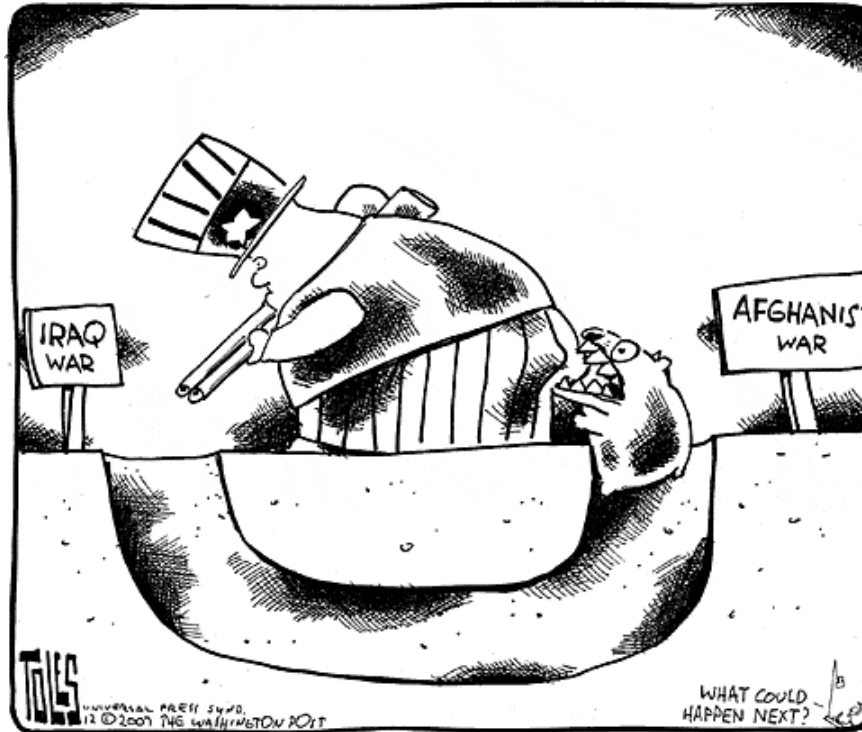


**GI SPECIAL 5L20:**



**ACTION REPORTS**

**“Yeah, Fuck Iraq. I Hate  
That Place. I Had  
Friends Die There. I  
Don't Ever Want To Go  
Back”**

**“Many Friends In My Platoon  
DIED BRUTALLY For The First  
Amendment”**

**“We Have The Right To Peaceful  
Protest, Damn You! Why Did You  
Arrest These Guys?”**

**Iraq Veterans Against The War Kick  
Ass At Ft. Bragg;  
Command Takes Heavy Losses;  
Forced To Retreat & Release Prisoners  
With An Apology**



12.07: By Jason Hurd [Iraq Veterans Against the War] ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

Jason Hurd:

Branch of service: Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)

Unit: Troop F 2/278th Regimental Combat Team  
Rank: Specialist  
Home: Asheville, North Carolina  
Served in: Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Sam Houston, TX; Fort Lewis, WA; Kingsport, TN; Baghdad, Iraq; Bristol, TN

\*\*\*\*\*

**On the morning of December 17, 2007, Steve Casey and I awoke bright and early at the Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina.**

**Steve and I had driven nearly three hundred miles from our home-base in Asheville, North Carolina to distribute holiday gift bags to the wonderful servicewomen and men stationed at our nation's busiest military post--Fort Bragg.**

Our friends and supporters in Asheville stuffed nearly three hundred small lunch bags full of holiday cards, chocolates, cookies and home-made brownies.

**The gift bags had a humble feel to them: brown paper lunch sacks with the tops folded down, green and red ribbons, a copy of our newsletter Sit-Rep stapled to the outside and a small sticker that said, "To: A Warrior, From: IVAW."**

Our mission was to ensure that these bags--each made with love and kindness--got into the hands of our deserving soldiers.

With gift bags in hand, Steve and I drove to Fort Bragg's Mini Mall and set up a small collapsible table to distribute the bags from. We taped two large poster boards to the front of the table; one said, "Happy Holidays From Your Fellow Veterans," and the other proclaimed, "We Love Our Service Women and Men."

Immediately, Steve and I began handing the packages to soldiers as they exited the Mini Mall. I greeted each soldier by saying, "Hello. My friend and I are veterans and we are giving holiday gift bags to our soldiers to show our appreciation for your service. Thank you and happy holidays."

**Nearly every soldier I spoke with replied with a large smile, "Thank you very much. I'm glad there are people like you doing this. Happy holidays to you too!"**

**Within an hour, Steve and I had given out nearly one hundred and fifty bags. In that time, only one soldier reacted negatively toward us; every one else seemed extremely pleased.**

Around one o'clock in the afternoon, a female manager who worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AFFES) came out of the Mini Mall and said, "Hey guys I'm glad your giving out packages to soldiers, but you can't do this on Fort Bragg without a permit."

I replied, "Great! Where do we get a permit?"

The manager explained where we needed to go, and we began packing up shop to go get our permit.

That's when the Military Police showed up. Three MP's--SSG Netwig, PFC Murray and PVT Garren--approached us and began questioning us about our gift bags.

SSG Netwig glared at a copy of Sit-Rep and said, "I'm going to keep my personal opinion out of this, but you are disrupting the order and discipline of my post." **["My post?" His own fucking personal private post? What, he killed the General and took command? And what the fuck kind of wig is a "Netwig" anyhow?]]**

I explained that we were on our way to get a permit for our bags and we had no intentions of disrupting the order and discipline of Fort Bragg.

**SSG Netwig replied that we had offended a lot of people with our bags (which was news to Steve and I) and that he would not allow us to continue distributing them.**

**At that moment, a Special Forces Captain (apparently one of the people we had offended) approached SSG Netwig and spoke with him privately. Immediately, SSG Netwig said that we were going to the Provost Marshall's office to answer questions.**

**"Are we being arrested?" I said.**

**"No. But you are being detained," SSG Netwig replied.**

**At that moment, the MP's shoved Steve and I against their patrol car, searched us, handcuffed us and placed us in the patrol car like criminals.**

They drove us away leaving a box of gift bags on the trunk of Steve's car. In the back of the patrol car, I looked at Steve and said, "Don't worry, this is a good thing--trust me."

"OK," Steve said. SSG Netwig drove us to the Provost Marshall's office where, after being searched a second time, we spent the next four hours as detainees.

**One investigator told Steve that Fort Bragg is a conservative post and that anti-war views were in the minority. ["One investigator" is a lying, stupid sack of shit. During a visit to Fayetteville in March 2007, the wife of a soldier told me face to face that the majority of the troops hate the War, and would like to have a word with George Bush, up close and personal, while fully armed. T]**

The officers separated Steve and I and began questioning us.

**I asked four times to make a phone call so that I could consult with an attorney; the officers denied my right each time.**

**A criminal investigator entered my room.**

**"Are you affiliated with any other groups besides IVAW?" he asked.**

**"No, I am not" I replied.**

**"How did you and this Steve guy meet?"**

**“Look,” I said, “I’m not going to continue answering questions without consulting an attorney.”**

**“But you aren't under arrest. You're merely detained and we are trying to have a friendly conversation with you,” the investigator said.**

**“I feel like it is in my best interests to consult with an attorney before continuing,” I replied.**

**Then the investigator and officers walked out leaving me alone in the room. Against my captor's wishes, I began text messaging the Quaker House and IVAW members to let them know what was happening (the officers had mistakenly left my phone). Immediately, the investigators began receiving calls from every peace activist from North Carolina to Philadelphia urging them to release Steve and I.**

**The MP's knew they had a situation on their hands.**

**Before we knew it, an investigator apologized to Steve and I for the inconvenience and released us.**

The investigator informed us that we just needed to get a permit for future activities of this nature.

Two young MP's escorted Steve and I back to our car and we talked about Iraq on the way.

**One of the young MP's said, “Yeah, fuck Iraq. I hate that place. I had friends die there. I don't ever want to go back.” [There it is.]**

**We pulled up to Steve's car and rubbing the cuts on our wrists from the handcuffs, we saw the perfect ending to our day. The box of gift bags was still sitting atop Steve's trunk and some passerby had written on it the following:**

**“Hi, I heard what happened.**

**“Listen up cops, politicians, and OVER EGOTISTIC DRAMA QUEEN SENIOR NCO'S AND OFFICERS!**

**“Many friends in my platoon DIED BRUTALLY for the First Amendment.**

**“We have the right to peaceful protest, damn you! Why did you arrest these guys?**

**“To all ya'll who don't believe in: freedom of speech, press, council, religion, assembly, and petition...GO TO HELL!!**

**“Sincerely, A concerned passerby and witness to the arrest of protesters.”**

**So much for being the minority.**



[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

**MORE:**

## **New Workers**

**[Respectfully dedicated to the soldiers of Ft. Bragg and Jason Hurd & Steve Casey, Iraq Veterans Against The War. T]**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 25, 2007  
Subject: New Workers

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

\*\*\*\*\*

**I remember getting my last 2 + years in at Orion Assembly in Pontiac,  
so I could retire.**

**GM hired some new workers and GM told them not to talk to us old  
workers. It was**

**part of the “get along together with GM” hype.**

**They did not want us to tell them about the master / slave mentality.**

**They did not want**

**us to tell them that GM only listens when the factory is silent.**

**Wonder what the Military tells the young Soldiers about us anti-war  
pro-peace Vietnam**

**Soldiers?**

**Do the young Soldiers know that they are only Workers in Uniforms?**

**Cheap labor**

**compared with Blackwater? That the Military is their Master and  
that they are the Slaves?**

**That the Military only listens to shots not fired, search and avoid's  
and orders not being  
followed through.**

**Imagine the ire of the Military when the Slaves disobey or perhaps  
only obey their Master**

**when their lives are not in danger.**

## **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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email 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 In Iraq Starred On Diamond**

12/20/2007 By Kim Bell, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

POTOSI — The soldier from Cadet, Mo., who was killed in Iraq on Saturday was a standout baseball player in Potosi who followed his father into the military.

Sgt. Austin D. Pratt, 22, died Saturday in Balad, Iraq, of injuries he suffered in Baghdad, say officials with the U.S. Defense Department. Pratt was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Polk, La. The Army is investigating Pratt's death and has provided no further details to his family. Pratt would have turned 23 on Wednesday.

Pratt's father, David Pratt, is a Navy veteran who fought in Vietnam, then later in the Persian Gulf. The younger Pratt is one of eight children of David and Monica Pratt. His mother works at a local Catholic school.

Austin Pratt played baseball for Potosi High School. Growing up, he also played in a summer league with the Mineral Area Baseball Association. "He was the real deal," said his high school coach, Dennis Lawson. "He had a passion for the game, one of the best players in our conference. When he was catching, he'd block everything behind the plate. When he was pitching, he threw in the low 80s (mph)."

For a time, Pratt wanted to go to college and play baseball, a relative said. But that changed after graduation. He joined the Army in May 2004 and had been stationed at Fort Polk since September 2004.

Pratt was a gunner who already had served one tour in Afghanistan. This tour in Iraq was his second deployment.

Lawson, the baseball coach, said Pratt returned a few years ago, asking if he could have old bats and mitts because some of the soldiers wanted to start a league. Lawson was happy to give him the old gear.

One of Pratt's relatives, who asked that his name not be used, said Pratt's most recent trip home was two or three months ago. Family members could see a big change in him.

"We could tell he had grown up," the relative said. "It blew us out of the water. He was very proud of what he was doing."

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier inspects a house that was damaged during a bomb attack in Baiji, north of Baghdad, December 10, 2007. (Sabah al-Bazee/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **So Much For That**

12/25/07 Dawn

A grand jirga meeting comprising 130 members from Frontier Region Kohat, Hangu district, Kohat district, Oarkzai Agency and Kurram Agency had been scheduled for



December 18 but it was postponed following the refusal of maliks in the area who said they had no influence over the Taliban.

## TROOP NEWS



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, 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.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

**Sergeant Denied An Extension  
Of Leave By Scum-Sucking Rat  
Officer In Iraq As His Newborn  
Son Struggles For Life:  
The Worthless Piece Of Shit  
Threatened That Williams Would  
Be “Making It Harder On Himself”  
“If He Did Not Get On The First  
Available Plane”  
The Baby’s Doctor Says He Should  
Stay;  
[Now Do You Understand Why Troops In  
Vietnam Fragged Rat Officers Early And  
Often?]**



US Army Sgt. Chris Williams, home on leave from duty in Iraq, waits in the hallway of Community Hospital in Munster, Indiana on Sunday, December 23, 2007 where his newborn son, Gabriel Douglas Williams, is in neo-natal intensive care. (Tribune photo / Tom Van Dyke / December 23, 2007)

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

December 24, 2007 By Jeff Long and Sara Olkon, Chicago Tribune staff reporters

During his two tours in Iraq, Army Sgt. Chris Williams has been in many firefights, but a battle with military brass over a leave extension as his newborn son clings to life has been the scariest and most frustrating of his career.

"It's a lot more stressful," he said Sunday afternoon during an interview at Munster Community Hospital in Indiana, where doctors are monitoring his son, Gabriel, around the clock.

"I'm an adult, I'm in the Army," said Williams, 24, of Crown Point, Ind. "If something happens to me, I can deal with it. But when it's your kid, it's a lot scarier than anything I've ever been in before."

The Army says Williams' country needs him more than his family does.

"They are fighting a war," said Catherine Caruso, a spokeswoman at Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash., where Williams' unit is based. "Even one person missing does have an impact. Sometimes, hard decisions get made."

Gabriel Douglas Williams was born Tuesday, a seemingly healthy boy weighing in at nearly 10 pounds. But he developed a lung infection that put him in the intensive care unit.

**One of his doctors, Kongiet Thaera, said the next few days could be critical for young Gabriel -- and that the first-time father should remain close by.**

**“I don't think they should separate Dad (from his son) at this time,” he said, stepping off the floor of the neo-natal intensive care unit for a moment to update Williams.**

“OK, take care,” the doctor added, giving Williams an encouraging hug. “I hope they give you a break.”

**Initially told by officials at Ft. Lewis that he had been granted an extension to his leave until Jan. 3, Williams learned Sunday morning that it has been rescinded by his commander in Iraq, who left the soldier a voice mail message that Williams would be “making it harder on himself” if he did not get on the first available plane.**

**Williams has booked a flight on Friday, the first he could find, but can't understand why the original extension was canceled. The Army says it was never officially approved.**

“It's like they just write you off and you are a horrible soldier,” Williams said. “I used to love what I was doing. I have a lot of military in my family. It was always a good experience. You come home, and people are thankful for what you are doing.”

Now he's rethinking a career in the military.

His father, Douglas Williams, called it flabbergasting that the military would think it's a good idea for his son to lead troops overseas when his mind is obviously on his wife, LeeAnn, 23, and their ailing son.

“He's leading people,” Douglas Williams said. “His mind has to be on what he's doing.”

“I'm very proud of him,” Douglas Williams added, referring to his son's two tours in Iraq. “But I'm also proud of the fact that he's looking out for his family. The military should look at it like: 'This is a kid we want to keep.’”

**“Sometimes, it's up to the judgment of the commander,” said Caruso, the Army spokeswoman. [Can we have a name of this “commander” please? Just for future reference. An outstanding leader like this, who says a situation involving newborn baby that may die “doesn't rise to the level of an emergency,” surely is proud of his decision, and will welcome all the attention it will bring him, up and down the chain of command, now and forever.]**

She said soldiers often time their 18-day “rest and relaxation leave” around a pending birth, as Williams did for the birth of the couple's first child.

In order to extend a leave, a soldier would need a request for emergency leave approved by the commanding officer, Caruso said.

**“The final decision is really up to his commanding officer,” Caruso said. “At the end of the day, sometimes mission requirements come into play. It's really his**

**unit's decision.” [Really? “The unit” voted on it? What lying bullshit. A dishonorable piece of worthless filth wearing rank decided on it.]**

Caruso said she spoke to Capt. Bruce Wells, who is the rear detachment commander to the 2nd squadron, 1st Cavalry regiment, at Ft. Lewis.

“When (Wells) talked to the soldier and found out his situation, he told him to put together a Red Cross message to process an emergency leave,” Caruso said.

**“As the end of his R&R leave was approaching, Capt. Wells told him he would grant a 10-day extension, contingent on the CO's (commanding officer's) decision.”**

**Williams' first sergeant decided to deny the request after consulting with the unit's executive officer. “The two decided it didn't rise to the level of emergency leave,” Caruso said.**

Caruso said it's unlikely Williams would be considered AWOL.

“I don't think so. He wasn't listed that way to my knowledge,” she said. “... As long as he is making reasonable efforts to return to his unit in Iraq.”

**Williams is waiting to learn if he'll receive the Purple Heart after the Army truck he was in got blown up by a roadside bomb in August. All five men inside suffered concussions in the blast. Williams said.**

“We've been involved with a lot of small-arms fire,” he added of his time in Iraq, which he said can get confusing as the Army might be fighting with one group one month and working with that group the next.

This is not the first time a trip home has been filled with drama for Williams.

**In June 2005, Williams was lauded for stopping a would-be robber in Merrillville, Ind., from stealing money from a woman who had collected it for her church.**

**Williams put a chokehold on the man and held onto him with another good Samaritan until police arrived.**

**“Hero one leave, AWOL the next,” said Williams' mother, Therese Williams.**

“AWOL because he's trying to take care of his family,” added Douglas Williams.

Bound by duty, Williams said he has every intention to catch that flight Friday. He just hopes that his son is through the danger by then, and that his wife is well enough after a 19-hour delivery to care for the child.

“I don't think it's asking much, just to get the baby home,” Therese Williams said.

<b>Troops Invited:</b>
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What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

## It Would Appear “Morale” And “Optimism” Could Be Restored “In The Short Term” [Translation From Generalspeak: Both Are Fucked Now]

December 24, 2007 By Gordon Lubold, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor  
[Excerpts]

The strain of the war in Iraq is increasingly forcing senior Pentagon leaders to be blunter about the military's inability to sustain war operations indefinitely, a shift in tone that may mean more troops come home sooner.

One retired general who remains close to the situation sees a shift in which the impact of operations in Iraq is beginning to dictate the policy, not the other way around.

The retired general, who asked not to be identified because of the political sensitivity of the situation, said a decision to give the Army some relief could go a long way to alleviate stress on the service.

“If we can reduce the frequency and length of deployments to Iraq, and therefore let some of this air out of the balloon, **in the short term you may restore a degree of morale and optimism** and sustain readiness and recruiting in ways that can help,” he says.

---

## A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DAVE CLINE

# **Antiwar Activist, Labor Organizer, Humanitarian Leader, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace**

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

**SUNDAY, January 13, 2 - 6 PM**

**CONNOLLY'S  
121 West 45 Street  
(Between Broadway & Sixth Avenue)  
New York, New York**

(Public transportation and parking garage information to follow.) [1, 2, 3, 7, S, Q, R to Times Sq.-42nd St.; D, F to 42nd St.-Bryant Pk.; A, C, E to 42nd St.-Port Auth. (at 8th Ave.) --t.]

Featuring"  
STEPHAN SMITH  
RANDY CREDICO

Art, Comedy, Music, Poetry, Tributes, Video & Special Guests

Free Refreshments, Cash Bar, Menu Service

DONATION SUGGESTED (No One Will Be Turned Away)

Donations to Veterans For Peace will go towards antiwar activities in Dave's honor.

Auction & Raffle

Performers Wanted!

Musicians, bands, actors, authors, poets, comedians, filmmakers, journalists, please contact us if you would like to participate in this or future Veterans for Peace events.

Auction Items Wanted!

Artwork, crafts, collectibles, gifts of all kinds, are wanted for an auction to benefit Veterans For Peace

CONTACT & RSVP: zool at zoolTheArtandPolitics@hotmail.com or 646-549-1615

The Tribute is filling fast. Please email for reservations.

David Cline was a highly decorated, disabled Vietnam War combat veteran. He served in Vietnam from August of 1967 to January 1968 sustaining three combats wounds. He joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War in 1970 and remained an active member the rest of his life.



He was a national coordinator for more than 20 years. As President of Veterans For Peace from January 2002 to February 2007 he oversaw tremendous growth in membership, was a key motivator in the creation of Iraq Veterans Against the War and solidified the historic relationship between anti-war veterans and military families resisting the U.S. occupation of Iraq. He is also a founder of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign. David is prominently featured in "Sir, No Sir!" a film about GI resistance during the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Veterans For Peace, founded in 1985, is a national organization of veterans of all eras, from the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars, as well as other conflicts. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Veterans For Peace is a 501(c)3 membership organization and an official Non-Governmental Organization represented at the United Nations. (<http://www.veteransforpeace.org> )

PLEASE POST TO YOUR EMAIL LIST

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## **Fake A Disease, Pay A Bribe --Just Don't Serve**

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

**One of the most notorious cases occurred New Year's Day 2006, when a drunken junior sergeant forced Pvt. Andrei Sychyov to squat for three hours. Gangrene later set into his damaged lower half, and doctors had to amputate his legs and genitals.**

December 3, 2007 BY JANE ARMSTRONG, Digital Chicago, Inc

MOSCOW -- At the Moscow office of military legal consultant Dmitry Vereshchyagin, the middle-aged woman rises from her meeting. The weight of the world appears to push on her shoulders and her face is lined with worry.

She denies her son is a would-be conscript to the Russian military. But Vereshchyagin later confirms this. That's the only reason she is here.

**It's autumn draft season in Russia, and parents are desperate. Many are paying off doctors to diagnose fake medical conditions for their sons and feeling out draft officers to see if they will take bribes. The goal: to keep their sons out of the dreaded Russian Army.**

All Russian men between 18 and 27 are required to serve, but it's estimated that about 90 percent of eligible conscripts avoid the draft.

Five days a week, young men, sometimes with sobbing parents in tow, beg Vereshchyagin to get them out of mandatory 18-month service. "They are desperate when they come," Vereshchyagin said.



They have good reason.

Junior conscripts are targets of a brutal, decades -old tradition called dedovshchina, or rule of the grandfathers, in which old conscripts humiliate, beat and torture young soldiers. Hazing reportedly causes hundreds of non-combat deaths yearly, although human rights activists say the number is in the thousands.

One of the most notorious cases occurred New Year's Day 2006, when a drunken junior sergeant forced Pvt. Andrei Sychyov to squat for three hours. Gangrene later set into his damaged lower half, and doctors had to amputate his legs and genitals.

Nearly every Russian family has heard a hazing story, and most devise an evasion plan.

If a young man is no longer in school, hasn't secured a medical waiver and isn't well connected, he can turn to Vereshchyagin, 27, and his associates for help.

It doesn't come cheap: Prices range from \$600 to \$4,000.

Nikolai Ovdenko, 31, a lawyer, said his firm does nothing illegal and stressed that Russia's conscription law has loopholes.

Ovdenko said clients acknowledge they're afraid of hazing.

"We know how bad the conditions are," Ovdenko said. "We're doing it to save these poor guys."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **“And Now, From This Moment, I Will Stop Fighting Al-Qaeda, I Will Join Al-Qaeda Or Any Other Side That Will Attack The American Forces”**

December 25, 2007 By Joshua Partlow, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

A bomber detonated a vehicle amid a crowd of protesters following a funeral, according to U.S. and Iraqi officials. That bombing killed at least 12 people, including the bomber, and wounded five others, said Maj. Shawn Garcia, a U.S. military spokesman in Diyala. The police chief in the province said more than 20 people were wounded.

According to residents of Baqubah and Iraqi officials, the funeral was for two slain members of the Sunni volunteer force in the city, former members of an insurgent group who had turned against al-Qaeda in Iraq and allied themselves with the U.S. military.

**Despite that alliance, however, relatives and residents blamed the U.S. military for killing the two men.**

The slain men were identified as Uday Mohammed Hassan, 27, and Ahmed Selman Mohammed, 62, according to Haji Basim al-Bayiati, a member of the volunteer force, and Capt. Muhanned al-Bawi of the Iraqi army in Diyala.

American soldiers did kill two individuals during a 3 a.m. operation, but Maj. Garcia said unit members fired only after taking fire themselves, and later found the two dead individuals to be armed. He said it has not been confirmed that these were members of the volunteer force, known by the U.S. military as Concerned Local Citizens.

**But Nazar Mohammed Hassan, 32, the brother of Uday Hassan, said his brother was on duty, wearing a strap given by the U.S. military to identify himself, at the time he was killed by an American foot patrol.**

**When Nazar Hassan arrived at the morgue, he opened the body bag of his brother.**

**“He was still wearing the ribbon around his chest even though it was stained with blood. The ribbon did not protect him from the American's bullets,” he said.**

The incident could have damaging repercussions to the U.S. military if the animosity among the security volunteers toward the Americans impedes their cooperation.

**“We have walked all this way with the Americans to kill al-Qaeda and to kick them out of here, and this is how they repay us?” he said. “And now, from this moment, I will stop fighting al-Qaeda, I will join al-Qaeda or any other side that will attack the American forces.”**

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## Resistance Action



A crater is left in a pavement after a truck bomb attack in Baiji December 25, 2007. A Reuters photographer on the scene said the attack targeted a security checkpoint on a road leading to a residential compound housing employees of Northern Oil Company. REUTERS/Bob Strong

23 December 2007 Reuters & By SINAN SALHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer & Dec. 24, 2007 United Press International & 12.25 Reuters & By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer

Five policemen were wounded when a parked car bomb targeted a passing police patrol just south of Mosul

Insurgents killed Nyyef al-Shimmari, an Iraqi army lieutenant-colonel, in a drive by-shooting in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, one policeman was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded as police were attempting to defuse it, police said.

An attack Sunday night on a police station on the Iraqi-Iranian border killed two policemen.

In Baqouba, Dec. 25, 2007, a bomber detonated himself amid mourners at a funeral procession for two members of a U.S.-backed group, killing at least four and injuring 21, police said.

In Baiji a bomber detonated his explosives when Iraqi police and members of a volunteer security force stopped his truck. The bomb killed at least 20 people and wounded 80 in one of the deadliest attacks in Iraq in two weeks. Many of the killed were guards of the oil company and members of the volunteer force, one of the so-called Awakening Councils — groups of fighters funded by the U.S.

The governor of Nineveh Province, Duraid Kashmula, escaped unharmed from a roadside bomb attack near his convoy in the provincial capital Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, Kashmula told Reuters. His driver and one of his guards were wounded in the attack.

Militants blew up a police station, killing two policemen in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

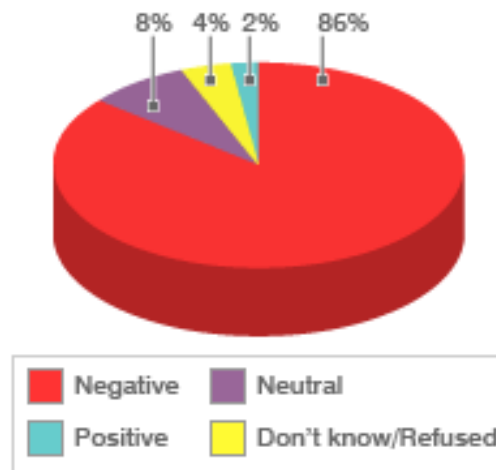
**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

**85% Of Basra Residents Believe  
British Troops Had A Negative**

# Effect On The Iraqi Province Since 2003:

**83% Said They Wanted British Troops To Leave Iraq, Including 63% Who Wanted Them To Leave The Middle East Altogether;  
56% Believe Their Presence Has Increased The Overall Level Of Militia Violence**

Overall, since the invasion in March 2003 has the presence of British troops in Basrah had a positive or a negative effect on the province?



SOURCE: Newsnight

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

December 17, 2007 Respectuk.Com [Excerpt]

More than 85% of the residents of Basra believe British troops have had a negative effect on the Iraqi province since 2003, an opinion poll suggests.

The survey for BBC Newsnight of nearly 1,000 people also suggests that 56% believe their presence has increased the overall level of militia violence.

Two-thirds think security will improve when the British hand back control of the province to Iraqi forces on Sunday.

The Public Attitudes in Basra survey carried out for Newsnight by the UK-based polling agency, Opinion Research Business (ORB), interviewed a random sample of 922 adults across the southern city of Basra between 3 and 8 December.

**The survey's results suggest that only 2% of Basra residents believe that British troops have had a positive effect on the province since they helped the US overthrow Saddam Hussein in March 2003.**

An overwhelming majority of 86% felt British troops had had a negative effect.

More than half felt the troops' presence had actually increased the overall level of militia violence over the past four years, while 14% said they believed the British forces had made no difference at all.

Looking to the future, a total of 83% of those surveyed said they wanted British troops to leave Iraq, including 63% who wanted them to leave the Middle East altogether.

**The majority of those questioned felt that once provincial control was handed over to local Iraqi security forces, the security situation would begin to improve.**

**Two-thirds felt security would improve in the short term, while 72% said it would improve in the long term. Only 5% said security would deteriorate following the withdrawal.**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **December 26, 1971: Honorable Anniversary**



Carl Bunin Peace History December 24-30

Two dozen members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War “liberated” the Statue of Liberty with a sit-in to protest resumed U.S. aerial bombings in Vietnam. They flew an inverted U.S. flag from the crown as a signal of distress.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# 60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



An Iraqi citizen out walking unbuttons his shirt to avoid being shot as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. point laser sight on him in Baiji December 24, 2007. REUTERS/Bob Strong

**[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes**

**Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]**

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **New York Human Rights Carolers Debut Songs Protesting Billionaire Diamond Merchant Lev Leviev's Destruction Of Palestinians' Homes**



picasaweb.google.com

Dec 23, 2007 By Lubna Hammad, Adalah-NY

New York, NY, Dec 22: Fifty New York human rights carolers sang parodies of holiday tunes today in front of LEVIEV New York to protest Israeli diamond mogul Lev Leviev's destruction of communities in Palestine, Angola and in New York City.

This was the fourth protest at Leviev's Madison Avenue jewelry store since its gala opening on November 13.

A diverse group of enthusiastic participants sang loud and creative versions of 11 traditional holiday songs. Carolers serenaded upscale Madison Avenue shoppers and New York City police with the debut performance of "I Made a Little Settlement" to the tune of "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel":

"Apartments for Jews only, Discrimination, sure!  
"He thinks Palestine's the problem, and Apartheid is the cure!"

"Oh boycott boycott boycott, Don't buy Leviev today  
"Funds crime with all that profit, Who needs diamonds anyway?"

**Leviev's companies are currently involved in building homes in at least four Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. All Israeli settlements violate international law according to a broad international consensus.**

Two weeks ago, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice specifically criticized Israel's plans for construction in Har Homa, one settlement where a Leviev company is contracted to build.

**In Angola where he mines many of his diamonds, a security firm working for Leviev was accused of physically abusing workers.**

In New York City, his developments with his ex-partner Shaya Boymelgreen have come under attack from the community group ACORN and the Laborers' Union.

Riham Barghouti of Adalah-NY commented, "Because Leviev has made it impossible for many Palestinians to live normal lives and to celebrate the holidays of Eid Al Adha and Christmas this month, we will spoil his holidays and continue our campaign against his human rights abuses."

Media Contacts: Issa Mikel (917) 446-8032; Ethan Heitner (202) 316-0388

## **Leviev Holiday Songs: Lyrics from our December 22 Caroling Demonstration**

[Excerpts]

### **Leviev, Leviev (to the tune of Jingle Bells)**

Leviev, Leviev, destroys human lives,  
Think of where your money goes when shopping for your wives, -HEY!  
Leviev, Leviev, displaces human lives,  
Think of where your money goes when shopping for your wives.

Building settlements  
on confiscated lands,



selling di-amonds,  
with blood on his hands. Ho Ho Ho!

Making lots of dough,  
Ignoring human rights  
What a shame it is to shop at Leviev tonight! -HEY!

Leviev, Leviev, destroys human lives,  
Think of where your money goes when shopping for your wives, -HEY!  
Leviev, Leviev, displaces human lives,  
Think of where your money goes when shopping for your wives.

When greed is the game  
Why speak of human rights?  
Lev has got no shame  
Out of mind and sight! Ho Ho Ho!

If it sells, if it sells,  
Nothin's in his way!  
Oh what fun it is to hide  
the high price poor folks pay! -HEY!

Leviev, Leviev, destroys human lives,  
Think of where your money goes when shopping for your wives, -HEY!  
Leviev, Leviev, displaces human lives,  
Think of where your money goes when shopping for your wives.

### **Leviev the Red-Faced Magnate (to the tune of Rudolph)**

Leviev the red-faced magnate  
Likes to uproot olive trees  
And the way he can fund this,  
Is with every shopping spree.  
But if you spend cash elsewhere,  
Palestinians won't lose land,  
And Leviev the crooked jeweler,  
He'll just have an empty hand.

Two days be-fore Christmas eve,  
We're here to announce.  
Leviev won't sell gems tonight,  
We know customers will do right!

Lev we all hope you're listening,  
Stop building on stolen land,  
We'll be here almost weekly,  
Until you don't have more demand

(REPEAT ONCE FROM THE TOP)

Leviev Oh Leviev (to the tune of "Hanukkah oh Hanukkah")

Leviev oh leviev  
Destruction you're sowing  
Stealing the land where the crops all are growing  
Using all your billions to sponsor a cheat  
In Jayous and Bilin there's nothing to eat

And while you  
Ignore it  
A Settlement still is a crime

No matter where  
Apartheid's not fair  
And we'll resist you every time

No matter where  
Apartheid's not fair  
And we'll resist you every time

**Buy Yourself a Little Tchotchke  
(to the tune of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas")**

Buy yourself a merry little tchotchke  
At Leviev's store;  
To be sure, it's gonna cost you thousands more.

Think of all the settlements you're funding  
Where they don't belong;  
'Cause Leviev's ruthless and he can't go wrong.

Here you are, having wine and cakes  
While Leviev takes lots more  
He'll make sure that there's nothing left  
After all his theft and gore.

Make yourself all comfy at the Plaza;  
Leave aside all care;  
And forget the folks who live in Gaza there;  
Buy your tchotchke at Leviev's if you dare.

(REPEAT ONCE FROM THE TOP)

**I Made a Little Settlement (to the tune of "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel")**

Lev-i-ev builds settlements  
On Palestinians' best  
farmland and bulldozed houses,

calls cops when they protest!

Oh boycott boycott boycott  
Don't buy Leviev today  
Funds crime with all that profit  
Who needs diamonds anyway?

When Jews come to Israel,  
Lev sells them stolen land.  
The law says it's illegal,  
He says catch me if you can!

Apartments for Jews only—  
Discrimination, sure!  
He thinks Palestine's the problem  
and Apartheid is the cure!

Oh boycott boycott boycott  
Don't buy Leviev today  
Funds crime with all that profit  
Who needs diamonds anyway?

Dividing up the West Bank  
Jew-only homes and roads  
Makes Palestine impossible.  
Peace talks a cru-el hoax!

It's not just Palestine  
That Lev defies the law.  
At his building sites in Brooklyn,  
Workers have no rights at all.

Oh boycott boycott boycott  
Don't buy Leviev today  
Funds crime with all that profit  
Who needs diamonds anyway?

So boycott Leviev diamonds,  
Until his land grabs cease.  
Love your neighbor, not your glitter—  
This season, work for peace!

Oh boycott boycott boycott  
Don't buy Leviev today  
Funds crime with all that profit  
Who needs diamonds anyway

### **Stealing Palestinian Land (to the tune of "Winter Wonderland")**

Sales will ring, are ya list'nin'?

In the lanes jewels are glist'nin'.  
A beautiful sight, Leviev's happy tonight,  
Stealing lots of Palestinian land.

Gone away is the bluebird;  
Here to stay is a boo-bird.  
We'll sing you this song as he goes along,  
Stealing lots of Palestinian land.

In the meadow he will build a snowman,  
And pretend his lawyer is in town.  
He'll ask, "Now are you legal?" Lev says, "No, man!  
But I won't let the question get me down!"  
Later on, he'll conspire  
As he dreams by the fire,  
And face unafraid the plans that he's made  
Building lots of homes on stolen land.

[Softer]  
And face unafraid the plans that he's made  
Building lots of homes on stolen land.

[Softer]  
And face unafraid the plans that he's made  
Building lots of homes on stolen land.

### **Leviev's Got Your Home for the Holidays (to the tune of "Home for the Holidays")**

Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays,  
But only if you're Zionist, my dear;  
Leviev's building homes for the holidays;  
He's stealing land and spreading lots of fear.

There's a man from Oklahoma  
And he's heading for Har Homa,  
To live beneath the spreading azure sky;  
The land is someone else's,  
But hey, Leviev tells us,  
It's cheaper taking land you did not buy.

There's no place like home for the holidays,  
Even with no fuel or food, I fear,  
In Gaza when you're home for the holidays  
In this happy, jolly, ho-ho time of year.

Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays,  
But only if you're Zionist, my dear;  
Leviev's building homes for the holidays;  
He's stealing land and spreading lots of fear.

Oh, you're a hungry cayuse

When you're stuck down there in Jayyous  
And Lev has carted off your olive trees;  
How can you make a living  
In this merry time of giving?  
You suffer while Leviev takes his ease.

Yes, there's no place like home for the holidays;  
Even when you've nothing anywhere;  
Leviev's got your home for the holidays;  
He'll sell it to that rich man over there  
Yes, He'll sell it to that rich man over there

### **Just Say No (to the tune of "Let it Snow")**

Oh the diamonds inside are sparklin  
But they can't hide what's behind em  
They're funding apartheid so  
Just say no, just say no just say no

Leviev's spent decades earning  
Off of people's pain and suff'ring  
So if you'd rather not help his show  
Just say no, just say no just say no

In Bilin all the farmers sigh  
As Lev takes away their land  
But the settlements are a crime  
And justice is our demand

Lev's lies are fin'lly showing  
And his greed is overflowing  
New York knows the way to go  
Just say no, Just say no Just say no

(REPEAT ONCE FROM THE TOP)

### **Lev-i-ev the Rich Man Jeweler (to the tune of "Rudolph")**

Lev-i-ev the rich man jeweler  
Watches all his billions grow  
Off of Angolan diamonds  
Helping a dictator's show

Look at Leviev's billions  
Funding an illegal plan  
Settlements he is building  
Dividing up the West Bank land

Then one cold November eve

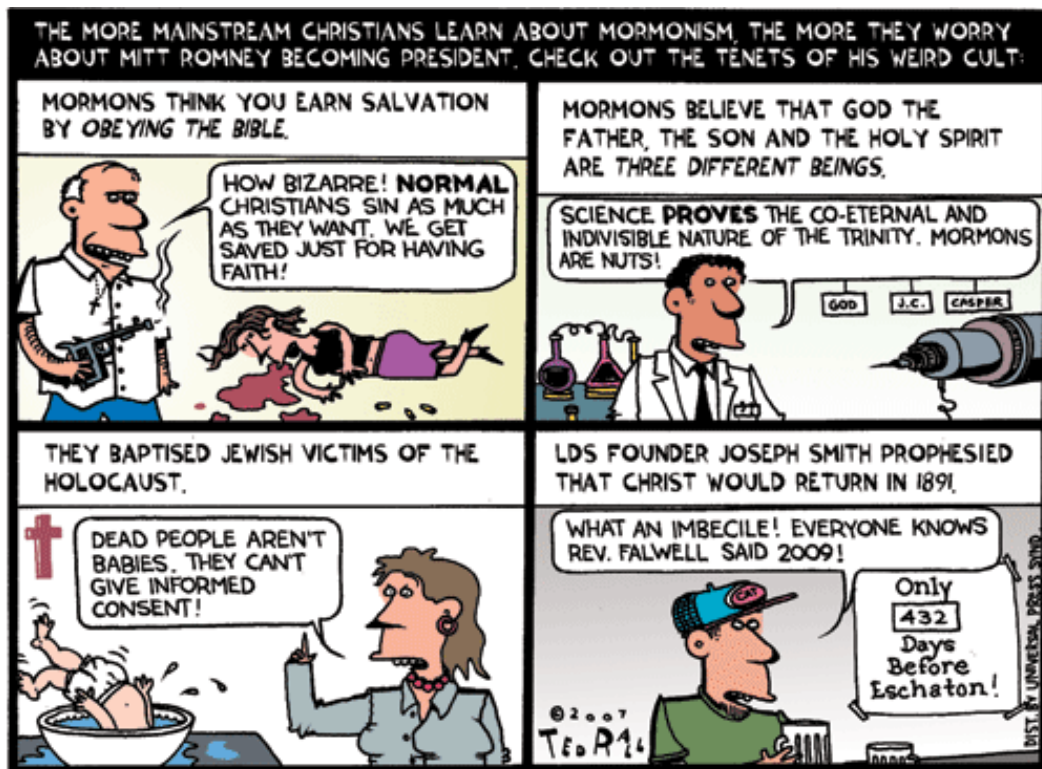
Leviev came to town  
He put a store here in New York  
But we will shut him down

Leviev your crimes are showing  
Your deeds are getting hard to hide  
No matter what you call it  
We say NO to apartheid!

(REPEAT ONCE FROM THE TOP)

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



MORMON MITT: OUT OF AMERICA'S RATIONAL MAINSTREAM

12-13-07

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