

GI SPECIAL 6D2:



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

Texas Soldier's Father Calls Son's Death "A Waste"

Says Political Leaders In Washington "A Bunch Of Idiots"



March 25, 2008 By ROSANNA RUIZ, Houston Chronicle

Sgt. Gregory Daniel Unruh was in search of an adventure when he enlisted in the Army. But after five months in Iraq, the war was not what he expected, his father said Tuesday.

The 28-year-old Unruh died March 19 in Mandali, Iraq, from injuries suffered when his military vehicle rolled over during a reconnaissance mission. The incident remains under investigation.

He is the 96th service member with ties to the Houston area to die in Iraq.

"I think it's a waste of his life," said an emotional Anthony Unruh, his father. "I don't think anybody should die that way ... in war."

Gregory Unruh was born in Midland and later moved with his family to Pampa in the Texas Panhandle.

The honors student graduated from Pampa High School in 1996 when he was just 16. He studied international business and German at Texas Tech and later attended the University of Houston-Clear Lake when his parents moved here. He graduated in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in business management.

Unruh worked for his father's plastics company as a production and plant manager until he enlisted in the Army two years ago.

"He thought he needed to do something," his father said. "He always wanted an adventure and he thought it would be an adventure."

Gregory Unruh recently spoke to his family about his disillusionment with the war, particularly with political leaders in Washington, calling them "a bunch of idiots" who are "going to get people killed," his father said.

"The only thing that bothers me is the politicians who send our children to things like this without knowing what it really does to the families," Anthony Unruh said. "I think if they knew what it did, they would be more cautious instead of worrying about their political careers."

The elder Unruh insisted he was not a pacifist and said his views should not diminish his son's military service.

Unruh, who was assigned to Fort Hood's 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, deployed to his first tour in Iraq five months ago. He served there as a forward observer.

Unruh's father and mother, Sue Unruh, traveled from their Dickinson home to see him off.

"He told us not to worry," Anthony Unruh said.

Under the heading of "heroes" on his MySpace page profile, Gregory Unruh wrote "still looking for one."

The profile also includes the popular quote by 18th century English philosopher Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

He posted a wedding photo of him and his wife, Nimet, whom he wed in December 2006. Unruh told his wife that he planned to study to become a lawyer when he got home. He also intended to start a family, his father said.

Nimet Unruh was too emotional Tuesday to speak to the Houston Chronicle about her husband.

"He was the finest person I've ever known," Anthony Unruh said.

"He was hard-working and never complained he was tired or feeling bad. He did what he had to do. He was quiet and only spoke when he had something to say."

Funeral arrangements are pending.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

IED Kills U.S. Soldier North Of Baghdad

30 March 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080330-17

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed from wounds sustained after the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised-explosive device north of Baghdad at approximately 5 p.m. March 30.

U.S. Marine Killed In Anbar

30 March 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080331-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Multi-National Force – West Marine was killed March 30 as the result of wounds received in action when his vehicle was attacked by an enemy force with an improvised explosive device in al Anbar Province March 29.

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier

31 March 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080331-10

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed at when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised-explosive device approximately 4 p.m. in northeast Baghdad March 31.

Prescott Honors Fallen Soldier



March 18, 2008 By Derek Meurer, The Daily Courier

The Army says 33-year-old Pfc. Tenzin Samten of Prescott died from “indirect fire” in Iraq on March 12.

A press release from Fort Eustis in Virginia, where he served before his deployment to Iraq, says Samten was a “motor transport operator.” He enlisted in the Army in July of 2006 and completed his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., before taking on advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

The Army assigned Samten to the 7th Sustainment Brigade, formally called the 7th Transportation Group.

On March 12 Samten was in a “non-tactical vehicle” and came under indirect fire - a term on which Army personnel did not elaborate as of press time - killing Samten and two others - Dustin C. Jackson, 21, of Arlington, Texas, and Juantrea T. Bradley, 28, of Greenville, N.C.

Samten posthumously received a promotion and the Purple Heart medal. His wife and two children live in Virginia, according to the base, and his mother lives in California. The family said they did not wish to speak about their loss at this time.

As of press time, Fort Eustis personnel had not said when Samten lived in Prescott, but they did list it as his hometown.

Yavapai County School Superintendent Tim Carter said he did not recall Samten's name from his time working at Prescott High School.

"At the time he would have been there, I was the Assistant Principal," Carter said. "It's a pretty unique name, but I can't say I remember it."

A memorial service took place Tuesday at the fort's regimental chapel. More than 2,000 miles away, at the Prescott City Hall, Mayor Jack Wilson began the Prescott City Council meeting with an observance of Samten's sacrifice.

"I thought it was appropriate since he lost his life serving his country," Wilson said of his comments. Along with information about Samten's Army service, Wilson read two poems that illustrate the sacrifices of war: Theodore O'Hara's 1847 "The Bivouac of the Dead," and Roger Hancock's 2002 "Not Free."

City officials recorded Wilson's presentation and are making arrangements to deliver the video to Samten's family.

Slain In Second Tour In Iraq, Soldier Returns To Arms Of His Family



Raven Bren sits in front of a portrait of her son U.S. Army Sgt. Phillip Anderson, during his memorial service at Fir Lane Funeral Home in Spanaway, Thursday, March, 20, 2008. Sgt. Anderson who was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas died in Balad Ruz, Iraq, March 10, 2008.(Janet Jensen/The News Tribune)

March 20th, 2008 Tacoma News, Inc.

Melanie Anderson of Graham was too broken up to speak at Thursday's funeral for her war hero husband, who was wounded once in Iraq, then returned to fight and give his life.

But she had something she wanted to say about Sgt. Phillip Anderson, and she asked her sister in law, Beth Anderson, to stand up and say it.

"I'm not a perfect Army wife," she said, recalling the tears she shed and the times she pushed away from her husband over fear of his leaving on his second deployment in November.

But Melanie Anderson said she came to understand why she is "proud to be an Army wife."

Phillip Anderson, 28, was killed March 10 in Iraq along with two other soldiers when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. The three were assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

At the five-year mark of the war, Anderson is the latest of at least 263 fallen servicemen or women who called Washington home or who served at military installations in the state.

Dozens have received memorial honors at Fort Lewis after burials in hometowns far away. Anderson is one of a relative few to have intimate family funerals, then be laid to rest, in the Pierce County area.

He was on his second enlistment in the Army and his second tour of Iraq. In 2005, he was wounded there, recuperated in Germany and returned to finish his first tour, his family said.

Family and friends filled the seats in the small chapel at Fir Lane Funeral Home in Spanaway Thursday morning. They included Anderson's 16-month-old son Warner, named for his grandfather Charles Warner of Graham.

Phillip and Melanie moved to the unincorporated Pierce County community for his recent Iraq deployment.

Anderson's flag-draped casket, which was flown to McChord Air Base Tuesday, was surrounded by flowers. Next to it was a framed pencil drawing of the smiling soldier drawn from a photograph by artist Michael Reagan of Edmonds. Through his Fallen Heroes Project, the Vietnam War veteran draws free memory portraits for military families who make the ultimate sacrifice.

Outside the chapel, other veterans stood guard. Patriot Guard riders and their motorcycles waited to lead the procession to Tahoma National Cemetery. Anderson was buried there with full military honors. The Patriot Guard, a three-year-old national organization formed to honor soldiers who die overseas, had formed a line of American

flags outside the chapel before the service and would do the same at the cemetery in Maple Valley.

Inside the chapel, soldiers from Fort Hood and nearby Fort Lewis were there to support the family.

Anderson's sister, Beth Anderson, from San Francisco said she had a special bond with her baby brother. "Some of my happiest times (were shared with you,)" she said. "I wish you could be part of the life ahead."

Anderson's mother, Raven Bren, who is from Oakland, Calif., remembered a man of rhythm who loved to play the drums. "He loved anything on wheels that goes fast: a motorcycle, a car," she said.

Before he could drive, she said his room was always full of models of fast cars.

"We knew you had to learn your lessons to make your way in life," she said, adding that in the discipline of the Army he found his own path.

She was glad when he returned from his first tour and his enlistment ended.

"But the war raged on," she said. "They asked you once again to step up."

She remembered the day more than 28 years ago when she first held the boy in her arms, her "little warrior son," born in Mexico, Mo.

Now he is free to fly the winds, she said.

"Every time a breeze touches my face, he will be saying, 'Mom, It's Phil. I'm home.'"

N. Texas Family Mourns Soldier's Death In Baghdad

March 18, 2008 By GARY REAVES, WFAA-TV

North Texas mourns another soldier killed in the Iraq war.

Spc. William O'Brien, 19, was killed Saturday in Baghdad after being wounded by small arms fire during combat, the Defense Department said Monday.

O'Brien grew up and was home schooled in Rice, which is just north of Corsicana. He was also born into a family with a history of service and sacrifice. "He's a good Christian man and he's with our God, Jesus," said John O'Brien, William's older brother. "And I know he's in a better place now."

O'Brien said he and his little brother joined the Army together, even though William was really too young.

“They were asking for volunteers to join the Army,” he said. “He had our parents sign the waiver so he could join at 17.”

While the brothers were sent to different units, one day in Baghdad, they got a rare chance to be together.

“It was crazy,” O’Brien said. “We got pictures, amazed to see each other. (We) hadn’t seen each other in over a year.”

Another O’Brien brother, a first sergeant, is on his way home to help the family before both brothers have to return to continue their serve for their country. It’s the same thing their dad did during the Vietnam era, which was when he flew B-52s. “As hard as it is for our family, I can’t say enough good words about my brother - a great man, a great American, a true hero,” O’Brien said.

They haven’t scheduled the funeral yet, but O’Brien is already scheduled to serve in Afghanistan next year.

Two U.S. Soldiers Wounded As Green Zone Hit Again

March 31, 2008 AFP & AREF MOHAMMED, Reuters

In Baghdad, where a three-day curfew was largely lifted, the truce seemed tenuous at best.

Explosions struck the “Green Zone” government and diplomatic compound in what police said was a volley of six mortar bombs. Sirens wailed and a recorded voice ordered people to take cover.

A volley of rockets on Monday causing at least five casualties, including two American soldiers and an Iraqi army major, a witness told AFP. one was thought to be seriously wounded.

Baghdad IED Wounds One U.S. Soldier

Mar 31 (AFP)

A US military statement said American soldiers were hunting for the launch site of a rocket or mortar attack in eastern Baghdad on Sunday when their Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, injuring one soldier.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE
That is not a good enough reason.



3.28.08: A US soldier inspects the wreckage of a car which was used by a bomber in Kirkuk. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 U.K. Soldiers Killed Near Kajaki

3.31.08 (AP)

A blast struck a NATO patrol in southern Afghanistan, killing two British soldiers, officials said Monday.

The British troops were airlifted to a military hospital after they were caught in the explosion during a routine patrol Sunday, NATO said in a statement. Both died at the hospital of their injuries.

Britain's Ministry of Defense said the two were serving with 40 Commando Royal Marines. It said they had been conducting a patrol near Kajaki in Helmand province when their vehicle was hit.

Danish Soldier Killed, Two Wounded Near Gereshk

March 31 (Xinhua)

A Danish soldier was killed and another two were wounded in southern Afghanistan on Monday, according to Danish news reports.

Earlier on Monday the Danish and British troops battled the Taliban insurgents near the city Gereshk of Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. As result a Danish soldier died and the other two were wounded, the Danish News Agency Ritzau quoted the Danish Army Central Command as saying in a statement.

This is the fourth Danish soldier who died in Helmand province in March. So far ten Danish soldiers have died in Afghanistan. Denmark, a NATO member, has about 550 combat troops in Afghanistan.

Resistance Action

Mar 25 AP & 03/26/08 Reuters & March 29, 2008 By Amir Shah, Associated Press & 3.31.08 (AP)

Guerrillas have attacked a group of police along Afghanistan's border with Iran. Four police from the country's border force were killed

A Taliban spokesman said militants had killed several Afghan policemen with a remote-controlled roadside bomb in the province of Helmand. Helmand police chief Andiwal said two Afghan policemen were killed and two wounded in that attack.

A three-hour clash broke out in southwestern Nimroz province after militants attacked poppy eradication forces in the Khash Rod district, provincial police chief Gen. Mohammad Ayub Badakhshi said. Two policemen were killed and three wounded, he said.

In Kandahar province, a roadside bomb hit a car carrying Afghan private security guards protecting a road construction crew in Zhari district on Monday, killing three guards, said district chief Niyaz Mohammad Sarhadi.

TROOP NEWS

**“It Dawned On Him That He Was
Vehemently Angry At The
Occupation”**

**“He Decided To Join Iraq Veteran’s
Against The War So He Could Be With
Like-Minded Fellow Military Members”**



Bryan Casler [Elaine Brower photo]

Branch of service: United States Marine Corps (USMC)

Unit: 2nd Battalion 6th Marines Fox Company

Rank: Cpl

Home: Rochester, New York

Served in: Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan

From: Elaine Brower, The Military Project

To: GI Special

Sent: March 18, 2008

Subject: Interview with Bryan Casler, USMC [Iraq Veterans Against the War]

Interview By Elaine Brower:

I had the privilege and good fortune to meet a nice young man from a town called Camillus, right outside of Syracuse, New York.

I met him at the Winter Soldier Iraq & Afghanistan: Eyewitness Accounts of the Occupations this past Saturday, March 15th upon his arrival at the National Labor College.

Interviewing any of these testifiers proved a daunting task, not only because they were being sought after by all the media in the room, but this was all new to them and they weren't sure who to talk to.

Fortunately, Bryan was with a friend of mine, and she told him it was ok to talk to me. I didn't want to intrude, since he had just arrived, however, he was nice enough to say "let's do it now...don't put off until later what you can do right now!"

We went outside into the warm sunshine where tables had been setup for media to interview testifiers in the courtyard.

Bryan, 24 yrs old, had joined the Marine Corps in 2002, right out of West Genesee High School.

He was in the delayed entry program at 17, exactly as my son did, so I immediately felt a connection with him.

He said that since the 11th grade, he wanted to join the Corps. His decision to enter, came after he thought he just might go on a spiritual journey first then join up, but decided that it would be better to join right away.

We laughed at that decision, since it seemed such a dichotomy in life's plans.

Bryan said he didn't think it was ultimately that different. He wound up conducting his inner soul searching while he was in the Marines.

He became an infantryman, something he always wanted to do.

His first deployment was to Kabul, Afghanistan, where they patrolled the city.

He realized that all they were doing was "annoying" the citizens who lived there. The marines, notorious for being obtrusive and loud, were constantly getting in the way of people who lived there quietly.

So he felt uncomfortable, but dealt with it.

He returned home, only to find out he was being redeployed to Fallujah, where he was from 2005-2006 with the 2/6 Fox Company.

Interestingly enough, he was in the exact location as my son, and replaced his unit on the way out.

I recall the time I received a message saying that the "new guys" were there. So Bryan's company was that group of guys.

This interview had become uncanny since the similarities with my son's service in the Marine Corps. ran in tandem to Bryan's. I had just literally bumped into him, asked him for an interview, and he was in the exact location in Iraq and my son had been.

I asked him at what point in his career and service did he become "anti-war".

His response was that when he returned from Iraq, was now in the reserves and going to school, he found that he had been yelling all the time about the war and what was going on.

He said he would yell at the television when the news came on, he would talk to his friends so negatively about all the crap that went on there, and how bad it was, and then it dawned on him that he was vehemently angry at the occupation.

He decided to join Iraq Veteran's Against the War so he could be with like-minded fellow military members.

Later that morning, I found out more about what he had witnessed when he testified. He participated in the panel discussion Racism and War: the Dehumanization of the Enemy.

Bryan, it turns out, did 3 combat tours.

He testified that he witnessed minorities within his company moved into their own platoon, to separate them from the "white guys." That, he said, was the first thing that got him really angry, and confused.

He spoke about how the marines he was with referred to everyone else, including army soldiers, in terms of "POG's", People Other Than Grunts. In other words, the marines had more value, especially over the Iraqis. He recounted times when he, and other marines, would walk past the Staff Sgt and say "Good Morning, Staff Sgt.", and the reply received would be "ERRR, kill babies!" The commanders wanted their marines to be the most racist and most offensive of all the troops, and enjoy it.

They were ordered to shoot to kill anyone that either was carrying a bag, a shovel, using binoculars, using a cell phone, driving a car too fast into a checkpoint, and basically use their own Rules of Engagement (ROE) to destroy anyone who might be in their way.

Being able to interview Bryan was a lucky event for me. He was relatively new to the group; he liked the idea that the vets and active duty military testifying were dressed in suits and nice clothes, with their medals pinned to their shirts. He felt that they all represented a "New Breed of Resisters." I agree with him.

Just an ending note, I got to meet one of the "Battle Buddies," a great Beagle with the personality that matched. Battle Buddies served as a way for the testifiers to take their minds off of the stories they just heard and told.



[Elaine Brower photo]



“How Can I Tell Private Smith That He Will Have To Pony Up \$300 To \$400 Because The Army Got A Wild Hair To Change The Class As?”

“Since The Soldiers Are The Army, Why Not Ask Them What They Want?”

The Army says the ACU was designed to help limit the out-of-pocket expense to the soldier, but now we will all have to purchase one of the most expensive uniforms the Army has in its inventory, the ASU.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
March 24, 2008

I would like to beg and plead with whoever is in charge of designing our uniforms to take a cue from the United States Marine Corps.

They survey their Marines to find out what the Corps would like to see in uniform changes.

Since the soldiers are the Army, why not ask them what they want?

A simple survey of all major commands would shed a lot of light on uniform changes.

For example, no one I know can explain what the Army Combat Uniform is supposed to blend into.

It is supposed to be a universal pattern; it universally blends into nothing.

Every soldier I have asked hates the pin-on badges.

I stopped wearing my recruiter badge because it chips easily and costs \$14 to replace. I don't wear my Combat Action Badge as it catches on my seatbelt. Soldiers like sew-on badges.

As far as the new Army Service Uniform, I am completely confused.

The Army says the ACU was designed to help limit the out-of-pocket expense to the soldier, but now we will all have to purchase one of the most expensive uniforms the Army has in its inventory, the ASU.

How can I tell Private Smith that he will have to pony up \$300 to \$400 because the Army got a wild hair to change the Class As?

If we must have a new uniform, could we please put the rank back on the sleeves of the Class Bs? The shoulder boards give the appearance of a security guard at the mall.

The dress blue uniform was something that set you apart. Professional soldiers cared enough to buy dress blues. The rest wore As. Now we will all look the same, just like when we stole the beret from the Rangers. By the way, every soldier I have asked hates the beret with the Army Combat Uniform/battle dress uniform. Please give us back our beloved patrol cap, and keep the beret for the Class A uniform.

Why can't we just leave things alone until something truly better comes along?

Staff Sgt. Mark T. Hurning
Fort Riley, Kan.

**The Military Project Respectfully Requests:
Don't Leave Him Hanging**



U.S. Army soldier, Bejjia village, Iraq Feb. 4, 2008: (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Dear Friend of Peace and Justice -

Let's start with a basic statement.

The Troops Have the Power to Stop the War. We must work with them to accomplish this goal.

If you want to end the war and believe that the link between civilian and service member organizers is the key to putting a monkey wrench in the war machine — and vital to bringing the troops home — please join us and other members of the Military Project Organizing Committee at our first conference: Bridging the Gap: Making It Happen on Saturday, April 5th in New York City at Middle Collegiate Church (50 E. 7th St.).

This is an organizers' conference for people who wish to act together to bridge the gap between civilians and members of the Armed Forces through direct outreach.

The Military Project Organizing Committee acted decisively to initiate the conference (with the assistance of Traveling Soldier (www.travelingsolder.com) and GI Special (www.militaryproject.org) in light of developments in the anti-war movement.

Troops and veterans are speaking out against the war— and refusing missions — more than ever before.

To take advantage of this momentum we must STRIKE NOW and bring the forces together to reach as many service members as possible.

Conference speakers include:

- **Clarence Thomas**, Local 10, The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, San Francisco on how Iraq Veterans, active duty troops and union members can join together to do what the politicians refuse to do: bring all the troops home now;

- **Richard Boyle**, Vietnam War Reporter, and author of “Flower of the Dragon,” which recounts the resistance during the war and the breakdown of the U.S. Army in Vietnam will discuss his eyewitness accounts detailing the cause and effect of uprisings throughout the ranks; and
- **Daniel Joseph Black**, IVAW, on what it means to defend the Constitution and our population from “domestic enemies.” Black states that “If defending requires our disobedience of an autocratic war criminal, then we are so bound by our oath.”

The conference will also feature the moving poetry of Vietnam Veteran Dennis Serdel and the arresting photography of Vietnam Veteran Mike Hastie.

We hope that after reading this letter you will be as generous as your means allow in helping us to cover the many expenses incurred by this historic conference.

As veterans and members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, we cannot stress enough how important it is to show our troops support in their resistance against the war.

Our first priority should be to end this war immediately. Outreach of the sort conducted by the Military Project is vital to bringing this war to an end NOW.

This is the focus of the conference.

And it is an urgent task.

**Please send checks or money orders, made payable to the Military Project to:
BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N.Y.
10025-5657 USA**

Thank you for your support—and please contact us if you would like to join us in this work.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Englehart, Former Spc., U.S. Army
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War**

**Lt. Fabian Bouthillette, USNR
Member, Military Project Organizing Committee
Member, Iraq Veterans Against the War
U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2003**

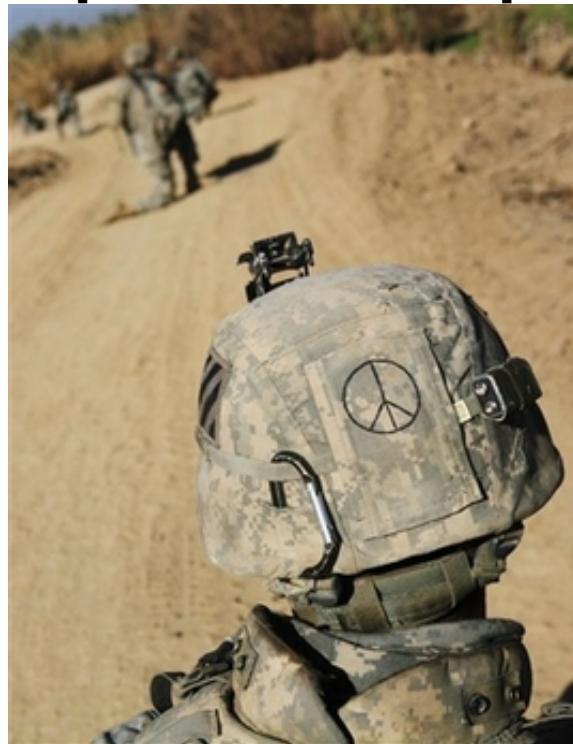
**The Military Project: contact@militaryproject.org
917.677.8057**

BRIDGING THE GAP: MAKING IT HAPPEN

An Organizers Conference

April 5, 2008: 10 AM

**Middle Collegiate Church
50 East 7th St., New York, New York
[Just east of 2nd Avenue]**



U.S. Army soldier patrols Beijja village, Iraq Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

THIS IS AN ORGANIZERS CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WHO WISH TO ACT TOGETHER TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BY DIRECT CONTACT.

Program:

10AM: FIRST HAND REPORTS ON SENTIMENT AGAINST THE WARS IN THE ARMED FORCES; Organizers

NOON: RESISTANCE THROUGH EVOCATION: PHOTOGRAPHS, POEMS; Mike Hastie & Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veterans; Al Jaccoma, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

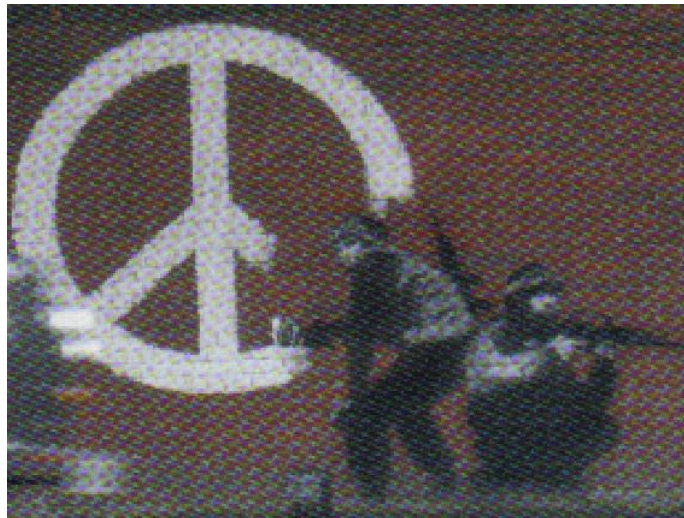
12:45: Lunch break.

1:45 PM: TROOPS RESIST WAR; VIETNAM AND IRAQ: EYEWITNESSES: Richard Boyle, Vietnam War Reporter; Garrett Reppenhagen & J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War; Al Jaccoma, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

3 PM: OUTREACH TO THE TROOPS [Organizing Tactics In The Real World] Fabian Bouthillette, Iraq Veterans Against The War & The Military Project

4:20 PM: ON GUARD: "WE NEVER SWORE TO OBEY; WE SWORE TO DEFEND" Daniel Joseph Black, Iraq Veterans Against The War

5:15 PM: IRAQ VETERANS + UNION WORKERS = HISTORY IN MOTION: Michael Letwin & Clarence Thomas, Local 10, The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, San Francisco



Tactical Painting
From Soldier X, Iraq 4.25.05

ORGANIZED BY:
The Military Project: contact@militaryproject.org
917.677.8057
[With the assistance of Traveling Soldier & GI Special]

**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 RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“Should The Americans Come Inside Our
District, To Fight. We Have Enough IEDs
For Them”**

3.31.08 (AFP) & By Sam Dagher, Christian Science Monitor

In Baghdad, Haider al-Asadi, a Mahdi Army fighter in Sadr City, said all the militants were “now sitting in their homes.”

“But we are ready, should the Americans come inside our district, to fight. We have enough IEDs (improvised explosive devices) for them. If they come, we will defend ourselves.”

As of Sunday afternoon in Baghdad, militiamen allied to Sadr continued to dig in for a long fight.

In the capital, which has been under total curfew since Thursday, clashes pitting US troops and Iraqi forces against the militia raged on, mainly in eastern Baghdad in their strongholds Sadr City and Baghdad Jadida (New Baghdad).

Residents of Sadr City reported that Mahdi fighters planted more roadside bombs to prevent US troops positioned all around from advancing any further.

Mr. Sadr told Al Jazeera Saturday that the US would be “defeated just the way they were defeated in Vietnam” and that his militiamen were on the path of “liberation.”

“Militants On The Ground In Basra Said They Would Continue To Fight In Self-Defense”

March 30, 2008 By Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers & March 31, 2008 AREF MOHAMMED, Reuters [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers traveled to the Iranian holy city of Qom over the weekend to win the support of the commander of Iran’s Qods brigades in persuading Shiite cleric Muqtada al Sadr to order his followers to stop military operations, members of the Iraqi parliament said.

The Qom discussions may or may not bring an end to the fighting but they almost certainly have undermined [collaborator Prime Minister] Maliki - who made repeated declarations that there would be no negotiations and that he would treat as outlaws those who did not turn in their weapons for cash.

The blow to his own credibility was worsened by the fact that members of his own party had helped organize the Iran initiative.

In another blow to Maliki, his security advisor, Saleem Qassim al Taei, known as Abu Laith Al-Kadhimi, was killed in the fighting in Basra. The Dawa party member had lived in exile under Saddam’s regime for 20 years.

In downtown Basra in the area of al Timimiyah Iraqi forces surrounded the neighborhood as coalition aircraft struck Sunday morning, residents said.

But the Iraqi security forces still couldn’t penetrate the vast Shiite slum of Hayaniyah or al Qibla, two Mahdi Army stronghold of Basra.

Following Sadr’s statement both the Sadr office in Basra and Sadr City said that their fighters would obey the orders and go home.

But militants on the ground in Basra said they would continue to fight in self-defense.

“We will stay in our positions because the government didn’t stop the raids and the attacks against the Mahdi Army and their areas,” Abu Muamal said.

“We are waiting for clear orders from our command and we will not withdraw until the situation is clarified.”

Residents expressed anger at the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki for unleashing the violence.

“Today the situation is good. The battle is over. But Maliki did not achieve what he wanted. He ruined Basra,” said grocer Numan Taha, 40, reopening his shop in the Hayaniya neighbourhood, a Mahdi Army stronghold.

Several residents in Basra confirmed that the militia continues to cling on to most of its strongholds in Basra despite the US and British-backed government offensive involving nearly 28,000 Iraqi soldiers and policemen.

After His Attack On Mahdi Army Defeated, Collaborator Prime Minister Looks Weak, Stupid & Incompetent: “Maliki’s Credibility Is Shot At This Point



An Iraqi burns a picture of U.S.-allied Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki during a demonstration in Baghdad's Al-Kadhimiyah neighbourhood. (AFP/Alli Al-Saadi)

Mar 31, 2008 By Ross Colvin, BAGHDAD, (Reuters) [Excerpts]

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's crackdown on militias in the southern oil port of Basra appears to have backfired, exposing the weakness of his army and strengthening his political foes ahead of elections.

The operation was lauded by U.S. and British officials as evidence of the growing strength of the Iraqi army, but by the weekend it had largely stalled ...

“What has happened has weakened the government and shown the weakness of the state. Now the capability of the state to control Iraq is open to question,” said Izzat al-Shahbender, a moderate Shi’ite politician from the Iraqi National List party.

Gareth Stansfield, a professor of Middle East politics at the University of Exeter in England, said Maliki had staked his political credibility on the show of force in Basra and lost.

“Maliki’s credibility is shot at this point. He really thought his security forces could really do this. But he’s failed,” he said.

“Clearly Sadr has gained a victory. This was not a fight he picked and his forces looked strong. He has consolidated his position,” said Stansfield.

Resistance Action

March 30 (Reuters) & 31 Mar 2008 Reuters & By BRADLEY BROOKS, Associated Press Writer

Three policemen were killed and four others wounded in an ambush targeting their checkpoint in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, Nineveh province security spokesman Brigadier-General Khalid Abdul-Sattar said.

A roadside bomb attack killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded two others when it struck their vehicle in the Adhamiya district of northern Baghdad, police said.

Four members of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol were killed in clashes with militants south of Baquba, 65 km (42 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed six Iraqi policemen on Sunday in an ambush on their patrol northeast of Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

Insurgents in a car attacked a checkpoint manned by U.S.-backed Sunni fighters near Buhriz, about 35 miles north of Baghdad, police said. Four of the fighters were killed.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

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

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

**“All The Press Had To Do Was Use
That Shrewd Propaganda Word That
These Villages Were In ‘Rebel-Held’
Territory”
“So Anything That They Do To Those
People Is All Right”**

To: GI Special/Military Project
Respect & solidarity
By Mail

On 2-1-65, Malcolm X gave a speech at the London School of Economics to a meeting called by the school's Africa Society.

As you read the great man's words, insert Iraqi village in place of African and Iraqi villages for Congolese to understand his wisdom.

“When a bomb is dropped on an African village, there's no way of defending the people from the bomb. The bomb doesn't make a distinction between men and women. That bomb is dropped on men, women, children, and babies.

“Now it has not been in any way a disguised fact that planes have been dropping bombs on Congolese villages all during the entire summer.

There is no outcry. There is not concern. There is no sympathy. There is no urge on the part of the so-called progressive element to try and bring a halt to this mass murder.

“Why?”

“Because all the press had to do was use that shrewd propaganda word that these villages were in ‘rebel-held’ territory.

'Rebel- held,' what does that mean?

That's an enemy, so anything that they do to those people is all right.

You cease to think of the women and the children and the babies in the so-called rebel- held territory as human beings.

So that anything that is done to them is done with justification."

Shalom-salaam
Comrade Tribune

Troops Invited:

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:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

FCC Cracks Down on Broadcast Profanity



Despicable Political Lice In Massachusetts Want To Ban Families' Welcome Home Signs For Troops

March 24, 2008 Army Times

A Massachusetts task force appointed by the governor is siding with the highway department in a plan to ban homemade "welcome home" signs for troops that have become ubiquitous on highway overpasses.

The task force says welcome home signs could still be displayed for troops returning from deployments, but they would be metal signs posted by the highway department on overpasses and roadsides, where they could be securely fastened and not pose a risk to motorists.

Families and veterans groups are not happy, saying such signs lack the personal touch of the homemade variety.

Some have vowed not to comply if the state orders a change.

Hillary Says 8-Year-Old Bosnian Girl Was Actually Sniper: Bouquet of Flowers Hid Semiautomatic Weapon

March 26, 2008 The Borowitz Report

Accused in recent days of embellishing her story of a brush with sniper fire in Bosnia, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton today said "don't be fooled" by photos showing her being greeted at the airport by a pony-tailed 8-year-old Bosnian girl with a bouquet of flowers.

"That was no little girl," Sen. Clinton told reporters in Gary, Indiana. "That was a covert ops midget sniper."

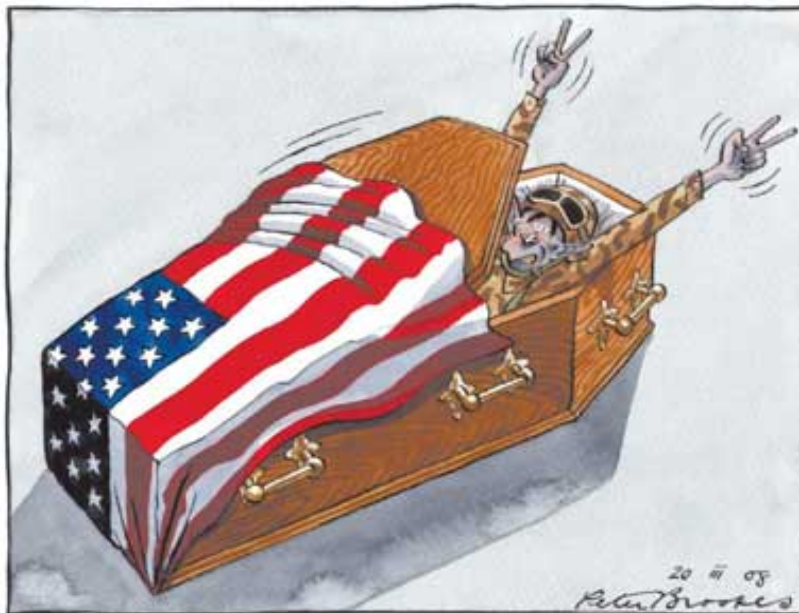
The New York senator said that moments after the "so-called little girl" presented her with the flowers, she revealed what the bouquet had been hiding: "a tiny semi-automatic weapon."

"Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to use some of the Tae Kwon Do techniques I had learned in preparation for the Northern Ireland peace talks," she said.

Defending his wife against charges that she had yet again fabricated her exploits while First Lady, former President Bill Clinton told CNN's John King that "Democratic voters have a clear choice this election: do they want a liar or a plagiarist?"

"Hillary tells some real whoppers, but at least they're original," he said.

In response to a question about whether he believes his wife's account of the events in Bosnia, Mr. Clinton said, "All I have to say about that is Reverend Wright Reverend Wright Reverend Wright Reverend Wright."



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

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.org/)



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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