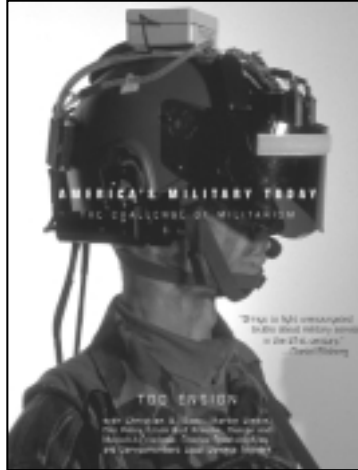


## INJURIES TO GULF WAR ONE VETS DOCUMENTED

A federal scientific panel concluded in October that illnesses among as many as 100,000 vets of the first Gulf War are neurological in nature and are "probably linked" to neurotoxins (such as sarin nerve gas or experimental pyridostigmine bromide pills given to GIs). Vet advocacy groups like Citizen Soldier have long argued that these toxins are the prime suspects – rejecting the VA's claim that their injuries were caused by "mental stress." Working as part of the National Gulf War Resource coalition, we renew our demand that these ailing vets receive automatic disability and treatment for their debilitating injuries.

## MILITARY FORCE HAS LIMITS: INTELLIGENCE FIGHTS TERRORISM

Bush and Kerry agree that our occupation of Iraq must "succeed" or terrorism will "win." Recently, the independent 9-11 Commission disclosed that the FBI had (and still has) thousands of surveillance tapes in Arabic which have never been translated because they didn't bother to hire enough linguists. On one untranslated tape, recorded on September 10, 2001 an Al Qaeda operative says, "Tomorrow is zero hour!" Memo to Bush or Kerry: we must convince the world community, which includes the Arab nations to share information if we hope to ever stop terrorism.



"This book brings to light unexpurgated truths about military service in the 21st Century."

— Daniel Ellsberg

### AMERICA'S MILITARY TODAY

by Tod Ensign, Director, Citizen Soldier.  
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# WAR WITHOUT END?



# CITIZEN SOLDIER REPORTS 2005

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# COUNSELLING AND DEFENDING WAR RESISTERS

"The first real hero to emerge from our Iraq misadventure was found guilty (recently) of having a conscience." – Robert Koehler, columnist, Chicago Tribune

Koehler was writing about the conviction of Sgt. Camilo Mejia, 28, of N. Miami, FL, who was sentenced to a year in prison for the "crime" of refusing to return to Iraq for further combat duty.



Citizen Soldier sponsored Camilo's return to military custody as a way to challenge the legality of US military operations in Iraq. During five months of combat there, Camilo's unit was ordered to participate in the unlawful torture of detainees as well as failed to distinguish between innocent civilians and combatants in fire fights.

During the court martial at Ft. Stewart, CS cooperating attorney Louis Font offered expert testimony regarding the applicability of international legal standards to US combat operations. International law experts, including former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark were prepared to testify that the combat and detention practices employed by Camilo's unit violated international legal standards binding on the US.

On the same day that Mejia's court martial began, the Army placed the first GI on trial for mistreatment of detainees at the huge Abu Ghraib prison. Our lawyers sought clarification as to how Sgt. Mejia could be tried for refusing to engage in conduct for which soldiers in Iraq were now being punished. Instead of answering, the military judge declared that any evidence of international law violations was "irrelevant" to this case.

Citizen Soldier has been counselling and advising hundreds of GIs and reservists who are seeking alternatives to serving in this illegal occupation. Groups that oppose our occupation seem to be steadily gaining strength.

Key cities of Fallujah and Ramadi are now "no-go" zones for US troops. Recently, a UN nuclear panel reported that nearly 400 tons of extremely dangerous explosives, (which can be used to detonate nuclear bombs) have gone missing in Iraq because Bush's generals failed to protect them. Can anyone seriously argue that conditions faced by our occupation forces are better than they were a year ago?

## SUPPORTING PROTESTS WITHIN THE GI RANK AND FILE

Eighteen reservists from the 343d Quartermaster Company based in Rock Hill, S.C. attracted worldwide publicity in October for its refusal to go on a "suicidal mission" as a fuel convoy. The unit feared that driving unarmored and dilapidated trucks through hostile urban neighborhoods without armed escort could bring on disaster. Also, a military fuel station had already refused to accept the fuel for being contaminated. Currently, the command is investigating whether any of the refusniks should face criminal prosecution.

Many US military units in Iraq have complained about defective or missing equipment. For example, only 2% of the HumVees (jeeps) were equipped with armoured plating when the invasion began. Troops, especially reservists, have often lacked armoured vests and other combat



(Top) Camilo Mejia; (middle) wife of Staff Sergeant Michael Butler, part of the 343d Quartermaster Company; (right) Scenes from Abu Ghraib prison.



basics. The Pentagon is likely concerned that if members of the 343d are not punished that other disgruntled units might begin to follow their example. Commanders regard any willful disobedience of military orders—no matter how stupid or suicidal, as a serious threat to "good order and discipline."

Fearing that criminal charges will be brought, Citizen Soldier has contacted some of the families of the 343d Quartermaster Company and offered to arrange for civilian defense lawyers to defend these brave reservists.

One of the reservists' wives, Mrs. Patricia McCook spoke with pride to reporters about her husband's unit. "They all stood together, that's what makes the difference. It's like a fist (that) makes a mighty blow. I know you don't have any clout when you stand alone," she said.

## CHALLENGING A DRAFT IN OUR FUTURE

Bush's unilateral invasion of Iraq has placed a severe strain on the US military. Today, about 80% of all Army combat units are deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or are recuperating from such duty. Commanders have resorted to a "back door draft" by imposing "stop loss" orders which keep thousands of troops on active duty beyond their regular discharge dates. They have also extended combat tours for reservists despite promises that they would not be deployed to Iraq for longer than twelve months.



Both Bush and Kerry loudly rejected any return to conscription during the campaign, but if force levels in Iraq stay at 140,000 or more indefinitely, an overstretched military may not be able to enlist

enough volunteers to fill their ranks in the future. Clearly, if any other demands are made on our armed forces, this will also push the "all volunteer" concept to the breaking point.

Citizen Soldier will play a central role in the organization of a movement which will inevitably emerge to fight a return to a draft. As the military well knows, conscription will bring the issue of compulsory service in an unpopular war directly onto every college and high school campus in the country!