

SOUND OFF!



VOL. I, NO 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

25 OCTOBER 2005

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

"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts"

Abraham Lincoln

"It is error only, and not truth, that shrinks from inquiry."

Thomas Paine

Once again the wars and our troops are shoved into the background or on to page 14, conveniently hidden from public view by Miers, DeLay, Rove, Libby, Wilma, Alpha, Pakistani earthquakes, and Mexican floods. It often seems that the troops' stories make the front page only if there is no other news. When there have been news stories in the last two weeks, medical care has often been in the spotlight, or rather the lack of it for certain parties, particularly Reserves and Guardspersons after they leave active duty, and families at all times. In this issue we want to highlight some of these stories. Please pass them along, because many have likely been missed by the general public.

Maybe our print and electronic press needs to remind itself of what Justice Black cited in referring to the case ***New York Times Co. v United States (1971)*** <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=us&vol=403&invol=713>, and the ruling (6 – 3) in favor of the First amendment claim of the New York Times:

"The press was protected so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people. Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government. And paramount among the responsibilities of a free press is the duty to prevent any part of the government from deceiving the people and sending them off to distant lands to die of foreign fevers and foreign shot and shell."

Justice Hugo L. Black (1886 – 1971)

REVEILLE - WAKE-UP CALLS

OK GANG: THIS ONE IS BECAUSE I AM ASHAMED, AND SUPER PISSED OFF! [Ed.]

Every person in the US must see the movie **"Beyond Treason"**. The movie outlines the history of experimentation on military persons and the illegal use of certain military weapons and untried medical procedures and vaccines. It covers the medical conditions that may be induced by these military experiments, by the use of depleted uranium (DU), the sources of Gulf War Syndrome, etc. It deals quite harshly with present and past Administrations, without regard to politics. A company called Power Hour Productions <http://www.beyondtreason.com/> has produced this two-disk set called "Beyond Treason: The U.S. Government's Long History of Conducting Deadly Military Experiments." A 2½ minute trailer is available for download at http://www.beyondtreason.com/media/beyond_treason.wmv (this is a 1.6 Mb *.wmv file).

The set (a DVD of the film and a CD of associated documents) is available free for any U.S. veteran. Fax your name, address, and a copy of your DD214 Form to: (573) 378-5998 or mail duplicate DD214 to: Veteran's DVD - P.O. Box 85 - Versailles, MO 65084. For non-veterans the cost is \$19.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling; it is available at <http://www.thepowermall.com> The movie is a "Grand Festival Award (Documentary)" winner at the Berkeley Video and Film Festival 2005. The festival is sponsored by the East Bay Media Center, which is "a public venue for the works of unknown video artists and producers."

This from one veteran exposed to DU and medically retired from the Army: "...[because of my exposure] my family is also ill and requires medical treatment ... as soon as I retired my family was completely dropped from the military medical system ... my wife was completely cut off from all the medications and all the treatment that she had received for the past seven years ... she is

also a victim of the exposure that I brought home from the Gulf War ... Not only will they not take care of their veterans, you have innocent loved ones and family members ... and they get kicked to the curb and nobody cares.”

GET THIS DVD! – WATCH IT! – SHOW IT TO YOUR FRIENDS! THIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE AMONG MANY OF WHY VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH EXISTS.

VA WARNS VETERANS OF TELEPHONE SCAM

October 15, 2005

The VA is warning veterans to beware of a scam in which a fake company calls veterans offering drug prescriptions. According to the Portland VA Medical Center, the caller says the veteran must provide a credit-card number to receive the medications. The VA has not changed the process of receiving and dispensing prescriptions, the agency said. -- Matt Monaghan

<http://159.54.226.83/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051015/NEWS/510150328/1001>

ASSEMBLY - PROGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION

REMINDER: Part of our task is to expand our current anecdotal evidence of the failure of the system to include factual and referenced instances of failures. If you know of specific cases of failure of service to any current or past veteran of our wars, or their families, please forward the information to muren@vuft.org, with a copy to the editor at scook@vuft.org.

WEBSITE: We have had a slow start, suffering all of the growing pains of new organization, but changes will be coming in the next week or so that will invigorate our website and make it much more useful to all of our members and subscribers.

MAIL CALL - LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND OTHERS

No letters this issue – “**Is anybody there? Does anybody care? Do you see what I see?**”, from ‘1776’, the musical.

Send us your letters nominating legislators for the “Hall of Fame” - “Hall of Shame” feature.

RECALL - FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION

PROGRESS OF THE “CALIFORNIA SHARED SACRIFICE ACT”

We are working to get more legislators to sign on to sponsor the act; we believe that we now have five. If we are successful this will be a model for state action for veterans and active duty personnel and their families for the whole nation. The text of the legislation is on the website.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO WELL-MEANING LEGISLATION WHEN THE LOBBYISTS GET THEIR WAY

Recently Senator Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) proposed an amendment to Department of Defense Authorization Bill, S. 1042; the amendment was titled the **Predatory Lending Amendment**, and would restrict loans to military and their families to an annual interest rate of 36% APR (usury in my opinion, but better than what has been happening). The original amendment garnered much support including many consumers’ groups and most of the national military organizations (see the supporting letter at <http://www.uspirg.org/consumer/archives/doletmc.pdf>). Now the amendment has been fiddled with and revised, and at least some of the major national consumers groups have withdrawn their support for the amendment and are urging its rejection <http://www.uspirg.org/consumer/archives/dolewithdraw.pdf>. Their message is that the amendment has been tinkered with so much that it now would harm service members more than it would help.

Congratulations to Senator Dole for her initiative, and shame on those who have knuckled under to pressure from lobbyists for the lending industry.

RETREAT – NEWS

2,000 DEAD? WHO CARES?

Mark Benjamin – Salon - October 10, 2005

Why is the country so oblivious to the Iraq war's casualties?

Sometime soon the war in Iraq will claim the life of the 2,000th G.I., a gut-wrenching milestone in the bloodiest conflict for the United States since Vietnam. Reports of deaths, particularly recently, have been coming in at a frightening clip. On Oct. 6, six Marines were killed by roadside bombs in attacks near Qaim and Karmah, bringing the total of American soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to 1,951. **[Now 1,997 Ed.]**

Vietnam analogies can be dubious or prescient, depending on whom you ask. The 2,000th G.I. fell in Vietnam sometime during 1965, six years after the first two Americans were killed in a guerrilla attack. The final death count from Vietnam was 58,209.

The death rate in Iraq may not compare to those of World War I and World War II, in which, respectively, 116,516 and 405,399 U.S. soldiers were killed. Nevertheless, nearly three years into the war in Iraq, the mounting death toll doesn't seem to register with Americans. If Korea was the forgotten war, Iraq is invisible.

Military analysts say the outcry over deaths in Iraq is muted because the burden of war falls on a tiny percentage of Americans and their families. Most Americans simply don't have any personal connection to the battlefield.

<More at http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/101005S.shtml>

U.S. GENERAL: IRAQI ARMY NEEDS MORE TIME

Oct 21, 11:23 AM (ET) - Lolita C. Baldor

WASHINGTON (AP) - The commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad said Friday that it will take as long as two years before the Iraqi army can operate on its own, with the necessary military leadership and supplies.

<More at <http://apnews.excite.com/article/20051021/D8DCGG100.html>>

ADMINISTRATION'S TONE SIGNALS A LONGER, BROADER IRAQ CONFLICT

David E. Sanger - New York Times - Oct 17, 2005

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 - For most of the 30 months since American-led forces ousted Saddam Hussein, the Bush administration has argued that as democracy took hold in Iraq, the insurgency would lose steam because Al Qaeda and the opponents of the country's interim government had nothing to offer Iraqis or the people of the Middle East.

Over time, President Bush told troops at Fort Bragg, N.C., this spring, "the terrorists will lose their sponsors, lose their recruits, and lose their hopes for turning that region into a base for attacks on America and our allies around the world."

But inside the administration, that belief provides less solace than it once did. Senior officials say the intelligence reports flowing over their desks in recent months argue that even if democratic institutions take hold, the insurgency may strengthen. And that possibility has created a quandary for an administration that desperately wants to equate democracy-building with winning the war, but so far has not been able to match the two.

<More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?page=article&id=5127>>

AND THERE IS ALWAYS THE NEXT ONE [Ed.]

U.S., BRITAIN URGE ACTION AGAINST SYRIA

Hussein Dakroub - Associated Press Writer - Oct 23,2005

The United States and Britain called Sunday for an international stand against Syria in the wake of a U.N. report that implicated Syrian officials in the assassination of a former Lebanese leader. Syria countered by discounting the report as an American plot and began a diplomatic drive to explain its position. ... The U.S.-British call for action, in a joint BBC interview by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, underlined the growing pressure on Syria as it faces possible action by the U.N. Security Council later this week.

"The report indicated that people of a high level of this Syrian regime were implicated," Straw told the BBC. "We also have evidence of false testimony being given by senior people in the regime. This is very serious."

Rice called for "a firm response" from the international community.

Officials in Washington have said privately that the United States is considering pushing for possible U.N. sanctions against Syria, or to have any criminal cases heard by an international tribunal.

<More at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051023/ap_on_re_mi_ea/lebanon_hariri>

ARE THEY SAVING THESE FOR SYRIA AND IRAN - OR JUST FOR A PARADE? [Ed.]

ARMY HOLDS BACK NEW HUMVEES

Scripps Howard News Service - Oct 24, 2005

Hundreds of new, top-of-the-line armored Humvees are parked in Texas and Kuwait and won't be shipped to troops in Iraq even though those soldiers face daily roadside bombs, the Army acknowledged Thursday. The Army said it's keeping the vehicles out of Iraq until the 3rd Infantry Division's replacements, the 4th Infantry Division, arrive at the end of the year.

<More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?Page=Article&ID=5203> and

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20051021/us_nm/iraq_humvees_dc

FINALLY – REMEMBER WHEN YOU VOLUNTEERED FOR THE USAF SO YOU WOULDN'T GET DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY? [Ed. – older than dirt so I remember]

AIRMEN FILL THE GAPS IN WARTIME

Mark Mazzetti and Greg Miller - Times Staff Writers - October 11, 2005

Thousands of Air Force personnel are being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan to perform low-tech roles and help the Army keep up force levels.

Straining to find ground troops to maintain its force levels in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon has begun deploying thousands of Air Force personnel to combat zones in new jobs as interrogators, prison sentries and gunners on supply trucks. <More at http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-airforce11oct11_0,5242046.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

TO THE COLOR - GATHERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
29 Oct	09:30	Sacramento – Capitol North Steps*	March	Various Veterans Groups	Veterans Benefits
11-Nov	11:00	NYC – Madison Sq Park /5 th Ave	Parade	NYC Event Planning	Celebrate Vets

***Northern California March/Rally to support Veterans' Benefits**

Saturday 29 October 2005 – 0930 - Sacramento, CA on the North Steps of the Capitol. Guest Speakers: Congressman Pete McCloskey (USMCR Ret), Jim Cook (USMCR Ret), Chuck Brown (USAF Ret). This rally is supported by various Veterans Organizations including VUFT (all three speakers are members of VUFT). Please be there and support this effort. For information contact Don Harper at govia@comcast.net, or call him at 916.489.5669. **See the bulletin attached to the end of this issue. See you there!**

TATTOO - CURRENT ISSUES

THE IRAQ WAR COMES HOME

Mark Thompson - Time - Oct 19, 2005

The Iraq war is coming home, with more than one of every four returning vets complaining of mental or physical wounds caused by the conflict. The first time the U.S. went to war with Iraq, in 1991, ground combat lasted precisely 100 hours, but its impact on the U.S. troops who waged it, including physical and mental scars, was ignored and belittled by the Pentagon hierarchy for years. This time, with the war going much worse for U.S. forces, the Pentagon is paying much closer attention to the invisible wounds combat is leaving on soldiers. <More at <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1120140,00.html>>

ANOTHER IRAQ WAR LEGACY: BADLY WOUNDED U.S. TROOPS

Will Dunham - Reuters - Oct 23, 2005

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Army Sgt. Joey Bozik remembers coming out of a coma at Walter Reed Army Medical Center not fully understanding why he was there.

"I knew something had happened to me, I just didn't know what," Bozik said.

He first inquired about his family, then about himself.

"I had an above-the-knee amputation of my right leg and a below-the-knee amputation on my left leg. I had a below-the-elbow amputation on my right arm. And on my left hand, my thumb and pinkie were fractured and the metacarpals in my hand were fractured and I fractured my wrist," Bozik said.

The human toll for the U.S. military in the Iraq war is not limited to the nearly 2,000 troops deaths since the March 2003 invasion. More than 15,220 also have been wounded in combat, including more than 7,100 injured too badly to return to duty, the Pentagon said. Thousands more have been hurt in incidents unrelated to combat. <More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?Page=Article&ID=5194>>

GUARD, RESERVES BEAR HIGHER SHARE OF CASUALTY RATE

Associated Press - Robert Burns - October 10, 2005

The National Guard and Reserves are suffering a strikingly higher share of U.S. casualties in Iraq, their portion of total American military deaths nearly doubling since last year.

Reservists have accounted for one-quarter of all U.S. deaths since the Iraq war began, but the proportion has grown over time. It was 10 percent for the five weeks it took to topple Baghdad in the spring of 2003, and 20 percent for 2004 as a whole.

The trend accelerated this year. For the first nine months of 2005 reservists accounted for 36 percent of U.S. deaths, and for August and September it was 56 percent, according to Pentagon figures.

The Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve accounted for more than half of all U.S. deaths in August and in September — the first time that has happened in consecutive months. The only other month in which it even approached 50 percent was June 2004. <More at <http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-1164635.php>>

FROM WAR HERO TO WAR HAUNTED

Indrani Sen - Newsday (New York) - Oct 23, 2005

Long Island Iraq War veteran depicted in famous image details struggle with menacing post-traumatic stress disorder that escalated to a standoff with po



Army Spc. Joseph Dwyer angled a mirror out the back window of his apartment in El Paso, Texas, trying to make out the Iraqis in the evening gloom. He couldn't see them, but he felt that they were out there somewhere, ready to attack.

Holding his 9-mm handgun tight, the 29-year-old medic from Mount Sinai phoned in an air strike using military code. He directed the fighter jets to his own street address.

Then he heard a noise from the roof -- maybe an Iraqi trying to get in? -- and that's when Dwyer began firing.

Nobody was hurt in the three-hour standoff Oct. 6 in which Dwyer, deep in a post-traumatic stress-induced delusion, barricaded himself into his apartment, fighting off an imaginary Iraqi attack.

Back then, an image of hope

Credit: Warren Zinn, Army Times

<More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?Page=Article&ID=5197>>

BUT IT IS NOT JUST PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WOUNDS [Ed.]

INJURED SOLDIERS BRING HOME RARE INFECTION

K. L. Capozza - UPI - Oct 09, 2005

A recent outbreak of *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections among patients at military medical facilities across the country is presenting a treatment challenge for clinicians, adding to the cost of medical care, and raising concerns that injured soldiers may be importing rare bugs from overseas into U.S. hospitals.

Since March 2003, more than 250 injured soldiers have been diagnosed with *A. baumannii* infection. All of them were wounded in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, and treated at four military hospitals in the United States and abroad: Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, the U.S. Naval Ship Comfort and a field hospital in Iraq. <More at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/upi/index.php?feed=Science&article=UPI-1-20051007-21490300-bc-us-newinfections.xml>>

AND IT IS NOT JUST THIS WAR [Ed.]

AILING VETERANS BLAME THEIR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS ON GULF WAR

Mike Barber - The Seattle Post-Intelligencer - Oct 09, 2005

Ailing veterans blame their MS on Gulf War - Their mission now is to spread the word about other illnesses

By Mike Barber, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, September 28, 2005

On a morning at Westlake Center, they were a couple of wives and moms spending quality time downtown, meeting at a coffee shop to catch up on their lives.

Yet Julie Mock, 38, of Woodinville and Elizabeth Burris, 50, of Tacoma are also sisters-in-arms, exposed accidentally to deadly nerve gases. As veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, they are among perhaps 450 men and women across the country who blame their multiple sclerosis on that war's poisonous stew.

Though overshadowed by today's costlier war in Iraq, Persian Gulf War veterans are still taking casualties.

Of the 700,000 U.S. troops who served there in 1991, a disproportionate number experienced serious neurological disorders. More than 65 percent have sought health care for service-related ailments. Nearly 200,000 are receiving disability compensation -- twice the rate as vets from World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The federal government this summer began notifying about 300,000 veterans of the latest neurological problem linked to service in Iraq in 1991 -- brain cancer. It was the third time the government had warned veterans about neurological problems.

Brain-cancer death joined amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and fibromyalgia among the attacks upon nervous systems stemming from the Gulf War.

In addition, Mock says, "The rate of multiple sclerosis is rising among Gulf War veterans. ... Our population of veterans is becoming increasingly ill and, after years of pushing onward, are finding ourselves too ill to work."

<More at <http://www.ngwrc.org/index.cfm?Page=Article&ID=2056>>

SOME LEGISLATORS ARE TRYING TO HELP [Ed.]

SENATE PASSES MURRAY'S AMENDMENT TODAY; BLOCKS VA FROM WASTING RESOURCES INVESTIGATING 72,000 VETERANS AND PENALIZING THOSE WITH PAPERWORK ERRORS

September 22, 2005 - Washington, D.C.

Today, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash) stood up for America's veterans by ensuring that those who need help with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are not scrutinized, stigmatized, or penalized by a planned VA investigation.

"Veterans with PTSD deserve the VA's compassion and support, not costly investigations, penalties and stigma," Murray said. "Veterans should not be punished for mistakes the VA has made, and that's what my amendment ensures."

Earlier this year, the VA announced plans to investigate the PTSD disability claims of 72,000 veterans. An earlier study of a small number of cases by the VA's Inspector General found errors in about one-third of the claims examined. Many of the problems uncovered were paperwork errors.

<More at <http://www.vawatchdog.org/senatecvademsnews/senatecvademsnews09-22-05.htm>>

UDALL: REVIEW OF BENEFITS DOES HARM TO VETERANS

By James W. Brosnan - *Scripps Howard News Service*- October 21, 2005

WASHINGTON - A New Mexico veteran's suicide this month might have been linked to a government review of disability benefits for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Rep. Tom Udall (D-Santa Fe) and New Mexico Veterans Services Secretary John Garcia told a congressional hearing.

"He believed, as so many veterans do, that he was being forced to prove himself again," Udall, a Santa Fe Democrat, said during Thursday's hearing.

Another veteran had to be talked out of committing suicide because of the benefits review, Garcia told the House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee on disability assistance.

Udall urged Bush administration officials to halt the 2,100 cases already under review.

<More at http://www.abqtrib.com/albq/nw_national/article/0,2564,ALBQ_19860_4176420,00.html>

BUT NOT ALL [Ed.]

VETERANS' BENEFITS ARE NOT SAFE

by Larry Scott - <http://www.opednews.com>

Rep. Steve Buyer was right! Everything is "on the table" when it comes to veterans' benefits. Rep. Buyer (R-IN) <http://stevebuyer.house.gov/>, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs <http://www.veterans.house.gov/>, is smiling. He's won the first round in the battle to re-write the veterans' benefits handbook.

In August, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it would be reviewing 72,000 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) awards granted between 1999 and 2004. This amounts to about one-third of all PTSD claims. The majority of the awards went to Vietnam veterans who have battled the VA, many for ten years or longer, to receive compensation for PTSD. The awards to be reviewed will be ones where full disability (100%) for PTSD was granted. Veterans' groups stand united in opposition to the review. <More at http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne_larry_sc_051017_veterans_benefits_a.htm>

CHAIRMAN BUYER FIGHTS FOR SEAMLESS TRANSITION OF SERVICEMEMBERS FROM DOD TO VA *[LET'S GET THE COMPUTERS FIXED WHILE WE UNDER-FUND BOTH EFFORTS! [Ed.]*

Press Release - September 28, 2005

Washington, D.C. — The Committee on Wednesday held its first in a series of anticipated full-committee oversight hearings focused on progress by the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) in the seamless transition of servicemembers from active duty to veteran status.

"These are soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and members of the Coast Guard; they should never be caught in the bureaucracy," Chairman Steve Buyer said. ...

"I am concerned that there is a significant disconnect between what Congress envisions, what VA and DoD policy makers are initiating, and what is actually taking place at all levels of the two Departments," Buyer said. "Unfortunately, this 'disconnect' is coming at a significant cost to our taxpayers, and more importantly, to the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and their families who have unselfishly served and sacrificed for this great nation."

>more at <http://www.vawatchdog.org/housecvanews/housecvanews09-28-05-2.htm>>

SO WHILE THEY REARRANGE THE DECK CHAIRS ON THE TITANIC...[Ed.]

IRAQ WAR VETERAN RECOVERING IN POMONA

Marianne Love - Staff Writer - Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

He made it six months into his second tour of duty in Iraq before a sniper's bullet found him as he stood guard on top of a police station.

The bullet never actually entered his body, rather it zipped around the inside of his helmet and back out, shaking his head violently and injuring his brain.

In the next few weeks, Army Staff Sgt. Jarod Behee of Glendora is looking at more surgery at a private hospital in Pomona where he was recently moved.

Behee, 26, will undergo surgery to insert a permanent shunt to drain the fluid on his brain. After that, doctors will perform a cranioplasty to relieve pressure on his brain.

His right eye won't stay open, so he'll face a third surgery.

And when he moves from the hospital setting into a transitional living center at Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation, that's when his wife, Marissa, says she's not sure his insurance will pay for his treatment. Three car washes were held Saturday to raise money for Jarod Behee's treatment. <More at http://www2.dailybulletin.com/search/cj_3143356>

AND TWO STORIES TO CAP IT OFF AND WARM YOUR HEARTS [Ed.]

FOR INJURED U.S. TROOPS, 'FINANCIAL FRIENDLY FIRE'

Donna St. George - Washington Post - Oct 14, 2005

His hand had been blown off in Iraq, his body pierced by shrapnel. He could not walk. Robert Loria was flown home for a long recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he tried to bear up against intense physical pain and re-imagine his life's possibilities.

The last thing on his mind, he said, was whether the Army had correctly adjusted his pay rate -- downgrading it because he was out of the war zone -- or whether his combat gear had been accounted for properly: his Kevlar helmet, his suspenders, his rucksack.

But nine months after Loria was wounded, the Army garnished his wages and then, as he prepared to leave the service, hit him with a \$6,200 debt. That was just before last Christmas, and several lawmakers scrambled to help. This spring, a collection agency started calling. He owed another \$646 for military housing.

<More at <http://freeinternetpress.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=4740>>

WOUNDED TROOPS: PAY MISTAKES ADD TO HARDSHIP

Alex Kingsbury and Julian E. Barnes - U.S. News and World report - Oct 17, 2005

Having nearly lost his life in Iraq, the 1st Infantry Division soldier became lost to the Army payroll system because of a paperwork snafu as he lay comatose in a veterans hospital near Chicago. As a result, an Army bureaucrat classified him as absent without

leave and cut off his pay, as is sometimes done when the system loses track of a soldier. The theory is that a GI wrongly listed as AWOL will start shouting and then the issue can be resolved. "That may work for an able-bodied soldier," says Michael Hurst, a former Army finance officer, "but it doesn't work so well for a guy in a coma in Chicago" <More at <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/051014/14wounded.htm>>

AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE! [Ed.]

LITTLE PROGRESS SEEN ON PROCESSING TIME OF VETERANS' DISABILITY CLAIMS

BY CHRIS ADAMS - Knight Ridder Newspapers - Oct. 19, 2005

WASHINGTON - Months after the Department of Veterans Affairs told Congress it expected its processing time for veterans' disability claims to drop, agency internal reports show little or no progress.

Records obtained by Knight Ridder show that the department is struggling in its attempt to reduce veterans' waiting time, in part because VA employee productivity nationwide is only three-quarters of what's expected. In some regional offices, it's far lower. <More at <http://www.mercurynews.com/mid/mercurynews/news/politics/12944686.htm>>

TAPS – PASSINGS AND WAR STATISTICS

OIF/OEF – HACK DATE MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2005

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

KILLED US	1,997
WOUNDED US [14 Oct]	≥ 15,220
KILLED UK	97
KILLED OTHER COALITION	102
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	597
KILLED CONTRACTORS	273
KILLED IRAQI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 33,438
KILLED IRAQI CIVILIANS	≥ 30,051
WOUNDED IRAQI MIL/CIV	≥ 137,822

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

KILLED US	247
WOUNDED/INJURED US	741
KILLED COALITION	121
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	363
KILLED AFGHANI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 8,619
KILLED AFGHANI CIVILIANS	≥ 3,525

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

VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

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VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

LAST NAME: _____

First name, MI: _____

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Branch of Service: _____

Years of Service: From Mo/Day/Yr ___/___/____. To Mo/Day/Yr ___/___/____

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Events

Planning and execution

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Communication

Website, Media Contact

Materials

Posters, Flyers, etc. production

Message

Writing, editing, newsletter

Local Organizing

Form community group

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: ___/___/____

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
MARCH/RALLY TO SUPPORT
VETERANS BENEFITS
SAT. OCT. 29, 2005
9:30-11 A.M.**

**STATE CAPITOL (NORTH STEPS)
TODAY'S MILITARY WILL BECOME
TOMORROW'S VETERAN**

**PLEASE JOIN OUR RALLY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR
CURRENT AND FUTURE VETERANS AND MAKE AN ACTION
STATEMENT THAT ALL VETERANS GET THE BENEFITS THEY
DESERVE AND EARNED**

THE GOVERNMENT MUST LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND

GUEST SPEAKERS

**CONGRESSMAN PETE MCCLOSKEY (RETIRED)
RETIRED COL. JIM COOK (MARINE CORPS)
RETIRED LT. COL. CHARLES BROWN (AIR FORCE)
Various Veterans Service Organizations**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DON HARPER

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