protesters from 14-party alliance defied a police ban on political rallies that was issued on Sunday. Demonstrators blocked highways leading to and from the city and prevented buses and cars from circulating.**

The 14-party alliance, led by opposition leader Shaikh Hasina during former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's five-year rule, resumed their indefinite nationwide strike after the interim government failed to meet its demands by a Sunday evening deadline.

President Iajuddin Ahmad sent three advisers to meet Chief Election Commissioner M.A. Aziz yesterday, private TV station ATN Bangla reported.

"We will report the outcome of the meeting first to the president before making it public," Information Adviser Mahbubul Alam told reporters after the meeting at Aziz's office.

Yesterday's clashes occurred between the supporters of Hasina and her rival ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in two districts outside Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, Bangla Vision TV station reported.

At least 15 people were injured in Natore town, 160km northwest of Dhaka, the TV report said. Similar violence left at least 10 people injured in a town 136km south of Dhaka. In Narayanganj, a town near Dhaka, protesters smashed dozens of vehicles operating in defiance of the strike, the report said.

Hasina's alliance enforced a nationwide indefinite strike across the country to force electoral reforms and resignations of top election officials they say are biased to Zia's four-party coalition.

**Streets in Dhaka were empty of most traffic and schools and stores shut down. Commuters relied on tricycle rickshaws, which protest organisers had allowed to operate.**

More than 15,000 security forces were deployed to keep order in the capital. But no violence was reported in Dhaka. Security was stepped up in other cities and towns where protesters were expected to gather.

Violent protests last week paralysed the country's roads, rails and main port and left two dead.

Yesterday's protest was launched after a last-minute meeting between Hasina and Ahmad, the leader of the interim government, failed to resolve their political impasse.

"We ask the President to resolve the crisis.

**"Otherwise we'll be bound to stage a sit-in in front of the Presidential palace with millions of workers," S.M. Fazlul Haque, President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, told reporters.**

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## **Received:**

### **Re: "Homecoming" A Film Review**

From: TS  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 17, 2006  
Subject: Re: GI Special 4K17: We Will Have Our Vengeance

This anti-war zombie movie reminds me of a play by Irwin Shaw in the 1930s (before the CP, his party, went pro-war/Popular Front).

I don't remember the name, but it was performed a few years ago in NYC. Soldiers won't stay buried, and the powers that be get very upset.



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The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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