# SOUND OFF!



**VOL. I, NO 13** 

#### THE NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

#### "VETERANS STANDING UP FOR EACH OTHER"

# **25 JANUARY 2006**

# FIRST CALL - THEME OF THE ISSUE AND/OR CLIPS & QUOTES

#### WHY VOLUNTEER?

Many of you are volunteering through various organizations to help serving military, veterans and their families. Volunteerism of any kind is a wonderful mark of character, and deserves our praise.

Volunteerism should not, however, be the means by which our returning veterans get their basic needs met.

The "skills training" center being built by the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund <a href="www.fallenheroesfund.org">www.fallenheroesfund.org</a> promises to be a wonderful resource. Why isn't it being built using the taxes of all Americans? Where is the common sacrifice?

The Fisher House Foundation <a href="www.fisherhouse.org">www.fisherhouse.org</a>, which is building facilities near military hospitals for the families of seriously wounded and ill returnees so that their loved ones can participate in their rehabilitation, is another great effort, but all Americans should be paying for it, and gladly.

Operation Frist Response <a href="www.operationfirstresponse.org">www.operationfirstresponse.org</a>, which assists the wounded military and their families with personal and financial need is another terrific charity, but shouldn't we all be assisting them? Shouldn't we all be paying the price – the sacrifice of war?

When we volunteer, we should be volunteering to give them the "extras"; the giving of those little things that make daily life better for them. Such worthy organizations as Any Soldier, Inc. <a href="www.anysoldier.com">www.anysoldier.com</a>, or the many opportunities listed at the "Ways to Support Our Troops" website <a href="http://www.hereinreality.com/supportourtroops.html">http://www.hereinreality.com/supportourtroops.html</a>.

None of this is meant in any way to denigrate the work being done by thousands of volunteers in hundreds of organizations., nor is it meant to discourage you from supporting those organizations. What they are doing is worthy of your support just as our troops are worthy of their assistance. Start asking our Congress persons, why should it take volunteerism to get our troops equipment, skills training, or medical help? Why aren't we all sacrificing?

Attached is a two-page list of websites where you can help; from "America Supports You" (the DoD website).

# HELP FOR VETERANS – HELP FOR THE ELDERLY – WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

On Friday the 13th the Los Angeles Times' front-page headline was "State Orders Help for Elderly as Medicare Glitches Spread".

The article goes on to state that the state was stepping in to support elderly residents on Medicare who were being denied their lawful access to low-cost prescription drugs because of faults in the federal system. It was not just California:

"Nine states ... have stepped in to fill the gaps in the federal program." [since increased to 20]

"Under the plan, the state will use its own money to essentially continue the coverage that patients had under Medi-Cal [Medicaid] before Jan 1. State officials here and elsewhere said they would ask Congress and the ... administration for reimbursement."

Governor Schwarzenegger and the other governors deserve praise for this important step. However, I am tempted to ask, "What about the veterans who are facing similar problems with lack of medical treatment, loss of jobs, etc.?"

Why can't the states step in where the federal government is failing, both in DoD- and VA-supplied services, and take care of the problem, collecting from the feds later? It wouldn't cost anywhere near as much as the current program in support of the elderly is going to cost – and by the way, many of our needy veterans are elderly too.

That is what the VUFT-sponsored "Shared Sacrifice Act of 2005" requested, plain and simple. The bill has been in the mill for eleven months, with very little progress.

I guess a million elderly voters get more response than 100,000 or so needy veterans from our fellow citizens.

Oh yes, I forgot! They sport yellow-ribbon bumper stickers that says they "**Support the Troops**". They already are doing everything they need to - they don't have any obligation to do anything substantive about veterans' problems.

Ed.

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# **REVEILLE - WAKE-UP CALLS**

#### PRESERVE VETERANS' TALES

The Veterans History Project allows Americans to capture oral histories and preserve them at the Library of Congress. The federal project archives the stories of veterans and civilians who served in wars and conflicts from World War I though current times.

The project was created by Congress in 2000. The law states, "It is in the national interest to collect and catalog oral histories of American war veterans so that future generations will have original sources of information regarding the lives and times of those who served in war and the conditions under which they endured, so that American will always remembers those who served in war and may learn first-hand of the heroics, tediousness, horrors and triumphs of war."

To search the database of collected histories or learn how to create an oral history, sign on to the Library of Congress Web site at <a href="https://www.loc.gov/vets">www.loc.gov/vets</a>. To request a free information kit call the library's American Folklife Center at (888) 371-5848.

#### WAKE UP! SPREAD THE NEWS!

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN, FREE, AND VERY WORTHWHILE! GET YOUR FELLOW VETERANS, AND VETERANS' FAMILY MEMBERS TO JOIN VUFT! WE ARE BEGINNING TO BE HEARD, AND WE NEED YOU TO HELP US GET THE MESSAGE OUT.

## **CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE!**

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE AT <u>WWW.VUFT.ORG</u>. CHECK OUT THE NEW "CANDIDATES" PAGE, WHICH IS OUR EFFORT TO LIST ALL VETERANS RUNNING FOR STATE-WIDE AND FEDERAL OFFICE IN THE U.S.; IT IS BEING UPDATED DAILY. PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS AS COMPETE A LIST AS POSSIBLE BY SENDING CANDIDATE INFO TO <u>SANDY.COOK@VUFT.ORG</u>.

#### **ASSEMBLY - PROGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

**OUTREACH:** If you are interested in starting a chapter of **VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.** in your state, please contact the chair bhandy@vuft.org.

#### SUPPORTING THE CAUSE

If you wish to donate to our work you may now do so via PayPal or Visa on our website "Join" page. You can also buy our handsome pins using the same method.

#### MAIL CALL - LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND OTHERS

# SHARING WITH YOU A LETTER FROM A 4<sup>TH</sup> MAW MARINE TO THE WEBSITE "Veterans for Common Sense" ABOUT THE "SWIFT BOATING" OF JOHN MURTHA.

"I am a Marine currently serving at 4th Marine Aircraft Wing in New Orleans. Right now my fellow Marines and I are watching as we slowly slouch towards war with Iran. If deployed to the area, I promise you this: we will fight together, and we will fight valiantly. We will fight for those we do not know and for a cause we might not share. But we will fight. And when we come home, we may continue our fight, in the halls of power, the state capitols, and DC, if we so choose. We have earned it in blood and sweat. No one, and I mean no one, has the right to impugn our service, or our credentials without expecting a defense. I am defending Mr. Murtha because he did in Vietnam what others would not do. And I thank God for giving me the chance to make my mark as he has. And when I come home, will you be there to slander me too?"

## AND A LETTER FORWARDED TO US BY KEVIN READY

Subject: "I Miss You" by Tom Chelston

From Tom:

Season's Greetings, - I'm a Veteran turned songwriter. ...

My latest effort "I Miss You" began as a 2005 retrospective. Originally written for the WTC commemoration in September, a handful of "Military Families" heard the song and contacted me. In spite of the many tragic events of 2005, I focused the majority of this project on our Soldiers and their Families. ..., my hope is that "I Miss You" will serve to remind a few Americans about the daily sacrifices that seem to wind up on page 16 in the morning paper. If you agree, please share this with a friend or two.

View "I Miss You" [Time 3:05]: www.tomsongs.com/images/IMISSYOU.wmv

Song only: www.tomsongs.com/images/I\_Miss\_You.MP3

Tom Chelston - www.tomsongs.org

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# **RECALL** - FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATORS

#### A RELATIVELY NEW PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT DESERVES OUR SUPPORT

#### LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF MILITARY AWARDS

As veterans, active duty military personnel, and civilians of the United States, we do hereby call upon the members of Congress to take appropriate steps to amend Title 18 of the U.S. Code to close up loopholes through which certain individuals escape prosecution from the unauthorized claim to combat medals they did not earn.

It is the recommendation of the undersigned that Title 18, Chapter 3, § 174 of the U.S. Code should be amended to include the following:

"Whoever knowingly and fraudulently wears and/or represents him or her self as having received a Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross, except when authorized under regulations made pursuant to law, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both."

Please go to www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/995859122?ltl=1137176708 and sign the petition.

## **RETREAT** - News

#### PENTAGON READYING NEW DEFENSE BLUEPRINT

InsideDefense.com NewsStand | Jason Sherman | January 23, 2006

The Defense Department's new blueprint for the U.S. armed forces calls for modest changes to both conventional and strategic forces, a range of new capabilities to deal with terrorist networks as well as potential major adversaries like China, and a host of reforms to the defense bureaucracy that could significantly alter how the Pentagon acquires new weapon systems, according to a draft of the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review obtained by *InsideDefense.com*.

To improve proficiency against terrorist networks in what it repeatedly calls "the long war," the 128-page document, dated Jan. 18, calls for expanding the ranks of Special Forces by 15 percent and boosting the number of psychological operations and civil affairs units in the armed forces by one third. <More at: www.military.com/features/0,15240,86127,00.html>

#### MILITARY CULTURE MUST CHANGE TO FIGHT 'LONG WAR'

By Jim Garamone - American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 2006 – As the United States confronts terrorism, military personnel have to make a cultural shift as they fight what officials now call "the Long War," senior DoD officials said.

Army Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview that the generation of servicemembers entering the military today must focus on how the United States will deal with extremist networks that threaten America and its allies.

Odierno said the situation is analogous to the situation confronting servicemembers who fought the Cold War. The Cold War was a generational conflict that started after World War II and only ended with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

"This generation of servicemembers will be in what we're calling the Long War," the general said. "Our estimate is that for at least the next 20 years, part of our focus will be on how do we deal with the extremist networks that will continue to threaten the United States and its allies." <More at: www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060123 3984.html>

# ARMY TO SLOW GROWTH AND CUT 6 NATIONAL GUARD COMBAT BRIGADES

By Ann Scott Tyson - Washington Post Staff Writer - January 19, 2006; A03

The Army announced yesterday that it will cut six National Guard combat brigades -- or up to 24,000 infantry and other combat troops -- as part of an effort to ease budgetary pressures and shift manpower into homeland defense missions.

In addition to scaling back the guard's combat brigades to 28 from 34, the active-duty Army will add one fewer combat brigade than it had planned, ending up with 42 instead of 43, Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey told a Pentagon news briefing yesterday.

As a result, the Army in coming years will grow to 70 instead of the anticipated 77 active-duty and National Guard combat brigades to respond to overseas and domestic contingencies, Harvey said. In 2003, the Army had 67 combat brigades, Army officials said. < More at: <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/18/AR2006011802098.html">www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/18/AR2006011802098.html</a>

#### CHANGING FACE OF WAR MEANS MORPHING GUARD, RESERVE

Samantha L. Quigley - American Forces Press Service

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 11, 2006 – The days of the weekend warrior are over, a top defense official said here yesterday.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said the country has entered the era of an operational reserve force vs. a strategic one. Hall spoke at WEST 2006, a technology, communication and national security conference cosponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 500,000 reserve component servicemembers have been mobilized, Hall said. Mobilized guardsmen and reservists currently number 130,000. <More at: <a href="https://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060111\_3897.html">www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060111\_3897.html</a>>

#### **ENLISTED STRENGTH DECLINES**

Martha Mendoza - January 16, 2006 - Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Drug use, weight problems and parenthood have been taking their toll on the military in the past three years since the war on terror began, according to newly released Pentagon data. Documents released to The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act indicate the number of enlisted personnel leaving the military each year has increased from 8.7 percent in 2002 to 10.5 percent last year. Enlisted losses — including people whose enlistments had expired — increased from 118,206 in 2002 to more than 137,465 last year, while officer losses have increased from 5,619 in 2002 to more than 7,500 last year. <More at: www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-1469688.php>

#### IRAQ WAR VETERAN FIGHTS FOR CUSTODY OF HER SON

Mother Says She Followed Military's Family Care Plan

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. Jan 13, 2006--** A local Army Reservist returned home from a year in Iraq, only to lose custody of her 13-year-old son, KMBC's Lara Moritz reported Thursday. ... She said her ex-husband doesn't want to give Trevor back. Despite Ellis having had full custody of Trevor for 11 years prior to deployment, not even the Army can help in the situation, Moritz reported.

"The Family Care Plan meant nothing, the divorce decree from 1995 in Alabama meant nothing," Ellis said. "How many other people in the military are going through this? I know there are other single parents going through this, I know it."

Ellis said she doesn't regret fighting for her country, she only wishes the military could have protected her from losing custody of her son. <More at: www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?page=article&id=6115>

#### **CONTRACTORS LEAVING IRAQ**

Sharon Behn - THE WASHINGTON TIMES - January 23, 2006

U.S. private contractors, until now the biggest private-sector employers in Iraq, are preparing to leave as U.S. money runs out and Iraqi ministries take charge of the reconstruction effort.

"We are drawing down," said Ken Oscar, Fluor Corp.'s vice president for strategy. "We are not done by any stretch of the imagination, but we are drawing down." <More at: <a href="https://www.washtimes.com/world/20060123-122641-4655r.htm">www.washtimes.com/world/20060123-122641-4655r.htm</a>

## REP. STEVE BUYER PUSHES FOR VA RUN BY POLITICAL APPOINTEES

House Vets' Chair wants to get rid of VA professionals and replace them with political appointees – Says agency must be run like a business – And, wants veterans to pay for their healthcare with enrollment fees, deductibles and co-pays

By Larry Scott - January 22, 2006

Representative Steve Buyer (R-IN) has what he thinks is a great idea. He wants to run the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) like a business. Buyer, who is Chairman of the powerful House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, sees no problem with this concept. Buyer, armed with big business catch-phrases like "improve the revenue-enhancement cycle," "efficiencies and standardization" and "private entities in the marketplace," has laid out a bold new plan to turn the VA into an HMO for veterans while loading it with political cronies. This is detailed in an interview published in the February 2006 edition of The American Legion Magazine.

# **TO THE COLOR - GATHERINGS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
1/27/06	18:00	Manhattan Beach Marriott, MB, CA	Veterans Caucus - CDP	CA Democratic Party	Periodic Meeting
4/20 - 23/06		Pleasanton/Camp Parks, CA	AUSA Spring Symposium	AUSA 6th Region	Periodic Meeting
5/27-31/06	-	Washington DC	Legislative Action Rally	VUFT and others	Get their attention

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#### **TATTOO - CURRENT ISSUES**

#### WEAPONS AT VETERANS' EXPENSE?

Dale Eisman - The Virginian-Pilot© - January 18, 2006

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon hopes to reap billions of dollars to pay for ships, aircraft and other weapons by doubling or tripling health insurance premiums paid by military retirees and driving 600,000 of those pensioners out of the military medical system, charges a coalition of veterans' organizations.

Groups representing more than 1 million military pensioners – those who served at least 20 years – are organizing a telephone and letter-writing campaign to block the idea if it ever surfaces in Congress or to persuade the Bush administration to abandon it. The retirees say the proposal breaks faith with former service members and their families and risks alienating thousands of active duty troops who may see it as eroding benefits they expect in retirement.

<More at: http://home.hamptonroads.com/stories/story.cfm?story=98244&ran=47396&tref=po>

#### GUARD, RESERVE BENEFIT FROM 2006 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Donna Miles /American Forces Press Service - Reserve Enlisted Association

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 2006 - The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act signed into law Jan. 6 provides new or enhanced benefits in addition to a 3.1 percent pay raise for National Guard and Reserve members, a senior defense official said.

President Bush signed the legislation Jan. 6, providing a variety of benefits designed to bring reserve-component compensation more on par with what the active component receives, Chuck Witschonke, DoD's deputy director for compensation, said.

More at: www.reaus.org>

#### **SOLDIERS UPGRADING ARMOR ON HUMVEES - [STILL]**

Associated Press | January 14, 2006

TIKRIT, Iraq - Soldiers exposed to Iraq's increasingly lethal roadside bombs, which can rip through armored Humvees, are drawing on wartime experience and stateside expertise to protect their vehicles with stronger armor and thermal detection cameras.

The upgrades are being done by individual Soldiers and units as the Pentagon decides how Humvees should be changed, and follow public criticism of the Bush administration for not armoring all Humvees ahead of the war.

<More at: www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,85429,00.html>

#### **DISCHARGED AND DISHONORED: SHORTCHANGING AMERICA'S VETERANS**

Chris Adams and Alison Young - Knight Ridder - Jan 14, 2006

DRY RIDGE, Ky. - Like thousands of his fellow veterans of America's wars, Alfred Brown died waiting.

In 1945, when he was a 19-year-old soldier fighting in Italy, shrapnel from an enemy shell ripped into his abdomen. His wounds were so severe that he was twice administered last rites. When Brown came home, the government that had promised to care for its wounded veterans instead shorted him. Not until 1981, however, did Brown realize that his monthly disability check didn't cover all the injuries he'd suffered. He launched what would become a 21-year battle.

"As a member of the so-called 'Greatest Generation,' I am well aware of the large numbers of us passing away," he wrote the nation's chief veterans judge in 2001. "I am prepared to meet our Creator. My fear is that your court will not make a decision in my case." Brown was right. He died a year later, and his case died with him.

<More at: <a href="http://www.realcities.com/mld/krwashington/news/special\_packages/veterans/10915802.htm">http://www.realcities.com/mld/krwashington/news/special\_packages/veterans/10915802.htm</a>

#### OFFICIALS ADDRESS RETIREES' TRICARE CONCERNS

Stars and Stripes | Tom Philpott | January 18, 2006

Senior defense officials characterized the military health benefit as "extremely rich" during a Jan. 11 meeting with service association representatives over plans to raise retirees' TRICARE fees. Officials requested the meeting, attendees said, to explain to The Military Coalition, an umbrella group of three dozen military and veterans groups, why the department intends to boost TRICARE enrollment fees and deductibles for under-65 retirees and families as early as next October. Tentative budget plans also would raise co-payments in the TRICARE retail drug network and mail-order program, which could have an impact on all retirees, including those 65 and older, their spouses and survivors.

<More at: www.military.com/Finance/content/0,15356,85701,00.html>

#### FIRST GULF WAR STILL CLAIMS LIVES

Mike Barber - SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER - Jan 18, 2006

Fifteen years ago today, Operation Desert Storm began, first with an air war, then a Feb. 23 allied ground attack that steamrolled across Iraq in four days. The initial casualties were few. But they continue. They have drawn the attention of members of Congress, and now one Washington senator believes they demand further investigation.

Over the years, raw data from the Veterans Benefits Administration suggest more than 11,000 of the 696,841 veterans who served in the Persian Gulf have died from various injuries and illnesses, and more than 256,000 have filed claims against the government for veterans compensation or medical care. <More at: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/255812\_gulfvets16.html>

#### **ISOME COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS JUST DO IT RIGHT! - Ed]**

#### CITIZEN-SOLDIER PRAISES EMPLOYER SUPPORT

Rudi Williams - American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 2006 – Mark L. Kniffen, 41, was overwhelmingly thankful for his employer paying his full salary, allowing him to keep his medical benefits and helping solve family crisis for the 15 months he was in Kuwait and Iraq supporting the war on terrorism. ...

Eaton, with more than 59,000 employees serving customers in more than 125 countries, currently has about 110 employees on active duty in the Guard and Reserve. Boasting sales of more than \$9.8 billion, the company has had more than 425 employees mobilized in the past four years, according to company officials. Not only did Eaton pay the citizen-soldier's full salary and allow them to keep their medical benefits, the firm also put out boxes for employees to fill with personal items and goodies to send to the troops in Iraq. <More at: <a href="https://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060118">www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060118</a> 3954.html>

#### LAPD STANDS BEHIND MOBILIZED EMPLOYEES

By Donna Miles - American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 2006 – When Sgt. Brandon Valdez, a Marine Corps Reservist, was wounded by a roadside bomb during convoy duty in Ramadi, Iraq, in November 2004, his civilian employer, the Los Angeles Police Department, supported him to the fullest. In addition to continuing to make up the difference between his military and police pay and providing him his full employee benefits, the LAPD had a full-time military liaison officer available to help Valdez through his recovery. <More at: www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/20060112 3915.html>

#### STRUGGLING BACK FROM WAR'S ONCE-DEADLY WOUNDS

By DENISE GRADY January 22, 2006

PALO ALTO, Calif. - It has taken hundreds of hours of therapy, but Jason Poole, a 23-year old Marine corporal, has learned all over again to speak and to walk. At times, though, words still elude him. He can read barely 16 words a minute. His memory can be fickle, his thinking delayed. Injured by a roadside bomb in <u>Iraq</u>, he is blind in his left eye, deaf in his left ear, weak on his right side and still getting used to his new face, which was rebuilt with skin and bone grafts and 75 to 100 titanium screws and plates.

Even so, those who know Corporal Poole, say his personality - gregarious, kind and funny - has remained intact. Wounded on patrol near the Syrian border on June 30, 2004, he considers himself lucky to be alive. So do his doctors. "Basically I want to get my life back," he said. "I'm really trying."

But he knows the life ahead of him is unlikely to match the one he had planned, in which he was going to attend college and become a teacher, get married and have children. Now, he hopes to volunteer in a school. His girlfriend from before he went to war is now just a friend. Before he left, they had agreed they might talk about getting married when he got back.

"But I didn't come back," he said. < More at: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/22/national/22wounded.html>

## **TAPS** – Passings and War Statistics

#### AN EXTRACT FROM AN EMAIL TO ANOTHER SITE BY SPC. DOUG BARBER - 1/10/05

"...All is not okay or right for those of us who return home alive and supposedly well. What looks like normalcy and readjustment is only an illusion to be revealed by time and torment. Some soldiers come home missing limbs and other parts of their bodies. Still others will live with permanent scars from horrific events that no one other than those who served will ever understand.

We come home from war trying to put our lives back together but some cannot stand the memories and decide that death is better. They kill themselves because they are so haunted by seeing children killed and whole families wiped out.

They ask themselves how you put a price tag on someone else's life? The question goes unanswered as they become another casualty of the war. Hero's become another statistic to America and they are another little article relegated to the back of a newspaper.

Still others come home to nothing, families have abandoned them: husbands and wives have left these soldiers, and so have parents as well. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has become the norm amongst these soldiers because they don't know how to cope with returning to a society that will never understand what they have had to endure to liberate another country.

PTSD comes in many forms not understood by many: but yet if a soldier has it, America thinks the soldiers are crazy. PTSD comes in the form of depression, anger, regret, being confrontational, anxiety, chronic pain, compulsion, delusions, grief, guilt, dependence, loneliness, sleep disorders, suspiciousness/paranoia, low self-esteem and so many other things. ..."

# SP DOUGLAS BARBER COMMITTED SUICIDE IN OPELIKA, AL ON 15 JANUARY '06, DESPITE EFFORTS OF LOCAL POLICE TO DISSUADE HIM

#### U.S. TALLY OF WOUNDED DROPS 26%

USA Today | January 16, 2006

WASHINGTON - The number of U.S. troops wounded in Iraq fell by more than a quarter in 2005 from a year earlier, Pentagon records show. Military officials call that a sign that insurgent attacks have declined in the face of elections and stronger Iraqi security forces. <More at: http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,85489,00.html>

# NATIONAL GUARD (IN FEDERAL STATUS) AND RESERVE MOBILIZED AS OF JANUARY 18, 2006

This week, the Army and Air Force announced a decrease in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard had a increase. The net collective result is 873 fewer reservists mobilized than last week. Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 112,268; Navy Reserve, 4,350; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 7,662; Marine Corps Reserve, 7,121; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 415. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel, who have been mobilized, to 131,816, including both units and individual augmentees. <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2006/nr20060118-12328.html">http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2006/nr20060118-12328.html</a>. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are currently mobilized, can be found at <a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/d20060118ngr.pdf">http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2006/d20060118ngr.pdf</a>.

# OIF/OEF - HACK DATE TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2006

# OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

KILLED US	2,236	KILLED US	258
WOUNDED US [12 JAN + ESTIMATE]	≥ 16,472	Wounded/Injured US	658
KILLED UK	98	KILLED COALITION	127
KILLED OTHER COALITION	103	Wounded/Injured Coalition	393
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	600	KILLED AFGHANI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 8,619
KILLED CONTRACTORS	309	KILLED AFGHANI CIVILIANS	≥ 3,525
KILLED IRAQI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 34,023	WOUNDED AFGHANI MIL/CIVILIANS	32,034
KILLED IRAQI CIVILIANS	≥ 31,676		
Wounded Iraqi Mil/Civilians	≥ 139,262		

NOTE: SOME NUMBERS DO NOT CHANGE BETWEEN ISSUES BECAUSE UPDATED FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME.

TO SEE THE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE CASUALTIES GO TO <a href="https://www.militarycity.com/2000casualties/">www.militarycity.com/2000casualties/</a>

# **AFTERTHOUGHT**

#### **BECAUSE WE NEED HUMOR TOO**

#### **CAJUN RECRUITING**

Boudreaux's first military assignment was to a military induction center, and, because he was a good talker, they assigned him the duty of advising new recruits about the government benefits; especially the GI insurance to which they were entitled.

Before long the Captain in charge of the induction center began noticing that Boudreaux was getting a 99% sign up for the top GI insurance. This was odd, because it would cost these poor inductees nearly \$30.00 per month more for their higher coverage

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than what the government was already granting. The Captain decided that he would not ask Boudreaux about his selling techniques but that he would sit in the back of the room and observe Boudreaux's sales pitch.

Boudreaux stood up before his latest group of inductees and stated, "If you have da normal GI insurance and go to Iraq and get killed; da government pays your beneficiary \$6,000. If you take out da supplemental GI insurance (which cost you only \$30.00 a month); the government has to pay your beneficiary \$200,000.

"NOW," Boudreaux concluded, "Which bunch do you think dey gonna send to Iraq?"

# **IEVEN IF THE FOLLOWING ONE ONLY SOUNDS FUNNY**

## PENTAGON TO FAMILIES: GO AHEAD, LAUGH

By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY1/12/2006

When the stress of the war in Iraq becomes too severe, the Pentagon has a suggestion for military families: Learn how to laugh.

With help from the Pentagon's chief laughter instructor, families of National Guard members are learning to walk like a penguin, laugh like a lion and blurt "ha, ha, hee, hee and ho, ho."

No joke. <More at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-01-12-pentagon-laughter\_x.htm>

#### [I GUESS THAT IS CHEAPER THAN HAVING TO PAY BENEFITS]

#### **NOTICE**

If at any time you cannot open a link in this newsletter to an article or web page that interests you, please let me know at scook@vuft; I keep a copy of most of the full articles, or can research an alternative route to the information. [Ed.]

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# From America Supports You

# **Computer Donation**

Citizen Soldier Family Support Foundation Operation HomeLink

# **Donate Frequent Flyer Miles**

Operation First Response **Operation Hero Miles** 

# **Entertainment for the Troops**

Air Force Tops In Blue **Armed Forces Entertainment** Citizen Soldier Family Support Foundation Hooah! Radio Military Aid Spirit of America Stars For Stripes USO

#### **Event Sponsorship**

Air Force Services

#### Gift Certificates

Citizen Soldier Family Support Foundation Gifts from the Homefront

# Help for the Wounded

Angels Of Mercy Armed Forces Foundation Azalea Charities Aid for Wounded Soldiers Citizen Soldier Family Support Foundation Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Comfort for America's Uniformed Services Elite Fisher House Foundation Freedom Is Not Free Helping Our Heroes Foundation Hope Coming Ministries Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund Kids for our Troops Operation First Response Operation Second Chance Silver Star Families of America

Strikeouts For Troops United We Serve **US Wounded Soldiers** The Hugs Project Wounded Warrior Project **Wounded Warriors** Yellow Ribbon Fund

# **Helping Troops Help Others**

Citizen Soldier Family Support Foundation Operation Give Operation Iragi Children Where Eagles Fly

#### **Homes for Disabled Troops**

Homes for our Troops
Military Housing Assistance Fund Project Homefront

# Letters and Messages

4 The Troops A Million Thanks Give 2 The Troops Letters From Home Marine Parents MotoMail My Soldier New England Caring For Our Military

#### Website

Operation Dear Abby Send a Message to Our Soldiers Soldiers Angels Support Our Soldiers America, Inc. The Freedom Fund **Troop Care Package** Voices from Home Foundation

# Military Family Support

Air Force Aid Society Air Force Enlisted Village American Heroes Tribute American Military Family **American Red Cross Armed Forces Foundation** Armed Services YMCA Army Emergency Relief

Association of the U.S. Army Family Programs

Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund

CinCHouse

Citizens Helping Heroes Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Deployed Soldiers Family Foundation Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund Little Patriots Embraced Marine Moms Online

National Military Family Association Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Operation Child Care Operation Family Fund **Operation Homefront** Our Military Kids Salute Our Services

Sempercomm

Team Virginia Miltary Family Support Center

The Military Family Network Vail Armed Forces Yellow Ribbon America

# **Phone Cards**

Cell Phones for Soldiers Help Our Troops Call Home New England Caring For Our Military **Operation Uplink** 

AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

# **Scholarships for Military Children**

Airmen Memorial Foundation Dolphin Scholarship First Command Freedom Alliance Marine Corps University Foundation Military Child Education Coalition Naval Special Warfare Foundation Scholarships for Military Children Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association Special Operations Warrior Foundation Military Officers Association of America

U.S. Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation Tragedy

#### Assistance **Angels Of Mercy**

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

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#### Send Packages

4 The Troops A Soldier's Wish List Adopt a Platoon Caring For Troops **Defenders of Freedom** 

Give 2 The Troops Have a Heart/Adopt a Soldier Hearts Across the Miles

Helping Our Troops Keystone Soldiers

Local Heroes

Montana Supporting Soldiers

My Soldier

New England Caring For Our Military

Operation AC

Operation Care and Comfort Operation Care Packages **Operation Gratitude** Operation Holidays

Operation Hope

Operation Interdependence Operation Military Support

Operation Mom Operation Morale Operation Paperback Operation Shoebox Operation Support

Operation Troop Appreciation

Operation We Care Packages from Home Patriot Packs, Inc. Shadow Warrior Share Our Gifts Foundation

SI Yellow Ribbon Campaign

Soldiers' Angels The Freedom Fund Treat the Troops US Troop Care Package USO Care Packages

#### **Service Aid Societies**

Air Force Aid Society Armed Forces Relief Trust Army Emergency Relief Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Disabled American Veterans ESGR - Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society U.S. Vet Aid USO

# Training and Placement for Veterans

New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans

# Other Support

Adopt a Soldier Ministries

Ahern Family Charitable Foundation America Supporting Americans

Angels In Camouflage

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Blue Star Mothers Chapter 5 Carolina Troop Supporters Defending Freedom

**Eagle's Watch Ministries** 

Fort Bragg Area Community Foundation

Gift of Groceries
Guardian Angels For Soldier's Pets

Gold Star Wives **Homefront Hugs** Keepers of Freedom

The Law Enforcement Equipment to Iraq Program

Military Heroes Fund Military Pets Foster Project National Next of Kin Registry Patriotic Pillow Project Operation Care and Comfort Operation Helmet

OperationHomefront.org Operation HomeLink Operation Noble Foster Operation Stephen's Touch **Operation Troop Appreciation** Remember Bracelets

Salute The Troops

Spirit of America Blogger Challenge

Support Heroes The Home Front Cares

The Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation The White House Commission on Remembrance

Unmet Needs Program

**USA Cares** 

Uniting Through Reading

#### Video Conferencing

Freedom Calls Foundation

# **Veteran Service Organizations**

American Freedom Foundation American Legion Auxiliary American Legion Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW

Purple Heart VFW