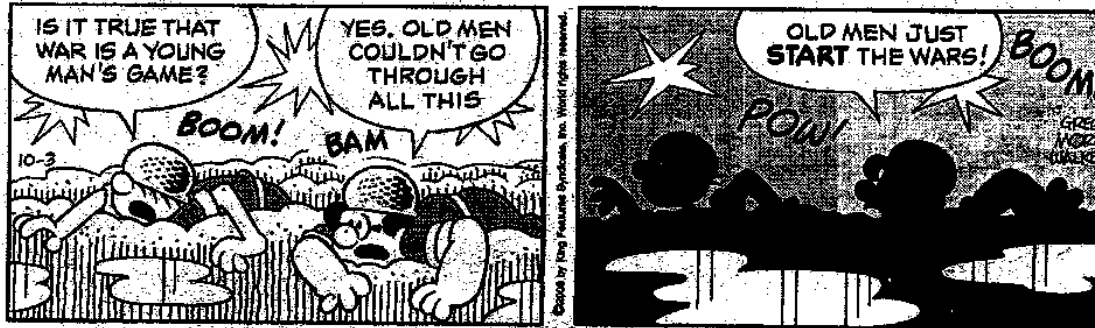


GI SPECIAL 6J1:



“We Need To Make The Government Fear The People, Instead Of People Fearing The Government”

“It’s Hard To Build A GI Resistance Movement Or A GI Revolt Within The Military If You Don’t Have A Civilian Movement Behind It”

“Obama Isn’t Going To End The War- And We Need To Force Him To Do That”

“The Democrats Are Part Of The Problem. The Excuses That They’re Using Are As Unjustified In Afghanistan As In Iraq”



9.26.08 Socialist Worker IVAW Interviews [Excerpts]

IN MID-August and early September, members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) took part in demonstrations outside the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in Denver, Colo., and St. Paul, Minn.

Several IVAW members--Phil Aliff, Ian LaVallee, Nate Lewis, Liam Madden, Joseph Potts and Eli Wright--sat down with Eric Ruder and Ashley Smith to discuss the tactics of those actions and what they mean for the antiwar movement. Here, we print excerpts from their conversation.

Phil Aliff: In walking through the crowd at the end of the march, I realized that we had thousands of young people who were unaffiliated. This was their first march and their first action with the antiwar movement, and for them to be involved in this kind of success, it was an important step in political radicalization for those who were there.

A lot of political ideas came out of the march and the discussions along the way.

People were saying that Obama isn’t going to end the war--he doesn’t have the same principles that we do, and we need to force him to do that.

We have to be clear with people where our principles are and what our demands are.

Obama himself has talked about withdrawing combat forces, which could leave up to 80,000 troops in Iraq, and escalating the war in Afghanistan.

Nate Lewis: Withdrawal of combat forces?

If they're going to leave any forces, they have to have combat forces there. They aren't just going to leave Joe Cook there.

Phil: We got a lot of press coverage (in Denver), but I think that's mostly due to how many people we brought with us and the tactics of the march.

That coverage didn't come because we were specifically focused on media attention. It was more that we were focused on how can we be in a position of strength.

Ian LaVallee: Being disciplined and marching in formation is really important.

Showing that we're not just a gaggle--not only as IVAW, but also as the left and the antiwar movement--is good.

Like Malcolm X, when one of their guys was beaten down, and they went out and stood there in formation, and there was a riot behind them that they were in control of, and it scared the shit out of the cops; their guy some medical attention.

That worked.

When I read that, it blew my mind.

I think we need to utilize that kind of power.

SW: OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE not going to have a Rage Against the Machine concert before every demonstration, like you had in Denver. How can you mobilize numbers for demonstrations?

Liam Madden: We need to utilize the fact that we've already done something that is a small victory, to mobilize and galvanize people to come protest the presidential debate in New York and be part of something.

Instead of going to the campuses that we're going to be at anyway and say to be involved in the antiwar movement, we can say come be involved in this--it's exciting.

Phil: One thing that I took away from Denver is the relationship between the civilian movement and the veteran movement.

It's hard to build a GI resistance movement or a GI revolt within the military if you don't have a civilian movement behind it to give it confidence.

IVAW has its own area where it concentrates, but sometimes you can lose perspective that we actually are part of a bigger machine, and we have to play our part, but we are all related in some way.

We have to translate this experience into a six-year anniversary march. There's a lot of discussion and debate about why there wasn't an anniversary march last year. This year, we've learned a lot of lessons, and we should make a statement next March 20 that the movement is not going away because of Obama's election.

Ian: They want to paint us as disorganized rabble. We need to stick with being really disciplined and those things that we learned in our military training to accomplish our goals.

Right now, the job is for the antiwar movement to put pressure on our government.

We need to make the government fear the people, instead of people fearing the government.

Phil: I think it's an interesting dynamic with Obama. We already went over what his real policies are, but his rhetoric is raising expectations.

People are going to have to learn through practice the reality of the Democratic Party's policies.

Consciousness is shifting underneath our feet. People want change, even though Obama won't end the war, and people electing him as president is a sign of changed consciousness.

Ian: They don't know exactly how to do it. They're doing what they've been taught.

When their frustrations grow after expecting change, they realize that change is not going to happen through the system.

ONE OF the challenges facing the antiwar movement is the question of Afghanistan. Obama is saying we have to end the war in Iraq and shift the focus to Afghanistan. What do you think IVAW should do?

Phil: Last year was the bloodiest year for Afghanistan. This year is going to be another record. We've had consecutive months where the war in Afghanistan is bloodier than the war in Iraq, and we have the Taliban regrouping and gaining strength.

I think it was the Toronto Star that did a poll of the Taliban and found that something like 80 percent didn't have any real allegiance to the leadership of the Taliban. The reason they joined was to resist U.S. occupation. So the resistance in Afghanistan is gaining strength.

Eli Wright: And the escalation into Pakistan is getting a lot worse.

Phil: My personal opinion is that no matter who gets elected, they're going to escalate the war in Afghanistan.

We are going to have hundreds of thousands of veterans coming back from Afghanistan who are going to be looking for an organization that can take up their demands. And we're going to have a country that's going to be seeing the war in Afghanistan much more--watching as it degenerates and demanding an end to it.

We did a straw poll, and a healthy majority of the room was in favor of calling for out now in Afghanistan.

But a lot of people that I talked to said, "I don't know if we can get people to that."

I think the basis for winning people is being able to articulate a political principle or argument for why we're against it. It's obviously bad that people in Afghanistan are dying.

But we can go further than that. We need to explain the real reasons that the U.S. went to war, this is why it's wrong, and this is why we need to end it.

When I was organizing the active-duty chapter at Fort Drum, which is home to the most deployed unit to Afghanistan within the U.S. military, we had quite a few veterans say to us something like, "I'm in agreement, the war in Iraq is going horribly, but I'm an Afghanistan veteran, and I don't see where the space is for me to speak out about my experiences."

Abstractly, there is that space.

We did it at Winter Soldier.

But the antiwar movement should be able to say with clarity that we support any soldiers who are organizing against the war in Afghanistan.

Ian: We need to talk about Afghanistan to educate each other about it so it does become a widespread point of discussion in our organization. We need to share the insights that we've found or the experiences that we've had there.

To me, it's the same war.

It's about the same things.

The excuses that they're using are as unjustified in Afghanistan as in Iraq.

MORE:

“Whatever It Is That Will Get Us Out Of This Mess Will Have To Come From Us”

“The Debate Was Between A Reckless, Angry, Dedicated Militarist And A Young, Energetic, Intellectual, Caring Militarist”

September 30, 2008 By Chuck Zlatkin, Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War
[Excerpts]

The debate was between a reckless, angry, dedicated militarist and a young, energetic, intellectual, caring militarist.

This week’s financial crisis was difficult to understand and the proposed solution made every ordinary citizen angry—left, right and center. It should have made us think about Silverado, BCCI, Enron and all the other staged rip-offs that have victimized us in the past.

One candidate promises victory in Iraq and the other to wind it down while winding up wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan and maybe even Iran.

The Iraq war, five and a half years old, has been funded into next year.

What is the solution for this madness?

I don’t know for sure, but it certainly isn’t coming from our elected officials. Whatever it is that will get us out of this mess will have to come from us.

Everyone is going to tell you that you must vote. And I’m certainly not going to say something different.

But this vote won’t end the war.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

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 wars, 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

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

“The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney.” David McReynolds 9.29.07

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Military Deaths In Iraq Up For Third Month 555 IEDs 8.08

9-2008	25
8-2008	23
7-2008	13

[Iraq Coalition Casualty Count]

September 29, 2008 Army Times & Oct 1, 2008 The Associated Press

The number of roadside bombs in Iraq that exploded or were discovered in August: 555.

At least 159 Iraqi police, soldiers and Sunni armed guards who have joined forces with the Americans were killed in September, 33 percent more than the 120 killed in September 2007, according to AP figures that are based on reports from police and hospital officials.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

9.30.08 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080930-10

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died of wounds at approximately 12:45 p.m. at a Coalition force's Combat Support Hospital Sept. 30. The Soldier was wounded when his patrol came under small-arms fire in northern Baghdad at approximately 12:15.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK
OF THIEVING TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU
THERE**

That is not a good enough reason.



U.S. soldiers, Diyala province August 8, 2008. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

**Now What Do You Suppose Comes
Next?**

Oct 1, 2008 By Sameer N. Yacoub, The Associated Press [Excerpt]

About 100,000 fighters, known as Sons of Iraq or Awakening Councils, had been under U.S. military supervision and were paid by the Americans for the last two years.

They are now being transferred to Iraqi military control.

Monthly income is expected to be about \$300, the same amount that the Americans are paying.

However, the Americans paid more to sheiks and other community leaders who raised their own Awakening Council forces. The Iraqi government has committed to paying everyone the same amount.

The ‘Oil For War’ Deal: “The U.S. Approach Is Looking Less Like A Show Of Strength And More Like An Act Of Desperation” “The Longer The Troops Stay, The More Unpopular U.S. Agendas Become”

September 30, 2008 Carbon Web Newsletter Issue 10; Platformlondon.org

In 2002 the future Oil Minister of Iraq, Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum, enthusiastically described the occupation as both a “sort of life insurance for continuing the social and political changes” and “a great incentive for attracting the international oil companies”.

On one hand, the ongoing occupation would allow the US to shape Iraqi politics in its own interests, especially on oil policy.

On the other hand, oil companies wanted US forces to remain to defend their operations, as admitted by French company Total in a rare candid moment in 2007.

Now, in 2008, the occupation looks set to be extended, partly to hold the door open for foreign oil companies, which in turn would need the occupation to be extended further... a cycle of war without end.

But the power of the USA to impose unpopular policies has been dramatically weakened.

Remarkably, a civil society campaign (led by Iraq's unions and oil professionals) has prevented passage of an oil law that would effectively privatise Iraqi oil reserves - in spite of extreme pressure from the USA.

As the prospect of passing the oil law recedes from the grasp of the outgoing Bush/Cheney government, efforts are being concentrated on the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which would maintain the occupation beyond expiry of the UN mandate at the end of 2008.

The SOFA, whose main purpose is to place US troops under US rather than Iraqi jurisdiction, and hence to protect them from having to comply with Iraqi law, is being negotiated alongside a broader strategic framework agreement, covering political, economic and security issues. Rumours are circulating in Baghdad that the agreement will include provisions allowing control of the oilfields to be privatised. The original November 2007 declaration of principles included "Facilitating and encouraging the flow of foreign investments to Iraq, especially American investments".

But any investment provisions in the SOFA are unlikely to have either the detail or the binding force of an oil law. Instead the strategy is to keep the troops in place, and play long.

The flaw in the strategy is that the longer the troops stay, the more unpopular US agendas become.

However, the US approach is looking less like a show of strength and more like an act of desperation.

The shift in politics in Baghdad was again illustrated by the recent termination of nearly a year's negotiations over technical service contracts for some of Iraq's largest fields.

The talks – with BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Total and three smaller companies – collapsed largely because of the greed of the companies.

Not interested in service contracts that only last for a year or two, the companies insisted on extension rights to give them what they really wanted: first preference on longer-term contracts to subsequently manage the fields and take a large slice of the revenues.

But in the changed politics, the Oil Ministry was able to stand firm, and quite rightly deny them such unfair advantages.

The next phase will be the formal launch - in London rather than Baghdad - of a round of bidding for those same fields on 13 October, with the aim of signing contracts in June 2009.

Meanwhile, the first two major contracts are about to be signed: a \$1.2 bn contract with China National Petroleum Company to develop the al-Ahdab field in Wasit province, and a \$3-4 bn contract with Shell to extract and market associated gas from the oilfields in Basra province.

Both have resulted from long-running negotiations, without any competitive bidding process.

The Oil Ministry says that all of these deals will be on a service contract model – where the foreign company is paid a fee rather than taking a share of production. If true, this is a significant improvement on policy since two years ago, when Iraq looked set to give everything away.

Yet, they are still set to offer the companies more generous terms than are to be found in Iraq's neighbours.

These Iraqi contracts allow the foreign companies to manage and operate the oilfield – rather than simply carry out a service or install some equipment as in Saudi Arabia or Kuwait.

But the biggest problem is that no-one knows what the terms really are – and in these contracts, the devil is in the detail.

Unless the contracts themselves are published, Iraqis will not know what their government has signed away.

The Iraqi Oil Ministry criticised the Kurdistan Regional Government for signing contracts without transparency, and without a competitive process. The standards the Ministry demanded should form its own starting point.

More fundamentally, Iraq's history demonstrates the danger of signing long-term contracts while the country is still occupied. Any contracts signed now must be short-term, so that a sovereign Iraqi government can make its own decisions once the troops are withdrawn. It may be the only way to break out of the occupation-oil-occupation cycle of violence.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced Either

Sep 30 (Reuters)

“Three coalition service members were killed September 29 in southern Afghanistan when their vehicle struck an IED,” the U.S. military said in a statement, referring to an improvised explosive device, or roadside bomb.

The U.S. military did not release the nationalities of the soldiers and said the incident was under investigation.

British Diplomat Says Afghan War Being Lost; Calls For An “Acceptable Dictator” To Run The Country “Within Five To 10 Years”

“The Presence Of Foreign Troops In The Country Is Part Of The Problem, Propping Up The Current Regime”

October 1, 2008 CBC News

A French newspaper has published a diplomatic cable saying Britain’s ambassador to Kabul thinks the West is losing the battle for Afghanistan.

The coded cable reproduced Wednesday in *Le Canard Enchaîné* is from France’s deputy ambassador to Afghanistan, François Fitou, describing a conversation he had with the British ambassador to Kabul, Sherard Cowper-Coles.

It says Cowper-Coles believes the West’s war against Taliban forces in Afghanistan is being lost and the coalition that includes Canada’s Armed Forces should leave an “acceptable dictator” in charge of the country within five to 10 years.

“We have no alternative to supporting the United States in Afghanistan, but we should tell them that we want to be part of a winning strategy, not a losing one,” the cable paraphrases the ambassador as saying.

Fitou sent the message to brief French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, the newspaper said.

The cable, written in French, paraphrases the 53-year-old British ambassador as saying:

The security situation is bad and getting worse.

The Afghan people have lost all trust in their current government, partly because of corruption.

The presence of foreign troops in the country is part of the problem, propping up the current regime and thus slowing progress toward Afghans putting a more effective government in place.

Sending more military reinforcements to Afghanistan would have a “perverse effect” on the country’s stability and future, sending the message that an occupying force is in control of the country and widening the number of targets for insurgents to attack.

MORE:

U.S. Occupation Commander Says Afghan War Being Lost

01 October 2008 By Meredith Buel, VOICE OF AMERICA [Excerpts]

General David McKiernan, the commander of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, told reporters at the Pentagon the security situation in the south and east of the country continues to deteriorate.

“People generally do not feel secure, do not have freedom of movement and so the additional military capabilities that have been asked for are needed as quickly as possible,” he said.

MORE:

Panic At The Pentagon: As Resistance Threatens Strategic Main Highway, McKiernan Begg For Armor & Drones

Oct 1, 2008 By Lolita C. Baldor, The Associated Press

The U.S. and its allies should rush more troops “as quickly as possible” to Afghanistan, the top American commander in that country said Wednesday, warning that the fighting could worsen before it get better.

Trying to meet Gen. David McKiernan’s urgent need for weapons and equipment, Defense Secretary Robert Gates has asked the military for additional surveillance drones and armored vehicles right now for Afghanistan, The Associated Press has learned.

A senior defense official said Gates asked aides to find both unmanned surveillance drones and mine-resistant vehicles to divert to Afghanistan in the coming months until a more coordinated effort early next year.

One focus is protecting the strategic main highway.

“The additional military capabilities that have been asked for are needed as quickly as possible,” McKiernan said.

MORE:

Resistance Leader Promises ‘Safe Retreat’ For U.S. Troops: “If You Insist On Your Invasion, You Will Be Defeated Like The Russians Before You”

“Several years ago, no one thought that Americans and their friends would face such hard resistance, that today the president and his ministers would beg for money, weapons and soldiers while no one gives a positive answer,” he said.

Sep 30 KABUL (AFP) & By JOHN F. BURNS and ABDUL WAHEED WAFI, The New York Times Company

Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar on Tuesday offered international forces safe passage if they withdrew from Afghanistan and ordered his fighters to drop certain tactics, such as attacks in mosques.

In a traditional message for the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival posted on a Taliban website, the fugitive former leader of Afghanistan also told his fighters to avoid civilian casualties as they battle Afghan and foreign troops.

He said that if US and NATO troops fighting his hardline militia failed to take up the offer of a safe withdrawal, they would suffer a defeat like Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

“I say to the invaders: if you leave our country, we will provide you the safe context to do so,” said Omar, who has a 25-million-dollar US bounty on his head.

“If you insist on your invasion, you will be defeated like the Russians before you.”

The Red Army pulled out of Afghanistan in 1989 after 10 years of fighting that cost the lives of at least 10,000 Soviet troops

The message from “Mullah Omar Mujahed (fighter)” urged Taliban fighters to “stand like steel in front of the enemy” but take care to avoid harming civilians.

It also told fighters to stop “action which is not compliant with Islamic law and culture” including bombings in mosques and crowded areas, stealing people’s property, and cutting off the ears of people.

Omar said in the message that he offered his support to all those fighting foreign troops whom he said were suffering from growing losses and would “never succeed.”

“Several years ago, no one thought that Americans and their friends would face such hard resistance, that today the (Afghan) president and his ministers would beg for money, weapons and soldiers while no one gives a positive answer,” he said.

Omar made no reference to any possible peace talks and accused the Afghan security forces of being thieves, smugglers and criminals, The Associated Press reported.

The message demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

“There are thousands of security forces and it is clear that they are criminal, thieves, and the people cannot trust the security forces at all,” Mullah Omar said in a statement posted on a Web site that has carried many Taliban statements in the past, according to the A.P.

“Foreign forces are the thieves of our culture, faith, as well as natural resources, in the same way the army and police steal the money, dignity and the honor of the people,” the message said.

This year has been the deadliest yet for international forces in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion, with at least 221 troops dying in the first nine months of 2008, most of them Americans.

“Since The Time Of Alexander The Great, No Foreign Intruder Has Ever Prevailed Over Afghan Guerrillas Defending Their Home Turf”

September 29, 2008 By Chalmers Johnson, The Nation [Excerpt]

In Afghanistan, our historically deaf generals and civilian strategists do not seem to understand that our defeat by the Afghan insurgents is inevitable.

Since the time of Alexander the Great, no foreign intruder has ever prevailed over Afghan guerrillas defending their home turf.

The first Anglo-Afghan War (1838-1842) marked a particularly humiliating defeat of British imperialism at the very height of English military power in the Victorian era.

The Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989) resulted in a Russian defeat so demoralizing that it contributed significantly to the disintegration of the former Soviet Union in 1991.

We are now on track to repeat virtually all the errors committed by previous invaders of Afghanistan over the centuries.

TROOP NEWS

“Veterans Of The Wars In Iraq And Afghanistan Spoke About Their Experiences At War And Stressed The Need For The United States To Pull Troops Out Of Iraq”



September 29, 2008 By: Alyssa Connolly, The Daily Cardinal

University students and Madison residents joined members of Iraq Veterans Against the War for a panel discussion and protest march from Memorial Union to Brittingham Park Saturday.

IVAW organized the “Madison Winter Soldier” rally in reference to Thomas Paine’s “summer soldier”—one who shrinks from the service of his country in times of crisis.

IVAW-Central Ill. member Jason Wallace and IVAW-Madison President Christina Taber emceed the event. They introduced panel speakers who spoke about war terrors such as torture, dehumanization and death.

Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including Wallace, spoke about their experiences at war and stressed the need for the United States to pull troops out of Iraq.

"I think the occupation is illegal, immoral and the right thing to do is to give the country back to the people," Wallace said. "We've taken away their sovereignty."

According to Wallace, the three unity points of IVAW are to bring troops home immediately, to instill reparations for the Iraqi people and to have better care for veterans.

Taber said she joined IVAW after serving time as a mental-health specialist in the U.S. Army Reserves.

"The war stories really opened my eyes and opinions to the occupation," she said.

Benjamin Thompson, who served as a prison guard at Abu Ghraib, talked about the media attention the prison received as a result of the 2004 accounts of abuse and torture.

"I served with great people and I served with some people who did horrible things," Thompson said. "You see these things and you become a broken person ... I want people to know that it happened."

Following the panel, directors invited all attendees to participate in a protest march toward Brittingham Park. Wallace said people should not be afraid to speak out against the war because veterans were participating as well.

"We remember things we would rather forget, but when we speak up and share our stories we open up the possibility of healing," Taber said. "We are here, and we are not merely survivors ... we are winter soldiers."

Taber spoke about the importance for students to learn about the veterans' cause.

"They're your classmates, they're people's family members and it's important to engage young people, especially because it is our generation," Taber said.

She encouraged students to get involved in the UW-Madison Campus Antiwar Network because it supports the IVAW movement.

2,700 From Illinois National Guard Off To Bush's Imperial Afghan Slaughterhouse:

“The Boys Miss Dad”

Oct 1, 2008 By David Mercer, The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — The largest deployment of Illinois National Guard troops since World War II is preparing to head to Afghanistan to help battle a growing insurgency, while families ready for life without husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters.

The 2,700 soldiers of the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team will ship out this month — some for pre-mission training, others to their posts in Afghanistan, where they will help train the Afghan national police force, said Col. Scott Thoele, who commands the brigade.

The brigade is expected to be in Afghanistan for up to 10 months.

About 200 of the Illinois brigade's soldiers are already in Afghanistan, and two died Sept. 17 in a roadside-bomb attack.

The rest are at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Riley in Kansas, and should be in Afghanistan by the beginning of next year, Thoele said.

The deaths of Spc. Joshua Harris of Oak Park and Sgt. Jason Antonio Vazquez of Chicago will weigh on his other troops, Thoele said, particularly those who are still waiting to go overseas.

“You can do everything right and just be at the wrong place at that the wrong time and it's over with,” he said.

His troops, he said, will be deployed across most of the country, including southern and eastern regions where Taliban troops are most actively fighting American and NATO troops.

While Thoele focuses on his troops, the deployment sends long lines of dominoes falling in other directions.

The Illinois guard has become accustomed since 2001 to having up to 1,500 of its members deployed at any given time, but the 2,700 being sent to Afghanistan are a little over a quarter of the state's guard members.

For now, the troops are sewing up loose ends in their own lives while their families prepare to live without them until late next year.

Just outside the small town of Catlin, 35 miles east of Champaign, Tony Wantland talks regularly with his sons, 20-year-old Kody and 25-year-old Jacob, both of whom are training at Fort Bragg to head to Afghanistan.

Wantland and his wife, Sue, are sharing their house with Jacob's wife, Amber, and their grandsons, 3-year-old Hunter and 4-year-old Brockton.

“The boys miss dad,” said Wantland, whose family bought a camera attachment for their computer to use for videoconferences with the soldiers. “That’s the worst part because they talk about ‘I miss my daddy’ and stuff.”

“We Ask Our Men And Women In Uniform To Support And Defend Our Constitution, Which Guarantees Due Process, Yet We Deny Some Of Them That Process”

“Many Americans Would Be Shocked To Learn That Soldiers Serving Their Country In Uniform Are Blocked From Equal Access To The Supreme Court”

Sep 30, 2008 By Rick Maze, Staff writer, Army Times [Excerpts]

The fate of a bill allowing any service member convicted by court-martial to appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court now rests with the Senate, where even one senator could block final passage of a measure that has been debated since 2006.

Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., the chief sponsor of HR 3174, the Equal Justice for Our Military Act, said the measure passed Saturday by the House on a voice vote fixes an inequity that limits the cases service members can appeal in the military justice system to the Supreme Court.

Davis said this is especially unfair because the government has the right to appeal every military court-martial to the nation’s highest court to uphold a conviction if it is reversed by a lower court.

Davis, who chairs the House Armed Services personnel panel that oversees military justice issues and personnel policy, called the bill “a simple matter of fairness.”

“We ask our men and women in uniform to support and defend our Constitution, which guarantees due process, yet we deny some of them that process,” she said. “The disparity with which defendants and the government are treated under the current law is an inequity that should be rectified.”

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., the House Judiciary Committee chairman, said the denial of appeals by convicted service members is made even worse by the fact

that a former service member convicted in a civilian court of a crime committed on active duty would have the right to petition the Supreme Court.

“Many Americans would be shocked to learn that soldiers serving their country in uniform are blocked from equal access to the Supreme Court,” Conyers said.

Troops Cordially Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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. Phone: 917.677.8057

**Welcome Home To Nothing:
Can The Rest Of The World Get A 3-5
Day Pass To Adjust To These
Soldiers’s Return From Living With
This War?
“In This Economy, He’s Not The Only
One Coming Home Without A Job”**

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

Sep 29, 2008 AP

INDIANAPOLIS (Map, News) - Members of an Indiana National Guard brigade returning in November from a deployment to Iraq will spend time meeting with mental-health counselors before heading home to their families.

That requirement for about 3,200 soldiers from the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will be a change from when previous Hoosier troops got an immediate 48-hour pass upon their return.

Families will be invited to an airport hangar reception after the arrival of the unit, which has been in the Middle East since March.

But the soldiers will then head for Camp Atterbury, the National Guard base about 20 miles south of Indianapolis, for three to five days of decompressing that puts an emphasis on mental health.

“It’s no longer just about a welcome-home ceremony; it’s not so simple as that,” said Belinda Ireland, a counselor with the Guard’s family programs division whose husband has been deployed three times. “Our soldiers are going to come home with a lot of different issues.”

Ireland’s family has a pressing concern as her husband will come home without a job.

Soon after 1st Sgt. Mark Ireland deployed to Iraq, GDX Automotive plant in Wabash, where he worked for 23 years, went out of business.

“What’s he going to do?” Belinda Ireland said. “We don’t know.

“And in this economy, he’s not the only one coming home without a job.”

“Command Sgt. Maj. Julia Kelly Is Not Amused With The Talk Of Bailing Out Wall Street”

Oct 1, 2008 By John Milburn - The Associated Press [Excerpts]

FORT RILEY, Kan. — Soldiers and families who deal with enough stress during 12-month deployment to Iraq now acknowledge they are keeping a little closer eye on their finances.

Command Sgt. Maj. Julia Kelly is not amused with the talk of bailing out Wall Street with \$700 billion when taxpayers are expected to pay for their own tough times. Kelly is trying to sell a house in Billings, Mont., knowing that some properties in that area have been on the market for as long as three years.

Watching Congress debate a bailout package frustrates Kelly.

It’s hard to tell soldiers to be responsible when there’s a plan to help Wall Street and banks out of their financial quagmire, she said.

“If I am a taxpayer and have to be responsible for what we get into, why are we doing that with our financial institutions?” Kelly said.

“Why not take the money and apply that to the people who have the loans? Pay people two months of their mortgage. You’d be surprised what that would do.”

“Systematic Abuse”

Argentine War Veterans Bring Rights Crimes Charges Against Officers Who Tormented Them



Argentine army soldiers in Port Stanley during the Falklands War (Guerra de las Malvinas) between Argentina and Britain, in an April 1982 photo.

Besides the fear and the bitter cold, Argentine war veterans say the worst thing about serving in the Falklands was the systematic abuse they suffered at the hands of their officers during the 1982 war.

Many veterans stayed silent for years, too scared to speak out, but now they are gathering evidence for the first judicial investigation into rights crimes against conscripts in the wars. REUTERS/Eduardo Farre/Files

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
-- Camille Desmoulins

Cops Vs Protesters At The RNC



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008 7:58 AM
Subject: Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

The Police...
The Military...
The Iron Gate
Around America.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
Sept. 18, 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) T)

The Jerry Rescue: **Most Honorable Anniversary:** **October 1, 1851**

**“A Group Of Men Forcibly Overpowered
The Guards With Clubs And Axes And
Freed Jerry A Second Time”**

Carl Bunin Peace History October 1-7

In the “Jerry Rescue,” citizens of Syracuse, New York, broke into the city’s police station and freed William Henry (called Jerry), a runaway slave working as a barrel-maker.

The federal Fugitive Slave Law required “good citizens” to assist in the return of those who had fled “ownership” by another.

A group of black and white men created a chaotic diversion and managed to free Jerry but he was later re-arrested.

At his second hearing, a group of men, their skin color disguised with burnt cork, forcibly overpowered the guards with clubs and axes and freed Jerry a second time; he was then secretly taken over the border to Canada.

NYHistory.com

Among the more interesting events in Syracuse history is the story of the Jerry Rescue.

The event occurred on October 1, 1851, while the anti-slavery Liberty Party was holding its New York State Convention.

Leaders of the local Abolition movement, including Underground Railroad Stationmaster Jermain Loguen and others, had organized a local committee to thwart enforcement of the recently adopted Fugitive Slave Law.

The previous May, then Secretary of State Daniel Webster repeated his previous criticism of the Abolitionists and their promise to thwart the law. Webster proclaimed from a balcony facing Syracuse City Hall that the law “will be executed in all the great cities - here in Syracuse - in the midst of the next Anti-Slavery Convention, if the occasion shall arise.”

And so it did.

Around noon on October 1, federal marshals from Rochester, Auburn, Syracuse, and Canandaigua, accompanied by the local police, arrested a man who called himself Jerry. also known as William Henry.

Jerry was working as a barrel maker, and was arrested at his workplace. He was originally told the charge was theft until after he was in manacles. On being informed that he was being arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law, he put up substantial resistance, but was subdued.

Word of the arrest quickly reached the Convention, then in session at a nearby church. There are reports that the wife of Commissioner Sabine, who would hear the case, had already leaked plans of the arrest.

By pre-arranged signal, church bells began ringing, and a crowd gathered at Sabine's office, where Jerry had been taken for arraignment.

An immediate effort to free the prisoner was unsuccessful, and though he escaped to the street in irons, he was rapidly recaptured.

The arraignment was put off until evening and relocated to a larger room. A large crowd gathered in the street, this time equipped for a more serious rescue attempt.

With a battering ram the door was broken in and despite pistol shots out the window by one of the deputy marshals, it became clear that the crowd was too large and determined to be resisted.

The prisoner was surrendered, and one deputy marshal broke his arm jumping from a window to escape the crowd.

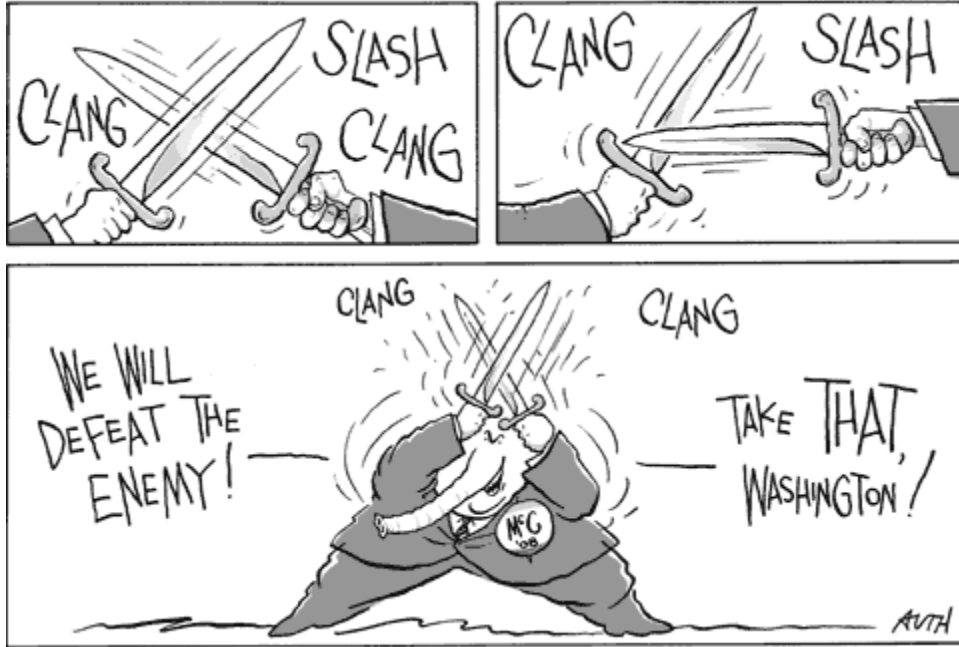
The injured prisoner was hidden in the city for several days in the home of a local butcher know for his anti-abolitionist sentiments, and later taken in a wagon to Oswego, where he crossed Lake Ontario into Canada.

The following day, Gerrit Smith introduced the following resolution, adopted at the Liberty Party convention:

“WHEREAS, Daniel Webster, That base and infamous enemy of the human race, did in a speech of which he delivered himself, in Syracuse last Spring, exultingly and insultingly predict that fugitive slaves would yet be taken away from Syracuse and even from anti-slavery conventions in Syracuse, and whereas the attempt to fulfill this prediction was delayed until the first day of October, 1851, when the Liberty party of the State of New York were holding their annual convention in Syracuse; and whereas the attempt was defeated by the mighty uprising of 2,500 brave men, before whom the half-dozen kidnapers were ‘as tow’, therefore,

“Resolved, That we rejoice that the City of Syracuse- the anti-slavery city of Syracuse- the city of anti-slavery conventions, our beloved and glorious city of Syracuse- still remains undisgraced by the fulfillment of the satanic prediction of the satanic Daniel Webster.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**Guess Where Those Thieving
Fucks Got That \$700 Billion Wall
St. Bailout Number:
THEY MADE IT UP OUT OF FUCKING
THIN AIR!**

09.23.08 Brian Wingfield and Josh Zumbrun, Forbes [Excerpts]

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, says his office has gotten "close to zero" calls in support of the \$700 billion plan proposed by the administration.

In fact, some of the most basic details, including the \$700 billion figure Treasury would use to buy up bad debt, are fuzzy.

"It's not based on any particular data point," a Treasury spokeswoman told Forbes.com Tuesday.

“We just wanted to choose a really large number.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS



**“Their Wealth Has Increased By
Nearly \$700 Billion -- The Same
Amount That They Are Now
Demanding We Give To Them For
The Bailout”**

1 Oct 2008 Michael Moore [Excerpt]

The richest 400 Americans -- that's right, just four hundred people -- own MORE than the bottom 150 million Americans combined. 400 rich Americans have got more stashed away than half the entire country!

Their combined net worth is \$1.6 trillion.

During the eight years of the Bush Administration, their wealth has increased by nearly \$700 billion -- the same amount that they are now demanding we give to them for the "bailout."

Why don't they just spend the money they made under Bush to bail themselves out? They'd still have nearly a trillion dollars left over to spread amongst themselves!



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

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<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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