"The Soldiers Want To Resist"
"We Served In Combat And We’ve Seen The Futility Of This War"
"The Soldiers Want To Come Home Now. We Need The Citizens To Back Us"

NORFOLK -- Several dozen service members joined peace activists today to call for an end to the war in Iraq, part of a nationwide effort that links a growing group of active-duty protesters to the peace movement.

An "appeal for redress" petition, signed by more than 1,000 active duty soldiers and sailors nationwide -- many of whom served in Iraq -- is to be delivered to Congress on Tuesday.

On a day devoted to honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Norfolk-based Seaman Jonathan Hutto quoted the civil rights leader at a gathering of war protestors at the Unitarian Church of Norfolk.

"Dissent is not disloyalty," Hutto said, noting that King objected to the Vietnam War and insisted that protestors "were not fools or traitors."

Roughly 100 people attended the gathering to hear speeches and to rally support for veterans who are speaking out against the war.

"There is honest disagreement ... but all voices deserve to be heard," said Rev. Paul Boothby, the church's pastor. "It is good that we gather together to speak out and be heard."

A growing number of active-duty military personnel are coming out against the war, despite a culture in the Armed Forces that frowns on public objections to presidential policy.

"We served in combat and we've seen the futility of this war," said Sgt. Jabbar Magruder of Los Angeles, a member of the National Guard who served 11 months in Tikrit, a town northwest of Baghdad.

“The soldiers want to resist. The soldiers want to come home now. We need the citizens to back us.”

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send 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

89th MP Brigade Soldier Killed By IED
BAGHDAD – An 89th Military Police Brigade Soldier died Jan. 14 of wounds suffered after an improvised explosive device exploded next to his vehicle north of Baghdad.

Fallen Soldier Not Yet A Citizen

Ming Sun lived his dream of being a soldier only nine months.

January 12, 2007 By Dick Foster, Rocky Mountain News

COLORADO SPRINGS - Before he became an American citizen, Ming Sun became an American soldier. That was his dream, his father said Thursday from the family's home in Cathedral City, Calif.

The 20-year-old private first class had lived his dream for only nine months before he was killed in fighting in Ramadi, Iraq, on Tuesday. He had been in Iraq only two months with Fort Carson's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

"I told him it was dangerous, but he said he liked the Army and wanted to be a soldier, so he joined the Army," said his father, Hong Yuan Sun.

Hong came to the United States from his native China 12 years ago, and six months later brought the rest of his family to the country, including 8-year-old Ming.

Ming grew up in Cathedral City, mastering the language and customs of his new country. He liked swords, guns and action movies, his father said.

Ming finished high school and went to college for a year, but his heart was elsewhere, his father said. He still wanted a career as a soldier or a police officer.
Ming was still not a U.S. citizen, but after one year in college he obtained his green card, enabling him to work, and joined the Army last March.

After basic training, Ming was sent to Fort Carson’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team in August as it prepared for deployment to Iraq in October.

Ming's infantry battalion was assigned to Ramadi, an area in Anbar province in western Iraq that has been a hotbed for the insurgency throughout the nearly four-year U.S. presence.

On Tuesday, Ming's unit was on a patrol in Ramadi when insurgents attacked with small-arms fire and he was fatally wounded.

His father remembered his son as a "very kind, thoughtful and smart" young man.

"Before he went to Iraq, he bought gifts for the family members and his friends. He thought maybe he wouldn't come back, so he bought gifts," his father said.

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**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; TIME TO COME HOME, NOW**

A U.S. soldier on a road in Baghdad October 30, 2006. REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud
Wasilla Soldier Killed

January 9, 2007 By RINDI WHITE, Anchorage Daily News

WASILLA -- Staff Sgt. Charles D. Allen died doing precisely what he loved most, his family said.

"Since I have known him, we've both been prepared for this because we both knew this is what he wants to do," said Kerensa Allen, Charles Allen's wife and best friend.

"He used to say 'sacrifice the good of the few for the good of the many.' He was all about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He was an extraordinary soldier, an extraordinary man," she said.

Charles Allen, 28, of Wasilla died in Iraq after being shot in the neck by small-arms fire Thursday. He was promoted posthumously to staff sergeant, according to Fort Lewis public information officer Leslie Kaye.

According to information from the Department of Defense, Allen was killed when his unit came in contact with enemy forces in Baghdad during combat operations. He was a combat medic, assigned to the 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Kerensa said Charles often volunteered for duty and was traveling with another unit, the 23rd Infantry Brigade on Jan. 4. She said she had no other details.

Kerensa said her husband of 10 years was lucky to have led the career of his dreams, one of adventure, activity and challenge. He embarked on that career in Colony High School when he joined the junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Kerensa joined too, and spent four years in the Army Reserves. ROTC and the Army gave them the active lifestyle both of them wanted.
"I got to rappel, run through the woods. Our senior prom, we were almost late for our dinner because we were in an ROTC competition," Kerensa said.

Charles and Kerensa were among the first students in Colony High's junior ROTC program. Retired Lt. Col. Ed Strabel said he remembered Charles as a very fit, outgoing student. Charles earned several awards and became one of three company commanders, a role that challenged Allen to lead while planning his company's next steps.

Charles' father, Dave Allen, of Chester, Mont., said his son had a natural knack for leadership and seemed born to his role in the Army. He wasn't surprised that his son was an excellent soldier.

"He was so enthused with his job, that's where it came from," Dave Allen said. "He was a really good medic and he wanted to be out there giving the guys the best care they could get."

On his time off, Charles Allen played video games and watched cartoons with his 7-year-old son, Orion. He enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing and fishing with a bow and arrow. Bow fishing was a technique he learned from his father and a pastime he was crazy for, Kerensa said.

"We almost crashed a car because he thought he saw a carp jump out of a lake," Kerensa said.

The Allens moved from base to base while Charles trained. They were stationed in Georgia, Louisiana and North and South Carolina before Kerensa asked to move to a base closer to her family. After a stint at Fort Wainwright, they were transferred to Fort Lewis.

Charles Allen was midway through his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He preferred his work as a combat medic to his job during his first tour of duty, tending to Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, Dave Allen said.

His son deployed in 2004 to Iraq at roughly the same time the Abu Ghraib prison scandal broke. A major overseeing the prison hospital was relieved of her duties, and Charles was temporarily assigned to run the wound care center.

Although he got recognition for having an infection rate lower than stateside hospitals, Dave Allen said his son wanted to help soldiers in the field instead.

"He always said it exactly -- 'My guys need me,' " Dave Allen said.

The military occupied much of Charles Allen's life, even beyond training and active duty. Kerensa said she and her husband hosted single soldiers at Thanksgiving and Christmas each year to make holidays easier on them. Everywhere they were stationed, Charles took a subordinate under his wing and taught him to excel in the military, she said.

"He didn't want to be promoted because he wanted to be able to work with his soldiers," Kerensa said.
His mother, Kathy Allen of Wasilla, said she believed her son enjoyed the structure and support the military provided.

"The guys banded together. They took care of each other," she said.

Kathy Allen said that when she and her son celebrated their birthdays in April 2006 she sought assurance he would be home to celebrate future birthdays.

"He guaranteed me he would come home and do it," she said. "He did his best."

The family has planned a memorial service at Fort Lewis at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. A funeral is planned for Saturday but exact details were still being arranged, Kerenesa said. She said she hasn't yet considered holding an Alaska service.

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**Resistance Targets The Weak Link In The Occupation Chain:**

**Attacks Cutting The Supply Line To U.S. Troops;**

**“Eight Movements In A Day Reduced To Five”**

**“The Supply Line From Kuwait Is Absolutely Crucial”**

Soussa adds that the upsurge in violence has impacted the logistics business. "Because of the incidents in Iraq, they have reduced the number of trucks (per convoy)," he says.

This reduction was also confirmed by a US contractor, who has driven trucks inside Iraq.

January 08, 2007 By Raymond Barrett, Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

ABDALY, KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER – At this dusty border crossing in northern Kuwait, more than 200 18-wheelers wait to cross into Iraq. Braving Sunni insurgents, Shiite militias, and criminal gangs, these trucks are vital links in the supply chain that keeps some 130,000 US military personnel in Iraq afloat.
"Why you come to Iraq? You come again, I kill you," says a Bangladeshi driver, describing the vitriol that he and other contractors supporting the American effort routinely face.

A stark reminder of the perilousness of the 400-mile journey from here to a US logistics hub in Iraq came last week in a videotape of five kidnapped security contractors - four Americans and one Austrian. It was the first word from the men since their convoy that originated from this outpost was ambushed on Nov. 16.

Due to such dangers, security is the issue on everybody's lips at the Rabha al-Sahara (Desert Springs) truck stop, within sight of the Abdaly crossing.

"It's worse than before ... (the trucks) come under fire more frequently," says a Pakistani businessman who asked not to be identified. He's a logistics operator who leases trucks that are driven into Iraq.

"(There are usually) eight movements in a day, but nowadays it's reduced to five. In one movement there are about 45 trucks," the businessman says.

Multinationals such as the Kuwait-based Public Warehouse Company that transport fuel, food, and water receive first priority to the limited number of convoys escorted by the US military.

Fuel is then distributed to army bases around Iraq by Halliburton-subsidiary KBR, also under US military protection.

The importance of Kuwait as a logistics hub for the coalition forces in Iraq cannot be overstated. Camp Arifjan in southern Kuwait is the main staging area for troops and supplies deploying to Iraq.

"The supply line from Kuwait is absolutely crucial. You cannot supply the level that is required by air," says Paul Rodgers, professor of peace studies at Bradford University in West Yorkshire, England, who has written monthly security briefings on Iraq since 2003.

And with the possibility of increasing US forces by some 20,000 combat troops seeming more likely, the supply route from Kuwait will be ever more vital.

"A very big proportion of the food and water (used by the US military) comes from Kuwait," says Robert Soussa, the managing director of Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Co., a group heavily involved in this logistics business.

"There are hundreds of fuel tankers a day ... shared between many companies. They don't have many refineries in Iraq, the Kuwait government supplies them with petrol," he says.

Soussa adds that the upsurge in violence has impacted the logistics business. "Because of the incidents in Iraq, they have reduced the number of trucks (per convoy)," he says.
This reduction was also confirmed by a US contractor, who has driven trucks inside Iraq.

"In the longer term, they (insurgents) may respond (to a troop surge) by attacking the supplies, rather than the troops themselves," he says.

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**British Soldier Killed In Helmand During Attack On Insurgent Base; “Several Others” Wounded**

15th January 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd

Another British serviceman has been killed in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.

The Ministry of Defence said the soldier was taking part in an attack on an insurgent base in the troubled southern province when he died, NATO officials said.

Several other soldiers were wounded in the fighting in Helmand province, NATO said.

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**Two Troops Wounded By IED Near Kandahar “Believed To Be American”**

01/15/07 KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP)

Two NATO soldiers have been wounded in a roadside bomb attack, southwest of Kandahar.

The blast hit a convoy of soldiers in Sanzary, near the Panjwaii district. Lieut. Sue Stefko, a spokeswoman for the Canadian Forces, says the injured were not Canadian. Although she could not confirm it, the wounded are believed to be American soldiers.

Stefko said Canadian troops are operating in the area and provided a security cordon after the explosion. They also helped evacuate the injured.

The two wounded troops were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, said Squadron Leader David Marsh, a spokesman for the NATO-led troops in southern Afghanistan.
SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Somalia;
Bush Backs The Warlords Who Killed The Troops In Blackhawk Down

January 8, 2007 By Salim Lone, TomPaine.com [Excerpts] Salim Lone, a Kenyan whose last assignment in his U.N. career was as spokesman for the U.N. mission in Iraq immediately after the 2003 war, is a columnist for The Daily Nation in Nairobi.

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The stability that emerged in southern Somalia after 16 years of utter lawlessness is gone, the defeat of the ruling Islamic Courts Union now ushering in looting, martial law and the prospect of another major anti-Western insurgency.

Clan warlords, who terrorized Somalia until they were driven out by the Islamists, and who were put back in power by the U.S.-backed and -trained Ethiopian army, have begun carving up the country once again.

With these developments, the Bush administration, undeterred by the horrors and setbacks in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon, has opened another battlefront in this volatile quarter of the Muslim world. As with Iraq, it casts this illegal war as a way to curtail terrorism, but its real goal appears to be to obtain a direct foothold in a highly strategic area of the world through a client regime. The results could destabilize the whole region.

The current series of events began with the rise of the Islamic Courts more than a year ago.

The Islamists avoided large-scale violence in defeating the warlords, who had held sway in Somalia ever since they drove out U.N. peacekeepers by killing eighteen American soldiers in 1993, by rallying people to their side through establishing law and order.

Washington was wary, fearing their possible support for terrorists. While they have denied any such intentions, some Islamists do have terrorist ties, but these have been vastly overstated in the West.

Washington, however, chose to view the situation only through the prism of its "war on terror."

The Bush administration supported the warlords -- in violation of a U.N. arms embargo it helped impose on Somalia many years ago -- indirectly funneling them arms and suitcases filled with dollars.
Many of these warlords were part of the Western-supported transitional "government" that had been organized in Kenya in 2004.

But the "government" was so devoid of internal support that even after two years it was unable to move beyond the small western town of Baidoa, where it had settled.

In the end, it was forced to turn to Somalia's archenemy Ethiopia for assistance in holding on even to Baidoa. Again in violation of the U.N. arms embargo, Ethiopia sent 15,000 troops to Somalia. Their arrival eroded whatever domestic credibility the government might have had.

The United States, whose troops have been sighted by Kenyan journalists in the region bordering Somalia, next turned to the U.N. Security Council.

In another craven act resembling its post-facto legalization of the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the Council bowed to U.S. pressure and authorized a regional peacekeeping force to enter Somalia to protect the government and "restore peace and stability."

This despite the fact that the U.N. has no right under its charter to intervene on behalf of one of the parties struggling for political supremacy, and that peace and stability had already been restored by the Islamists.

The war came soon after the U.N. resolution, its outcome a foregone conclusion thanks to the highly trained and war-seasoned Ethiopian army. The African Union called for the Ethiopians to end the invasion, but the U.N. Security Council made no such call.

Ethiopia is at even greater risk, as a dictatorship with little popular support and beset by two large internal revolts by Ogadenis and Oromos. It is also mired in a military stalemate with Eritrea, which has denied it secure access to seaports. It now seeks such access in Somalia.

The best antidote to terrorism in Somalia is stability. Instead of engaging with the Islamists to secure peace, the United States has plunged a poor country into greater misery in its misguided determination to dominate the world.

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**TROOP NEWS**

"My Son Doesn’t Want To Go"
"He Has Already Been To Iraq Once. He Knows What’s Going On There"

Tina Smarro has just learnt that her son, Mick, 25, who is stationed at Fort Benning, will be joining the surge in a matter of weeks.

“My son doesn’t want to go,” she said. “He has already been to Iraq once. He knows what’s going on there. I’m devastated. How many more mothers are going to be told their son is dead?”

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

CPL. Jonathan Eric Schuller’s casket after the funeral Jan. 8, 2007 in Ottumwa, Iowa. Schilller was killed Dec. 31, 2006 when an roadside bomb detonated while he was on combat patrol south of Baqubah, Iraq. (AP Photo/Steve Pope)

All Out For Ft. Bragg:
March 17, 2007

Fayetteville
PEACE MARCH & RALLY

March 17, 2007
In Rowan Park
Fayetteville, North Carolina
Home Of Ft. Bragg

END THE IRAQ WAR NOW!

Friday Night (March 16) - Hospitality Center opens 5 PM at 223 Hay Street

Saturday (March 17) Pre-Rally Show - 10 AM at Health Dept. Parking Lot

Saturday Noon - The March! (3/4-mile route up Hay Street to Rowan Park)

The Rally! (Saturday - 1-4 PM) Featuring Holly Near, Fruit of Labor, Speakers, Kids Program, Peace Faire & More!

Sunday (March 18) Activists Conference (TBA)

VFP E-Bulletin - 10 Jan 07:

Veterans For Peace will travel to Fayetteville, North Carolina to join the Fayetteville Peace March & Rally.

Savannah, Georgia:
Anti-War MLK Marchers Welcomed!

From: Christie, HF [Excerpt]
To: cawi@yahoogroups.com
Sent: January 15, 2007
Subject: MLK Parade, Savannah

Today for the first time, a peace group marched in the Martin Luther King Parade here in Savannah. We had a grand total of 8 of us marching.

People clapped and cheered for us the whole length of the route. My sign said, "The ones who call the shots won't be among the dead and lame."

At least 10 women shouted out to me stuff like, "You got that right!", "Ain't it the truth", and "Hey, read that one" which would be followed by a thumb's up from her and her friends.

Several times we heard, "Its about time somebody like you showed up."
Death Rate For Marine Lance Corporals Is More Than Three Times That Of AllTroops In Iraq

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

January 07, 2007 By Greg Bruno, Times Herald-Record

A recent analysis of American troop deaths by Samuel Preston, a University of Pennsylvania demographer, found that the risk for Marine lance corporals is more than three times that of all troops in Iraq.

Not that anyone's counting.

"I talked to a spokesman, maybe the spokesman, for the Marines," Preston recalled in a recent interview.

"I said, 'Are you aware of the high death rates for Marines in Iraq?' He said, 'Yes, but we don't want to publicize it. We don't want to embarrass the other services.'

"For the Marines," Preston said, "it was a badge of honor to have a high death rate."

Army Vets Give Arm & Leg But Can't Get A Drink

An alternative would be to institute the same age limit in the military that we have in the NYPD, where a recruit must be at least 21 at the time of appointment. A sign reading "YOU MUST BE 21" could just as easily go up on the wall of a military recruiting station as on the wall of a gin mill.

January 9, 2007 Daily News

The retired New York City Firefighter Flip Mullen tells of an encounter with a 19-year-old soldier named Keith whose only complaint had nothing to do with having lost a leg in Iraq.

"He said, 'I can't get a drink,'" Mullen recalls.

Keith meant he was considered old enough to go to war but too young to go into a bar or a nightclub.
He is among some 5,000 G.I.s who were wounded in Iraq when they were not yet 21.

Exactly 550 have been killed before they were of an age to have a legal beer.

Which is not necessarily to say the legal drinking age should be lowered. The law has done little to reduce alcohol consumption among those under 21 and indeed may encourage binge drinking because it keeps them from imbibing in "socially controlled situations" such as a licensed premises. But the age limit does seem to significantly reduce drunken driving deaths, especially of the single-vehicle variety.

An alternative would be to institute the same age limit in the military that we have in the NYPD, where a recruit must be at least 21 at the time of appointment. A sign reading "YOU MUST BE 21" could just as easily go up on the wall of a military recruiting station as on the wall of a gin mill.

The problem is, the military presently needs every pair of boots it can muster for an increasingly unpopular war. The need will become all the more pressing if the predictions concerning President Bush's revamped strategy are correct. The 130,000 troops already in Iraq include a good 25,000 who are too young to drink legally or, for that matter, become cops.

Even with the military taking them as young as 17, the recruiting station at Times Square had but a single prospect yesterday afternoon, and he was sitting by the Air Force cubicle. The Marine Corps recruiter was on the phone with his mother. The two Army recruiters looked about as busy as overcoat salesmen this season. They seemed happy to answer a visitor's inquiries regarding his 18-year-old daughter.

"All ages are deployable," one of the Army representatives said.

The Marine got off the phone, and the visitor inquired how the Corps felt about young recruits.

"As a matter of fact, it's encouraged," he said. "By the time they're 21, they're in leadership positions."

One Bronx Marine who did not quite reach the age of leadership was Ramona Valdez. She had a job at the fast-food counter at Liberty Island when the attack on the World Trade Center prompted the government to close the statue to the public. She was 17 when she joined the Marine Corps. She was 20 when she was killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq.

Valdez died a year too young to get past the doorman at one of those fun Manhattan nightspots where the police are cracking down on underage patrons, holding some in jail overnight. Had she escaped with just a missing limb or two, she would have gone from surviving an IED to needing a fake ID.

The powers that be are not likely to lower the drinking age, or raise the dying age, but there is one recourse for under-21 Marines and soldiers wanting a drink. They need only seek out premises where a retired or off-duty New York City firefighter is present.
The response will almost certainly be the same as when the 19-year-old soldier with one leg told Mullen that he could not get a drink.

"I'll fix that," Mullen said.

Indeed, firefighters tend to be surprised when vets return from Iraq without a certain thirst. Firefighter Mike Moran took in a seriously injured soldier as part of a program involving the Wounded Warrior Project and a charitable outfit called Greybeard. Mullen reports the following exchange:

Moran: "Hey, Flip, my soldier doesn't drink!"

Mullen: "What?"

Moran: "Yeah, I got no Plan B. I told the wife maybe you ought to go out and buy some food."

Meanwhile, the President is expected to announce tomorrow his intention to send as many as 20,000 more troops to Iraq.

That would mean sending some 3,000 soldiers who are too young to enjoy a legal drink but old enough to lose limbs and die in a war Bush tells us is still not lost.

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**Predators At Work:**

**Dad Meets Recruiter At The Door With A Gun;**

"He Told Him He Could Play Saxophone For The Army Band And Perform For The President, She Said, Never Seeing Combat"

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

January 14, 2007 BY DENISE M. BONILLA, Newsday Staff Writer [Excerpts]

Quiet, reserved and compact, the 27-year-old recruiter walks with a steady gait through the crowds of shoppers at the Smith Haven Mall, his presence striking only because of the crisp dress uniform he wears adorned with gleaming buttons and a row of ribbons marking his career.

Marine Sgt. Vincente Gomez's eyes dart from side to side as he walks past the stores. He is a man on a mission, looking for young people to enlist among those eating
Cinnabons and buying jeans at the Gap. Some shoppers stop to shake his hand and thank him for his service. Others avert eye contact as he nears.

"Sometimes it's hard to approach," Gomez says. "It's like an invasion of their privacy. But you have to do it, because you never know. The kid could be interested and never knew where to find the information."

Finding and signing qualified enlistees is never easy, and as the war in Iraq nears its fourth anniversary, area recruiters said the job of filling today's all-volunteer ranks has become even harder.

The handful of local recruiters Newsday spent time with in recent weeks all said the No. 1 obstacle to signing up qualified recruits is mom and dad. And their biggest concern is the war.

"The only thing they ever see is their son or daughter in a Kevlar helmet ... walking through the streets of Baghdad," said Patchogue Army recruiting station commander Sgt. 1st Class Greg Gottner.

That imagery is hard to overcome, he said.

"There's no such thing as an easy parental consent," said Gomez's boss, Marine Gunnery Sgt. John Dott, 40, Smithtown recruiting station commander.

Gomez found that out on his first home visit when he arrived in Smithtown six months ago. After talking to an interested student over the phone, Gomez made an appointment to meet at the boy's house without first clearing it with his parents.

The father greeted him at the door holding a gun and ordering him to leave.

"I said, 'Whoa, calm down. This is not worth it,'" Gomez recalled.

Twenty-five-year-old rookie Marine recruiter Sgt. Lazaro Arocha feels the pressure of his job daily.

"Right now in New York, it's tough," he said.

When he started recruiting, Arocha -- a Queens resident who was moved to enlist the day after Sept. 11 -- said he was dismayed at how he was treated by fellow New Yorkers.

"I thought, 'Is it really that bad?'" he said. "'Am I doing something that bad to people?'"

When Gomez combs the mall, he watches to make sure no one else is around before he approaches.

Groups of kids will see him coming and run away, he says. Parents will shield their child from talking to him. "No crowds, no parents," Gomez says. "I try to get them alone."
The aggressiveness of one recruiter angered Long Beach resident Marti Renoud-DiPaola. Her 16-year-old son attended a college fair at Long Beach High School two months ago and announced he was joining the Army.

"He never, ever had any inclination for the military," said Renoud-DiPaola, 47, who didn't want her son's name published. "This had him sucked in so quickly."

He told him he could play saxophone for the Army band and perform for the president, she said, never seeing combat.

After discussing pros and cons with her son, she said he decided it wasn't for him. But the recruiter kept calling and, she said, got angry over their decision.

Renoud-DiPaola, whose father is a World War II veteran, said she supports the military but objected to the recruiter's tactics.

"They're trying to get 16-year-olds, who don't even know who they are yet," she said. "They bank on the fact these are young people with stars in their eyes."

Critics of recruitment tactics accuse the military of targeting disadvantaged teens by promising money for education, bonuses and large salaries. These perks, they say, are often presented in a flashy package using props such as video games and Hummers parked outside recruiting stations.

"They make it seem like it's the only way to success, the only way out of that cycle of being poor," said Vietnam War veteran Mac Bica, 60, of Smithtown, a member of the Long Island chapter of Veterans for Peace. Bica is part of a counter-recruitment effort on Long Island that protests Saturday mornings at area recruitment stations and tries to talk to students about the realities of military service.

Counter-recruiters claim the military also uses service members who have done tours in Iraq to downplay the danger.

Smithtown Marine recruiter Sgt. Johnathan Rose, who served an 8-month tour in Iraq, said he uses his experience only to allay applicants' fears. "I show ways around it," he said.

"There are jobs where, if you go over there, you are not on the front lines as much as others."

But some critics charge that in the Iraq war, the concept of "front lines" is no longer applicable.

Back in the office, Gomez calls an eager recruit, only to find out he is backing out of a scheduled meeting.

His mother "started looking into it and said it's not something she wants him to do," Gomez says, before picking up the receiver to begin another round of cold calls.
IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDPUP

“We Have Only One Enemy — American Forces”


In Sadr City, Abu Ali, one of the leaders of the Mahdi army, said: “If Sadr orders us to give up our weapons we will do it. But at the same time the Sunnis should do the same. We do not care about the government. We have our leader and are waiting for his command. We have only one enemy — American forces.”

The Next Generation:
He Is Ready To Stand Against “The Evil Of America”
“I Will Fight Them To Defend My Land, Country And Religion”

[In other parts of the article, the writer does a lot of moaning about how nasty Iraqis recruit kids to fight. She conveniently ignores the fact that in the U.S. Civil War, hundreds of thousands of the troops were 15 or under, some as young as 11, as documented in Ken Burns’ TV series, The Civil War. There is no age limit on fighting against either slavery, or a foreign Empire occupying your country. If the kids who fought the British in 1776 could come back, they’d tell you that straight up.]

Jan. 22, 2007 By Christian Caryl, Newsweek [Excerpts]

Ali Sadkhan, a 14-year-old Shiite who hails from the holy city of Karbala, also helped wash bodies at his local mosque. "All of them were shot in the head," he says. He estimates that he's helped bury 300 corpses, many of them children.

A deeply devout believer, slight and dark, Ali is not physically imposing. "I do not want to be weak like them," he says of the dead, batting away tears. Ali now wears the black shirt and trousers of Moqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, and says he's received four months of training in light weapons.

The United States is striving to create a new Middle East dominated by Israel, he says, and he is ready to stand against "the evil of America."
Jumaa, a Fallujah high-school student, was himself detained by the Americans in September 2005, when he was 16 years old. U.S. forces raided his house searching for his father, a Baath Party member and insurgency sympathizer.

In his absence, they took Jumaa instead.

He says the Americans handcuffed him, blindfolded him and held him at a nearby U.S. base. According to him, the Americans left him alone for 24 hours with no food or water.

He ended up staying there for two months, until he was transferred to the Iraqi security forces, who, he says, tortured him for three months until he was released.

Now he longs to kill Americans. "I will carry a weapon," he declares. "I will fight them to defend my land, country and religion."

After revealing in 2004 that it was holding 107 suspected insurgents under the age of 16 in detention camps in Iraq, the United States has refused to release any figures about the number of Iraqi kids in custody.

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**Assorted Resistance Action**

January 15, 2007 AP &

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed three policemen and wounded two others in Rustumiya in southeastern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

The attack occurred during morning rush hour on Monday near a gas station in the capital. The official did not want to be identified because he is not authorized to talk to media.

A car bomber blew himself up near an Iraqi army check point, killing four soldiers and wounding three others in Jamiaa district in western Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a man who worked with the U.S. forces as a garbage contractor in Kut, 170 km (105 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

In a separate attack, a translator working with U.S. forces was shot dead near Kut, police said.

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IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS
The Legacy of George Bush And Dick Cheney

Bush was AWOL from the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War, and Dick Cheney had 5 deferments to stay out of the war in Vietnam. And, these men talk about supporting the troops.

They are two of the sickest men ever born in America.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71

Photo 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) T)
January 16, 1979: Happy Anniversary: A Tyrant Falls

Carl Bunin, Peace History

Faced with strikes, violent demonstrations, an army mutiny and clerical opposition to his repressive rule, the Shah of Iran, its leader since 1941, was forced to flee the country.

He was installed in a CIA- and British-engineered 1953 coup of elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadeq, and then continuously supported by the U.S.

Despite having imposed martial law in October, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, fled the Peacock Throne.

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January 16, 1893: Unhappy Anniversary: U.S. Government Invades And Occupies Hawaii; U.S. Pineapple Tycoon Sanford Dole Takes Over
On January 16, 1893, four boatloads of United States Marines armed with Gatling guns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition came ashore in Honolulu, capital of the independent Kingdom of Hawaii, "to protect U.S. interests."

As the Royal Hawaiian band played a concert at the Hawaiian Hotel, 162 troops marched through the streets of Honolulu, heading for the palace. The Queen of Hawaii, Lili'uokalani, looked down from her balcony as the troops took up their positions.

The following day, she surrendered at gunpoint, yielding her throne.

A new provincial government led by U.S. pineapple tycoon Sanford Dole and pro-annexation wealthy white sugar growers was installed with Dole as president and petitioned the US for annexation. [Dole as in Dole Pineapples.]

In 1898, President William McKinley signed a joint resolution of Congress authorizing annexation.

January 17, 1993, native Hawai’ians demonstrated against U.S. control of their homeland on the 100th anniversary of the U.S. backed overthrow of the independent Hawaiian government.

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**OCCUPATION REPORT**
“New War Plan Faces Some Of Its Fiercest Resistance From Iraqi Government Officials”
“We Are Being Played Like A Pawn” U.S. Military Official Says


BAGHDAD, Jan. 14 — Just days after President Bush unveiled a new war plan calling for more than 20,000 additional American troops in Iraq, the heart of the effort — a major push to secure the capital — faces some of its fiercest resistance from the very people it depends on for success: Iraqi government officials.

American military officials have spent days huddled in meetings with Iraqi officers in a race to turn blueprints drawn up in Washington into a plan that will work on the ground in Baghdad. With the first American and Iraqi units dedicated to the plan due to be in place within weeks, time is short for setting details of what American officers view as the decisive battle of the war.

But the signs so far have unnerved some Americans working on the plan, who have described a web of problems — ranging from a contested chain of command to how to protect American troops deployed in some of Baghdad’s most dangerous districts — that some fear could hobble the effort before it begins.

“We are implementing a strategy to embolden a government that is actually part of the problem,” said an American military official in Baghdad involved in talks over the plan.

“We are being played like a pawn.”

OCCUPATION ISN’T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK
Congressional Democrats Have The Power To Stop The War Any Day They Want
[But The Bloody Handed Butchers Don’t Want]

Jan. 10, 2007 By Jacob Weisberg, Slate.com [Excerpts]

In fact, congressional Democrats have the power to stop the war any day they want.

Rejecting additional funding for the war, which 12 senators (including John Kerry) voted to do in 2003, is merely the most dramatic and least politically attractive of their options.
Congress can pass a law that says the president cannot send more than a set number of troops to Iraq. It can limit the length of military tours of duty. Or it can enforce a specific deadline for partial or complete withdrawal.

Most would rather kvetch.

But Congress' power to terminate a war seems even clearer than its power to forbid one in the first place.

**A provision of the War Powers Resolution states specifically that the president must remove forces when Congress so orders.**

Faced with military deployments they disliked in Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo, legislators did not hesitate to assert this authority during the Clinton years. Perhaps the most striking example was our military intervention in Somalia, which Clinton inherited from his predecessor, and which he was criticized for turning into an effort at "nation-building" — before that went from Republican dirty word to Republican policy in Iraq.

In 1993, the House passed an amendment saying U.S. forces could remain in Somalia only for one more year.

The Senate didn't follow suit, but two subsequent defense appropriations bills cutting off funding for the deployment did pass.

Congress also drew limits around how U.S. personnel and bases could be used.
Late one night a robber wearing a ski mask jumped into a path of a well-dressed man and stuck a gun in his ribs "give me your money," he demanded.

Indignant, the affluent man replied, "you can't do this – I am a United States congressman!"

"In that case," replied the robber, "give me MY money."

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**CLASS WAR REPORTS**

*Capitalism At Work:*

*Wall St. Bonuses For One Year Overwhelmingly Exceed All The Pay Increases Received By Production & Non-Supervisory Workers In America Over A Six-Year Period”*

Fairness plays no role in this system. The corporate elite control it, and they have turned it to their ends.

There’s a reason why the power elite get bent out of shape at the merest mention of a class conflict in the U.S. The fear is that the cringing majority that has taken it on the chin for so long will wise up and begin to fight back.

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


Data recently compiled by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston offers a startling look at just how out of whack executive compensation has become.

According to the center’s director, Andrew Sum, the top five Wall Street firms (Bear Stearns, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley) were expected to award an estimated $36 billion to $44 billion worth of bonuses to their 173,000 employees, an average of between $208,000 and
$254,000, "with the bulk of the gains accruing to the top 1,000 or so highest-paid managers."

Now consider what's been happening to the bulk of the American population, the ordinary men and women who have to work for a living somewhere below the stratosphere of the top corporate executives.

Between 2000 and 2006, labor productivity in the nonfarm sector of the economy rose by an impressive 18 percent. But workers were not paid for that impressive effort. During that period, according to Mr. Sum, the inflation-adjusted weekly wages of workers increased by just 1 percent.

That's $3.20 a week. As Mr. Sum wryly observed, that won't even buy you a six-pack of Bud Light. Joe Six-Pack has been downsized. Three bucks ain't what it used to be.

There are 93 million production and nonsupervisory workers (exclusive of farmworkers) in the U.S. Their combined real annual earnings from 2000 to 2006 rose by $15.4 billion, which is less than half of the combined bonuses awarded by the five Wall Street firms for just one year.

"Just these bonuses — for one year — overwhelmingly exceed all the pay increases received by these workers over the entire six-year period," said Mr. Sum.

In a development described by Mr. Sum as "quite stark and rather bleak for the economic well-being of the average worker," the once strong link between productivity gains and real wage increases has been severed.

Workers have received some modest increases in benefits over the past six years, but most of the money from their productivity gains — by far, it's not even a close call — has gone into profits and the salaries of top executives.

Fairness plays no role in this system. The corporate elite control it, and they have turned it to their ends.

The productivity gains in the go-go decades that followed World War II were broadly shared, and the result was a dramatic, sustained increase in the quality of life for most Americans. Nowadays workers have to be more productive just to maintain their economic status quo. Productivity gains are no longer broadly shared. They're barely shared at all.

The pervasive unfairness in the way the great wealth of the United States is distributed should be seen for what it is, an insidious disease eating away at the structure of the society and undermining its future. The middle class is hurting, propped up by the wobbly crutches of personal debt. The safety net, not just for the poor, but for the middle class as well, is disappearing. The savings rate has dropped to below zero, and more Americans are filing for bankruptcy than for divorce.

Your pension? Don't ask.
There's a reason why the power elite get bent out of shape at the merest mention of a class conflict in the U.S.

The fear is that the cringing majority that has taken it on the chin for so long will wise up and begin to fight back.

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

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.  
http://www.traveling-soldier.org/ And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

**GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/; http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e;  
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