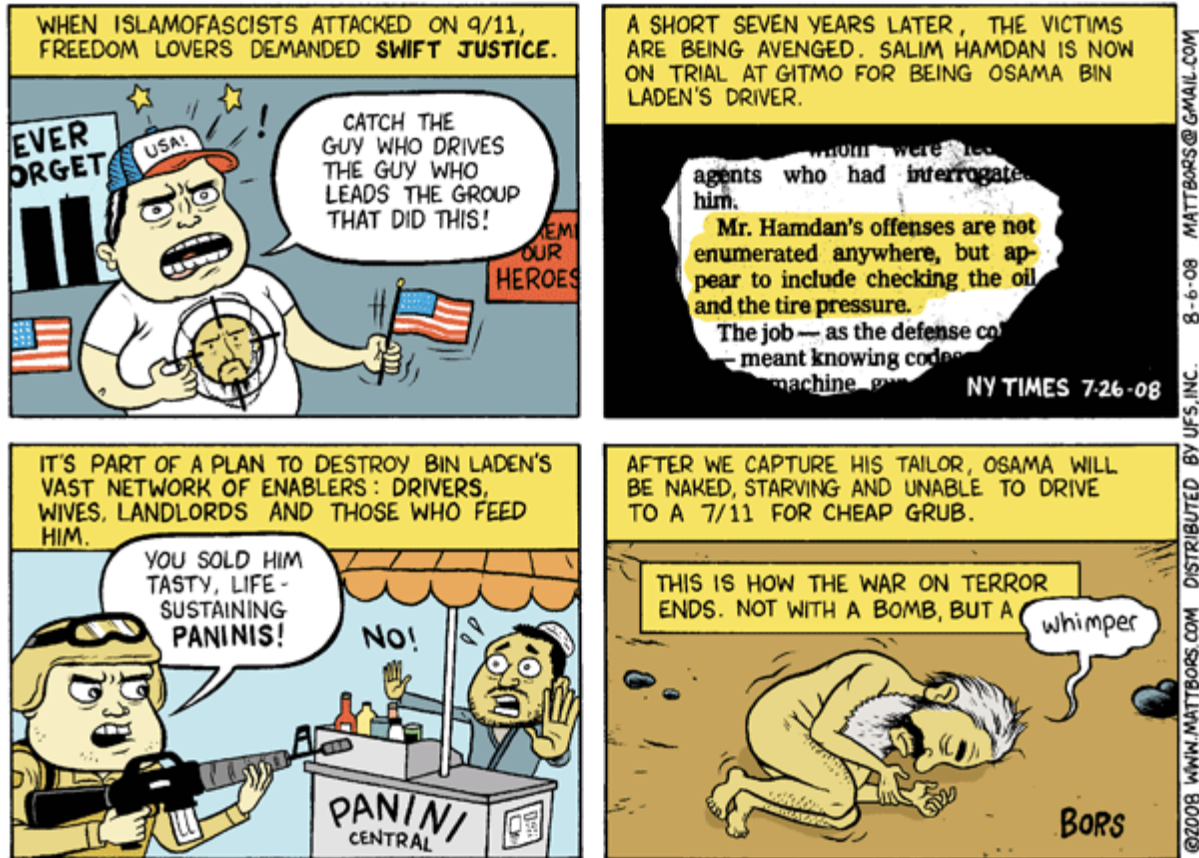


## GI SPECIAL 6H8:



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**“Where We Have The Largest Impact, As IVAW, Is On The Military Community”**

# **“If They Don’t Have Soldiers To Fight The War, They Can’t Fight The War No Matter How Much Money They Have”**



[As usual, the combat vet says more in fewer words than the typical civilian activist does in 10 pages of tedious bullshit telling people over and over and over what they already know. T]

**By Jason Hurd, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Asheville, NC Chapter; WIN Magazine, Spring/Summer 2008**

**I’m a firm believer that you should exert yourself where you have the most influence.**

**IVAW’s strategy is to undercut military support for the war.**

**If you think about all the things that support this war — corporations, big oil, Congress, the executive branch — those are all things that none of us can do anything about.**

**There’s too much money.**

**There’s too much political power.**

**Where we have the largest impact, as IVAW, is on the military community.**

**There’s a mutual respect among every veteran I’ve met, especially every combat-veteran.**

**Regardless of views on the war, you look at each other and you say, “You’ve experienced the same things that I’ve experienced.”**

I think organizing military bases is where we can have the most impact.

If other organizations could help us get a larger presence around military bases — get us help organizing — I think that's going to have a great impact.

The philosophy is that if they don't have soldiers to fight the war, they can't fight the war no matter how much money they have.

We see what helped end the Vietnam War was that all these soldiers said, "No. We're not going to do this anymore. This is screwed up."

That's what we want to do.

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

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

**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. Phone: 917.677.8057

**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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

**IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

## Marine Killed In Anbar, Two More Wounded



U.S. Marine St. Michael Harvey Ferschke, Jr., 22, was shot to death in Iraq during a house search, his family said Aug. 12, 2008. (AP Photo/U.S. Marines)

Aug 12 (Reuters)

A U.S. Marine was killed when his unit was attacked by small arms fire in Anbar Province on Sunday, the U.S. military said in a statement issued on Tuesday. Two other Marines were wounded in the attack in a village southwest of the town of Tikrit, it said.

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**BEEN THERE  
DONE THAT**



U.S. army soldiers burn a deserted village on the outskirts of Balad Ruz, in Diyala province Aug. 10, 2008 “in order to deny safe haven to possible insurgents.” (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)



Vietnam [Content.answers.com]

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## **NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP COME HOME**



A U.S. Army soldier from Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment after his platoon searched a rural village near Qara Tappah, about 75 miles northeast of Baghdad in Diyala province on July 22, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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# **Georgian Troop Withdrawal Leaves Key Bridges And FOBs undefended; Locals Happy To See Rude, Arrogant Assholes Leave**

August 11, 2008 By KIM GAMEL | Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

The departure of 2,000 Georgian soldiers from Iraq leaves a question mark over the future of a series of checkpoints along smuggling routes near the Iranian border, forcing the U.S. to shuffle units to fill the vacuum.

Three Georgian checkpoints on highways surrounding the area's main city of Kut, 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, were empty on Monday, residents and Iraqi officials said.

**But many Iraqis aren't sorry to see the Georgians go. They say the Georgians were rude, disrespectful and ineffective.**

**"They never respected us," 20-year-old college student Saad Hassan complained. He said Georgian soldiers would hold families at checkpoints for hours even in extremely hot or cold weather.**

Last year, Georgia agreed to move most of its soldiers from the relatively safe Green Zone in Baghdad to a mainly Shiite desert area southeast of the capital. The purpose was to help interdict supplies allegedly smuggled to militiamen from Iran, particularly powerful roadside bombs known as explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs.

At the time, U.S. commanders said the Georgians would give their strapped forces a boost by helping search vehicles and people along highways as part of stepped-up efforts to stanch the flow of illegal arms and foreign fighters to Baghdad.

**The U.S. military said Monday that the Georgian brigade had searched 175,291 vehicles, 792,859 people at checkpoints and traffic control stops and had conducted 2,469 patrols in the area since Oct. 30, 2007. [No wonder the citizens are glad to see these foreign occupiers leave their country. They're lucky not to be going home in body bags.]**

But the governor of Wassit province, which includes Kut, said the Georgians provided little real security and that officials were considering removing the posts — long the source of tensions with the locals.

"I do not think that the departure of the Georgian soldiers will have an impact on the situation in the province," Latif Hamad said in a telephone interview. "There were always language and poor performance problems. Our security forces can fill any vacuum."

**Local Iraqis were happy to see the Georgians leave.**

They complained that the Georgians, most of who could speak little English or Arabic, were rude and disrespectful.

“They did not try to give us services. Instead, they were a source of annoyance by delaying us at their checkpoints and mocking the simple locals,” said Salim Ali, a 45-year-old farmer.

The Pentagon has said the Georgians also were helping provide security for important bridges near Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, as well as for three coalition forward operating bases.

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Canadian Soldier Dies As Militants Attack Isolated Outpost In Panjwaii, Another Wounded; “They Were Supposed To Be Over There As Peacekeepers But It Didn’t Turn Out That Way”**

August 12, 2008 CBC News

A soldier from an Edmonton-based battalion was killed early Monday in southern Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his combat outpost in the Panjwaii district, military officials say.

Master Cpl. Erin Doyle of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry is the second Canadian soldier to be killed in combat in three days.

A second soldier was seriously injured in the attack and taken to the multinational hospital at Kandahar Airfield for treatment.

Brig.-Gen. Denis Thompson said that as many as 10 insurgents attacked the outpost in the Panjwaii district of Kandahar province just before 6 a.m. local time. He said Canadian soldiers returned fire and called for artillery and air support.

Doyle, who is survived by his wife Nicole and his daughter Zarine, is the 90th Canadian soldier to die since the Afghan mission began in 2002. This was his third tour in Afghanistan.

**Thompson said combat outposts are stationed where insurgents have a grip on the area. He said the military often conducts frequent foot patrols from the outposts to exert their influence over the area and to reassure the population. [Yeah, this should really do it.]**

His stepfather, Bob Mitchell, said Doyle met his wife in the reserves and the couple moved to Edmonton and became full-time soldiers.

Mitchell said the news was devastating as his family had been hoping Doyle would return home safely as he had on his previous two missions.

**“They were supposed to be over there as peacekeepers but it didn’t turn out that way,” he said.**

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## **Soldier From 16 Signal Regiment Killed In Kabul; Two More Wounded**

12 Aug 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that we must announce that a soldier from 16 Signal Regiment has died and two more from the same regiment wounded in an attack on a vehicle patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan.

At 16.00hrs yesterday, 11 August 2008, the attacker rammed his vehicle into the patrol and detonated an explosive device. The three British soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital where one of them sadly died from his wounds.

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## **Latvian Soldier Killed By Meymaneh IED, Two Others “More Easily Damaged”**

08/11/08 Forsvarsnnett [Sort of translated]

An ISAF vehicle was involved in a waybombe in Meymaneh around the clock 1100 Norwegian time today. Preliminary reports indicate that a Latvian soldier was killed and three others latvian injured in the incident.

The other two are more easily damaged.

ISAF personnel who were involved in the incident is back in the camp in Meymaneh, and it is hard injured were evacuated by helicopter to the German field in Mazar-e Sharif.

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# **Two Australian Soldiers Wounded, One Seriously, In Oruzgan; Copter Down**

August 12, 2008 News Limited

Two Australian soldiers serving in Afghanistan have been wounded, one seriously, as their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) on a road in the southern Oruzgan province.

A third Australian soldier suffered slight injuries when a rescue helicopter was involved in a "hard landing" at the explosion scene yesterday, defence authorities said.

The two wounded Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) soldiers were travelling in a Bushmaster troop carrier when the explosive device detonated yesterday morning, Defence spokesman Brigadier Brian Dawson said in a statement.

One soldier was seriously wounded while the other suffered "light" wounds.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) medevac helicopter damaged in the hard landing could not complete the rescue, Brigadier Dawson said.

A standby medevac helicopter, based in Kandahar, could not take off because of bad weather. A third craft, re-tasked from other duties, carried the injured three to an ISAF medical centre for treatment.

Troops secured the damaged helicopter until it was lifted from the scene by an ISAF CH-47 Chinook. The damaged Bushmaster was taken to Tarin Kowt.

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# **Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Faryab; Nationality Not Announced**

8.11.08 AFP

A blast targeted a convoy of NATO-led forces in the northern province of Faryab on Monday, the provincial police chief said.

General Abdul Khalil Andarabi said initial reports showed that two soldiers from the alliance were wounded in the blast in the heart of provincial capital. NATO soldiers had cordoned off the site, he said.

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## TROOP NEWS



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

## Free Phone Calls Home From Iraq August 17

Jul 30, 2008 Army Times

Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan will get to call home for free Aug. 17 courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“Free Call Day,” according to an Army news release, is a VFW Operation Uplink program that uses contributions from supporters so service members can call loved ones in the United States free of charge.

All existing users of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Prepaid service and all new users will be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Here's how it will work: Follow the regular dialing procedure to place a call using your SPAWAR prepaid personal identification number. When the system plays an announcement that says your call is being sponsored, it will mean the call is free.

The free calls will take place between 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. Iraq time on Aug. 17, a Sunday. Calls to Canada and other countries will be charged at the standard rate, the release said.

The VFW is composed of current or former members of the U.S. armed forces. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "honor the dead by helping the living" through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

Since the program began in 1996, the VFW has provided deployed service members and hospitalized veterans with millions of minutes of free phone time.

The program is part of VFW National Military Services, which includes initiatives that boost morale, aid struggling military families and encourage troop support, the release said.

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## **2,700 National Guard Troops Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

8.18.08 Army Times

National Guard troops from 10 states are being deployed to Iraq to conduct aviation operations.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and other dignitaries participated in an Aug. 4 deployment ceremony at Fort Sill, Okla., in the post's largest such event since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Task Force 34 has 2,700-plus Guard troops from Minnesota, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia and Oklahoma.

The unit also will take an active-duty attack helicopter battalion from Germany to Balad, Iraq. There, it will conduct aviation operations in support of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq mission to maintain security.

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## **Iraq Veteran Runs Against War Democrat For Congress:**

# **“Thomas James Hermann Will Be Calling For Bringing All The Troops, Mercenaries, And US Corporations Home From Iraq Now”**



**Former Army Specialist Thomas James Hermann**

July 24, 2008 Interview By John Dillon, VPR News, Montpelier, Vt. [Excerpts]

*(Host) An Iraq war veteran is challenging Congressman Peter Welch, saying the Democratic incumbent has failed to live up to his promise to end the war.*

Former Army Specialist Thomas Hermann announced his candidacy today. Hermann is running as a Progressive Party candidate.

*(Dillon) Thomas Hermann says he joined the Army five years ago, believing in the mission in Iraq. He says he had not planned to run for political office when his tour ended.*

*(Hermann) “I had an awakening in Iraq, where a lot of my points of views got drastically changed.”*

*(Dillon) Hermann said that during his 16-month tour, he concluded that the Iraqi people were justified in defending their country against the U.S. invasion.*

*He says he's now running for Congress because, he says, the Democratic majority has failed to end the war, and hold President Bush accountable.*

(Hermann) "And there's more. This is a campaign to empower all citizens to participate in our democracy. We will show that the doors of Congress can be swung open once again for the people."

*(Dillon) Hermann is 29 and has never held political office. He's originally from Florida and moved to Vermont in March. He now lives in Barre where he works on a farm.*

(Hermann) "What's the alternative, vote for a person that keeps voting to fund the war, not impeaching, following the Constitution? No, the answer to it is getting into the political career and engaging everyday citizens to support you."

*(Dillon) Hermann is not a complete political neophyte. He's listed as a Vermont volunteer on the Ralph Nader for President Web site. No Republican has emerged to challenge Welch, who is now running for re-election after one term. The congressman's opposition is coming from the left side of the political spectrum.*

*Some anti-war activists are critical of Welch because they say he's voted to support defense spending. Hermann was introduced by Dan DeWalt of Newfane, an activist who led an impeachment drive against President Bush.*

**(DeWalt) "Two years ago, when Peter Welch was running for Congress, he told us he was going to do everything to end the war.... The first thing the Democratic Congress did when they got to Washington was fund the escalation of the war. The second thing they did was re-fund it."**

### **MORE:**

## **IRAQ COMBAT VETERAN TO MAKE BID FOR CONGRESS AGAINST PETER WELCH**

From: James Marc Leas

To: GI Special

Sent: July 21, 2008

Subject: IRAQ COMBAT VETERAN TO MAKE BID FOR CONGRESS AGAINST PETER WELCH

Peter Welch fails to represent Vermonters.

Two years ago, Peter Welch told Vermonters to send him to Congress. Welch said that getting out of Iraq was a top priority for him, and he assured us that Congress could hold the executive branch accountable without impeachment hearings.

But when Peter Welch got to Washington, he showed himself to be a party loyalist, stepping into line as the Democratic Congress funded the escalation of the Iraq

occupation, allowed wiretapping of Americans without a warrant, acquiesced to torture, and shrugged at signing statements that circumvented the law.

**While Peter Welch was making promises he did not keep, Thomas James Hermann was serving with honor in the armed forces in Iraq.**

**He served in the infantry, putting his life on the line to protect our Constitution. He participated in 150 combat missions during his first year in Iraq.**

**Then he was stop-lossed and served another 4 months in combat.**

As Thomas Hermann witnessed first-hand the tragic consequences of Presidential malfeasance, and the enabling Congressional dithering, he knew that he would have to do more when he got home.

He now believes that the corruption and political game playing of the Democrats and Republicans in Washington require a candidate for Congress who answers to the Constitution and his/her Vermont constituents.

**Thomas James Hermann will be calling for bringing all the troops, mercenaries, and US corporations home from Iraq now.**

He calls for taking good care of our soldiers when they get home. He calls for holding Peter Welch accountable for voting funding for the war and for opposing impeachment of Bush and Cheney.

Hermann believes that ending the war and its enormous drain on resources is crucial for improving the economy, the environment, health care, education, and respect for United States.

Thomas Hermann, 29, lives in Barre and works on a farm nearby.

Today he submitted petitions with the signatures of 837 Vermonters from 113 Vermont towns and villages to be on the Vermont Progressive Party primary ballot for U.S. Congress.

You can reach Thomas James Hermann by phone at 802 461-4433 or by email at [thomasj.hermann@gmail.com](mailto:thomasj.hermann@gmail.com)

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## **IRAQ GI AT WAR OVER KIDS ON HOMEFRONT: Soldier Told “He Had No Rights To The Children Because He Was Not In**

# **“The Picture” And “No Right To Know” Where His Children Were: “A Soldier’s Rights Are Less Than Even Those Of A Convict”**

[The thanks of a grateful nation’s bureaucratic scum.]

August 12, 2008 Sent by Jim Murphy to Veterans For Peace

He writes:

**Jonathan Lugo was my student at West Side HS and because he is in Iraq, a Family Court judge unknowingly accepted the claim that ‘he was not involved’ with his two young children by his estranged wife.**

**Remember the name Rachel Natelson... she and the Urban Justice Center of NYC are set up to serve soldiers in this type of situation. She contacted the Lugo family immediately after I explained the situation to her. UJC is no joke!**

**In Peace, Jim Murphy**

\*\*\*\*\*

August 11, 2008, by Neil Graves, New York Daily News

Like most good dads who are away from home, Jonathan Maldonado tried phoning his daughter on her birthday in June.

But hearing his 2-year-old’s adoring voice wasn’t going to happen.

Not just because the Bronx dad has been in Iraq with the 3rd Armored Cavalry fighting America’s enemies since late last year. Rather, he was knee-deep in a quagmire with the Administration for Children Services.

Maldonado’s problems began with his custody battle with estranged wife Elsa Ruiz, 22, over their two children, son Nehemiah, 3, and daughter Ilianis, 2.

In August 2007, Ruiz retained custody of the kids because Maldonado - then stationed at Fort Hood, Texas - was designated an absent parent during a Bronx Family Court custody petition.

“They claimed he had no rights to the children because he was not in the picture,” said Jackie Lugo, 41, the soldier’s mother.

The dad’s problems worsened when Ruiz eventually yielded control of the kids to an ACS foster parent while he was stationed in Iraq, family sources said.



**Since then, Maldonado said, an ACS agent told his family that he had “no right to know” where his children were and that the ACS repeatedly ignored his anguished calls from overseas.**

The ACS said it cannot, by law, comment on the specifics of the case.

Rachel Natelson, Maldonado’s lawyer with the Urban Justice Center, complains that a soldier’s rights are less than even those of a convict.

She said that in theory, the ACS should be obligated to allow those caught in the same situation as Maldonado to participate by phone in custody issues, something routinely granted incarcerated parents.

“If the agency has that policy (for the incarcerated), shouldn’t they have it to assist parents overseas in the military?” she said.

Fortunately, the foster mother did eventually notify Maldonado’s mother that she had been awarded the children. The foster parent even gave Lugo her phone number to pass to Maldonado, who immediately called and talked to his children.

**But Maldonado’s mother said that as recently as July 21, a supervisor at a foster-care agency still tried to prevent her from taking photos of the children so that she could e-mail them to their dad.**

Lugo said she was taking snapshots of the kids, intended for Maldonado, on the premises of the Harlem Dowling-West Side Center, which works with the ACS to oversee foster kids, when a site supervisor tried stopping her.

Lugo said the supervisor told her she was doing so based on a standing request from Ruiz.

**It was not until after The Post began making queries that the ACS arranged for Lugo to schedule a photo-taking visit with the children and to get a status report on the kids’ well-being.**

ACS spokeswoman Sharman Stein said the agency’s policy is to ensure the soldier “is in touch with his kids.”

“If he’s had troubles, it’s inadvertent,” Stein said. “It’s clear he wants to be involved, (and) we want him in the loop.”

Maldonado, who will be in the Army until at least 2010, hopes to rotate to Japan at some point and give Uncle Sam another four years.

“I’m planning to re-enlist,” he wrote. “But not before I get my kids.”

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# **600 Indiana National Guard Troops Drank Water Full Of Carcinogens In Iraq; 138 Are Back In Iraq, Lucky Them: Exposure To The Chemical Can Cause Lung Cancer**

Jul 31, 2008 The Associated Press

JASPER, Ind. — The Indiana National Guard is notifying nearly 600 soldiers who served in Iraq that they may have drunk water tainted with a carcinogen at an Iraqi treatment plant.

During a U.S. Senate hearing in June, senators learned that sodium dichromate — a cancer-causing chemical that can also cause breathing problems — was used at the Qarmat Ali water plant near Basra, Iraq.

Guard spokeswoman Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson told The Herald of Jasper on Monday that the Guard has sent letters to most of the 140 current and former soldiers known to have been at that treatment plant between May and September 2003.

Thombleson said 448 other guardsmen are also being contacted to determine if they were ever at the plant. Of the 588 soldiers being sent letters, she said 138 are back in Iraq.

The letters encourage the soldiers to call a toll-free number to talk to medical personnel.

“We want to make sure there’s someone there that can answer any type of question a loved one may have or a soldier may have,” Thombleson told The Herald.

According to the testimony heard June 20 by the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, sodium dichromate was used at the Basra facility as a corrosion inhibitor in water.

Indiana National Guard officials learned of the potential exposure June 27.

Paul Eckert of Jasper received his notification letter Friday. He served in the Guard for 10 years and was in Iraq with the Jasper-based 1st Battalion, 152nd Regiment from February 2003 to February 2004.

During his tour, Eckert went to the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant several times with a group to pick up water and supplies for their unit.

When he returned to Jasper in 2004, Eckert, 38, said he noticed a change in his health.

**“I never snored or had breathing problems until I got back from Iraq,” he said Monday. “I have a lack of energy, and I didn’t know why. I’ve always been in top shape.”**

**Eckert also noticed blotches on his skin that burned and itched. When he got it checked out at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Louisville, Ky., he said he was given a medicated lotion that didn’t help his condition, he said.**

**A fact sheet provided by the Guard states that exposure to sodium dichromate can cause sores in the nose and sores on the skin that tend not to heal.**

Other symptoms include skin irritation, tearing and eye irritation, runny or bleeding nose as well as sneezing, coughing, wheezing and pain in the chest when breathing. Fever, nausea, vomiting and upset stomach are other symptoms.

**Long-term exposure to the chemical can cause lung cancer, the Guard’s fact sheet says.**

**Eckert wonders if his late comrade, David Moore, might have been sickened by the chemical. Moore, of Dubois, died earlier this year from what doctors called interstitial lung disease.**

While in Iraq, Moore escorted Eckert’s group to the water treatment plant and drank the water the team brought back, Eckert said.

**Moore’s sister, Beth Pfau, said Monday that her brother had serious breathing problems after returning home in 2004. He saw specialists at Indiana University Hospital and elsewhere, but no one could figure out what was causing the problem.**

**“His breathing got worse and worse,” she said. “He was on oxygen at home for a while.”**

**Pfau said that in early January her brother checked into the VA hospital in Louisville, where he was eventually put on a ventilator. He was 42 when he died at the hospital Feb. 4.**

**Pfau said her family has not heard from the Guard but they plan to contact officials.**

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## **Leonard Wood Deserter Caught In Traffic Stop**

Jul 30, 2008 The Associated Press

BOSSIER CITY, La. — An Oregon teen wanted for deserting the Army is in custody after a weekend traffic stop.

Bossier City Police arrested 18-year-old Casey Anne Hardt, of Chiloquin, Ore., on Sunday after stopping the pickup truck she was driving for a routine traffic violation at about 1:30 a.m. During their investigation, officers discovered that Hardt was wanted by the Army for desertion from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Hardt was booked into the Bossier City Jail on fugitive charges. She has been transferred to the area's maximum security facility near Plain Dealing and faces extradition to Fort Leonard Wood.

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## **Knox Soldier Caught At Border In Desertion**

Aug 1, 2008 The Canadian Press

FORT ERIE, Ont. — An American man wanted in the U.S. on desertion charges who had apparently been living for months in Canada has been arrested while trying to cross the border back into the U.S.

American customs officials apprehended 23-year-old Tyrone Pachauer of Deltona, Fla., at the Peace Bridge border crossing in Fort Erie, Ont., as he tried to cross into Buffalo, N.Y., on Monday.

Pachauer told border officials he left his base at Fort Knox, Ky., on Dec. 19, 2007.

A warrant for his arrest was issued in January after he failed to return after Christmas leave.

Pachauer told officers he had been living with relatives in Brampton, Ont.

He was handed over to Buffalo police and is expected to be extradited to Kentucky to face the desertion charge.

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## **KBR Inc. Terrorists Attacked U.S. Military Bases In Iraq 283 Times In Five Months: Bush Calls Cabinet Meeting To Announce Air Strike On Houston Corporate Headquarters**

# {If Only}

Jul 30, 2008 By William H. McMichael - Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpt]

According to a February 2007 report prepared by DCMA, 283 fires took place at KBR Inc.-maintained facilities over a five-month period ending in January 2007.

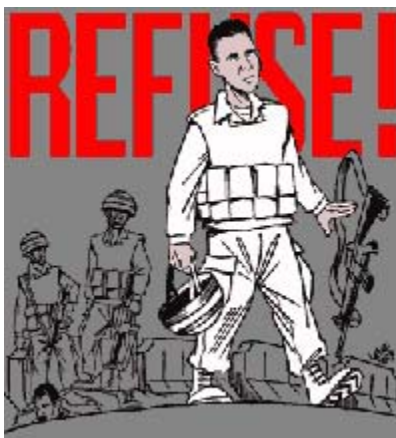
In a memo accompanying that report, DCMA official Paul Dickinson described “theater-wide” safety problems posing “current and future high risk for many facilities at various sites.”

**The “primary safety threat” in Iraq, he wrote, was from fire caused by “inferior 220-volt electrical fixtures,” as well as improper installation, improper insulation and heavy usage.**

KBR Inc., one of the largest private U.S. contractors in Iraq, which oversees thousands of buildings there.

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## **From Australia:**



[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in from Australia. He is co-author of LEFT FACE, Soldier Unions and Resistance Movements in Modern Armies, By DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX WATTS; Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107; GREENWOOD PRESS, New York • Westport, Connecticut • London]

\*\*\*\*\*

**Stand Fast is a group of veterans and former military personnel who oppose the current wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**We who have borne arms denounce these wars because:**

**These wars are about money, power and fear.**

Soldiers are people; they are our neighbours, our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters.

Too many have died, often leaving behind partners, children and other loved ones.

Many will carry the psychological scars for the rest of their lives.

Stand Fast seeks to add weight to the antiwar movement in Australia through organising veterans to speak out against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and by debunking the myth that "If you're against the war, you're against the troops."

If you are a veteran or have served in any armed forces and would like to get involved contact: t) 0401 586 923 or e) standfast.au@gmail.com

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

Aug 4 (Reuters) & Aug 11 (KUNA) & (Reuters) & (AFP)

Insurgents killed an army officer and wounded two more in an ambush in Maidan Wardak, west of Kabul, the defence ministry.

Taliban insurgents killed a district police chief and four other policemen and wounded seven in an attack in Zana Khan, Ghazni province on Sunday, a security officer in the province said. A group of men complained to the governor about what it said was the killing of five civilians and arrest of three others in a raid by foreign forces in another area of Ghazni overnight.

Taliban rebels killed three Afghan police officers and seized their vehicle in the eastern province of Paktia on Sunday, a provincial spokesman said on Monday.

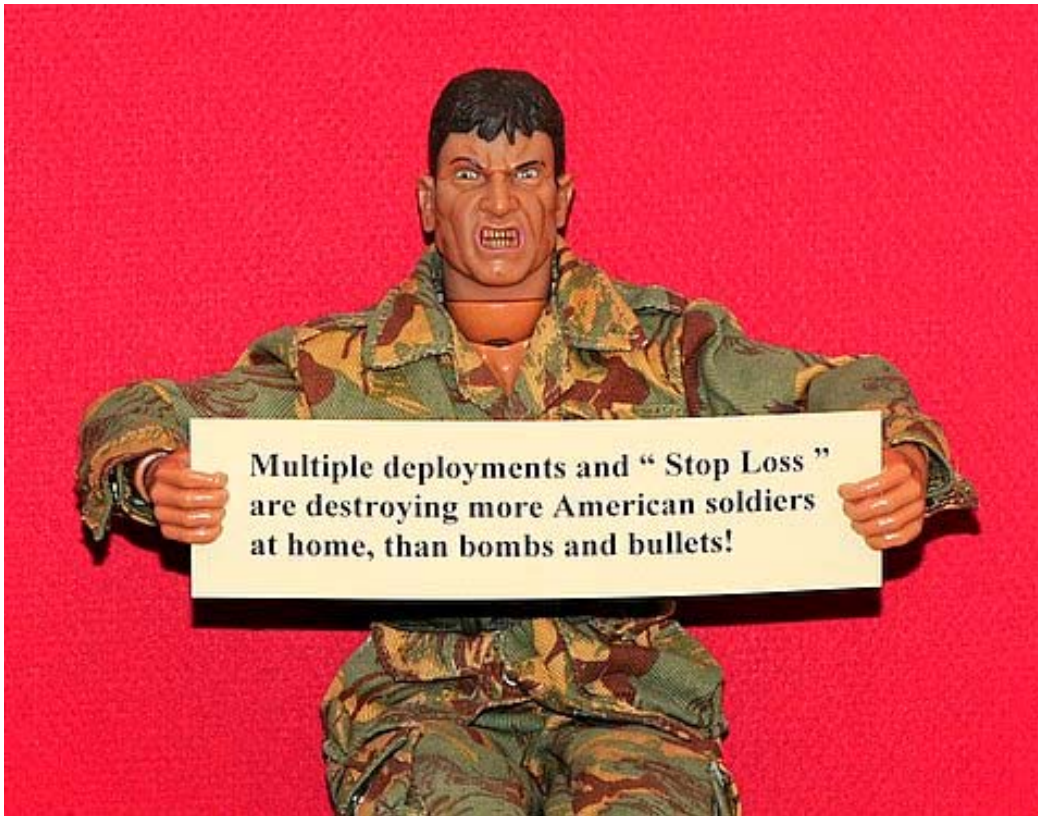
A bomb blew up a police vehicle on the outskirts of the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday, killing one officer and injuring two others, the Kabul police chief said. The incident took place near Bagrami. The device was detonated remotely.

A roadside bomb in another part of Kabul killed a senior police officer and two of his guards, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **G.I. Charlie Rears His Head**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: August 12, 2008

G.I. Charlie Rears His Head

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
August 12, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)



# **“The Prospect Of Waging War On A Global Scale For Decades, If Not Generations, Became Preposterous” “Any Buck Sergeant Of Even Middling Intelligence Knew Better Than To Buy Such Claptrap”**

August 11, 2008 By Andrew Bacevich, Tomdispatch.com [Excerpts]

Every president since Reagan has exploited his role as commander in chief to expand on the imperial prerogatives of his office.

Each has also relied on military power to conceal or manage problems that stemmed from the nation's habits of profligacy.

In the wake of 9/11, these puerile expectations -- that armed force wielded by a strong-willed chief executive could do just about anything -- reached an apotheosis of sorts.

Having manifestly failed to anticipate or prevent a devastating attack on American soil, President Bush proceeded to use his ensuing global war on terror as a pretext for advancing grandiose new military ambitions married to claims of unbounded executive authority -- all under the guise of keeping Americans “safe.”

With the president denying any connection between the events of September 11th and past U.S. policies, his declaration of a global war nipped in the bud whatever inclination the public might have entertained to reconsider those policies. In essence, Bush counted on war both to concentrate greater power in his own hands and to divert attention from the political, economic, and cultural bind in which the United States found itself as a result of its own past behavior.

**As long as U.S. forces sustained their reputation for invincibility, it remained possible to pretend that the constitutional order and the American way of life were in good health.**

The concept of waging an open-ended global campaign to eliminate terrorism retained a modicum of plausibility.

After all, how could anyone or anything stop the unstoppable American soldier?

Call that reputation into question, however, and everything else unravels.

This is what occurred when the Iraq War went sour.

The ills afflicting our political system, including a deeply irresponsible Congress, broken national security institutions, and above all an imperial commander in chief not up to the job, became all but impossible to ignore.

**More noteworthy still, the prospect of waging war on a global scale for decades, if not generations, became preposterous.**

A gung-ho journalist like Robert Kaplan might still believe that, with the dawn of the twenty-first century, the Pentagon had “appropriated the entire earth, and was ready to flood the most obscure areas of it with troops at a moment’s notice,” that planet Earth in its entirety had become “battle space for the American military.”

Yet any buck sergeant of even middling intelligence knew better than to buy such claptrap.

With the Afghanistan War well into its seventh year and the Iraq War marking its fifth anniversary, a commentator like Michael Barone might express absolute certainty that “just about no mission is impossible for the United States military.”

**But Barone was not facing the prospect of being ordered back to the war zone for his second or third combat tour.**

Between what President Bush called upon America’s soldiers to do and what they were capable of doing loomed a huge gap that defines the military crisis besetting the United States today.

For a nation accustomed to seeing military power as its trump card, the implications of that gap are monumental.

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**“Hi there, I’m Paris Hilton, I’m running for President, and I think the new new new Traveling Soldier is *hot!*”**

# **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW NEW 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **What Kind Of Animal?**

8.12.08 From JM, Veterans For Peace, Metro NY

One morning a blind bunny was hopping down the bunny trail and tripped over a large snake and fell, kerplop right on his twitchy little nose.

'Oh please excuse me,' said the bunny. 'I didn't mean to trip over you, but I'm blind and can't see.'

'That's perfectly all right,' replied the snake. 'To be sure, it was my fault. I didn't mean to trip you, but I'm blind too, and I didn't see you coming. By the way, what kind of animal are you?'

'Well, I really don't know,' said the bunny. 'I'm blind, and I've never seen myself. Maybe you could examine me and find out.'

So the snake felt the bunny all over, and he said, 'Well, you're soft, and cuddly, and you have long silky ears, and a little fluffy tail and a dear twitchy little nose. You must be a bunny rabbit!'

The bunny said, 'I can't thank you enough. But by the way, what kind of animal are you?'

The snake replied that he didn't know either, and the bunny agreed to examine him, and when the bunny was finished, the snake asked, 'Well, what kind of an animal am I?'

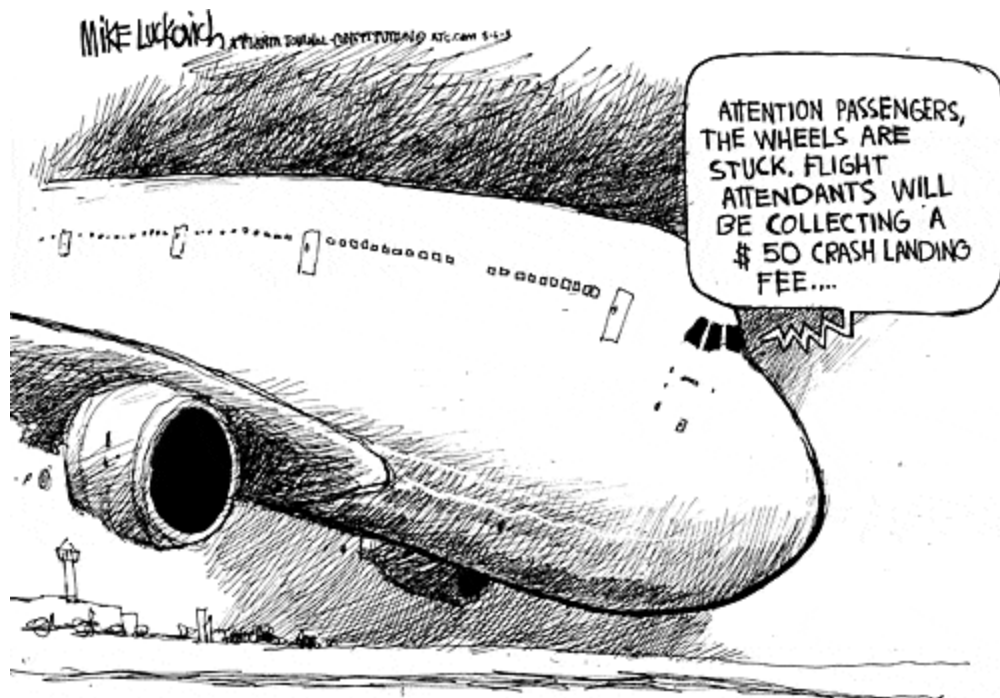
The bunny had felt the snake all over, and he replied, 'You're cold, you're slippery, and you haven't got any balls..

You must be a politician.

### 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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



# Police Kill Striking Tin Miners After Bolivia's President Morales Orders Police To Attack Them; Then The Filthy Little Rat Defames The Dead

07 Aug 2008 Mineweb.com & 8.8.08 By John Lyons, Wall St. Journal

Bolivia's Information Agency has reported that two people were killed and at least 30 injured earlier this week during a confrontation between miners and police at Bolivia's largest tin mine, the Huanuni mine in Oruro.

**The two miners were killed after Morales [Evo Morales, President of Bolivia] ordered police to clear a highway blocked by the miners.**

**Mr. Morales says striking miners aren't truly concerned about their pensions and have sinister "political" motives.**

**Tin miners, who once could be counted on as Morales supporters, are on strike demanding bigger pensions.**

As many as 4,000 miners have blockaded roads between the city of Oruro and the capital La Paz for more than a week in a dispute over pensions at the tin mine, located about 115 miles from La Paz.

**The miners' strike is part of a movement by Bolivia's largest labor federation, Central Obrera Boliviana (COB), which is calling for bigger pensions and a lower retirement age. The COB claims to represent 2 million Bolivian workers.**

Pedro Montes, the leader of a miners' co-operative, said the miners have asked for discussion with the government because of the violence.

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

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

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>; [http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);  
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.*



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