

# Trainstopping: Direct Action Against the US Military

## Do you see the beast? Have you got it in your sights?

Some protestors take to the streets, holding signs and waving banners. Some write their congress people or sign online petitions, thinking that someone in power will see it (let alone give a shit about it). Some walk out of school, some strike from work. And some take matters into their own hands. They participate in direct action to straightaway effect a particular part of the war.



ers' union has refused to load military equipment.

Since Austria has refused to allow US military trains pass through their country, the US has routed the war machine through the Netherlands. Naturally, activists in the Netherlands have participated in an array of direct actions against the US war effort.

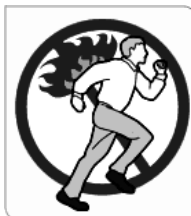
The US Military Traffic Management Command office was blockaded and even Greenpeace got into the fight by blocking the first US ship to attempt to leave Rotterdam harbor.

"Trainstopping" actions are taking place in Belgium as well.

These activists face the probability of arrests, the possibility of abuse by cops and even threat of death from some over-zealous US military nuts. While their actions may seem like only a temporary slow-down of the US war monster, it certainly seems like a better idea than simply holding a sign and shouting "Peace! Peace!"

By the way, to sweeten the deal of allowing the US use of Italian rails, Bush has nominated Italian Defense Minister Martino for NATO president.

(Sources: mostly Italy  
IMC & The Netherlands  
IMC, also AFP)



In Italy, activists are not just taking to the streets, they are taking to the railroad tracks. The Italian Defense Minister Antonio Martino guaranteed (without even consulting the Italian parliament) the use of their railways to the US for the war against Iraq.

Due to that, since February 21st, hundreds of activists in Italy, participating in "trainstopping," have tried to block 26 convoys on their way to a US military base in Pisa.

They've laid down on the tracks and even set fire to the line.

Train personnel are now officially recognized as military personnel. However, the train work-

### Expense Report for Episode #24

This does NOT include random expenses such as domain name, paper for printing originals, promotions, ads, etc. This only expresses the cost of raw materials needed for this specific issue. Any donations received after 02.20.03 (print day) will appear on #25's expense report. Print run of 400.

**Expenses:**  
 Printing.....\$-36.43  
 Shipping.....\$-15.36  
 Stamps for Prisoners.....\$-2.96  
 Envelopes (big).....\$-.55  
 Envelopes (small).....\$0.00(gift)

**Income:**  
 Recent Donations.....\$150.00  
 Subscriptions.....\$9.40

**Total left over for future issues .....\$+94.97**

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### Little Black Star

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Sometimes it's really difficult to do LBS. This issue was particularly touchy. Not because I'm running out of steam, but because I know for a "fact" that as soon as I go to print, the US will (re)start the war. So I tried to make this issue lighter, because next issue, I feel, will be the war issue. Soundtrack for this issue: Against Me!

Next issue date: March 22 Would you like Freedom Fries with that, sir?

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the **Little Black Star**  
 a fortnightly reader

**Be Ready!**

Don't Be Scared... Be Ready!



Don't be scared of huge aerosol cans...  
**BE READY!**

Sometimes Duct Tape and Plastic Just aren't Enough to Save Us!  
**www.ready.gov ... BE READY!**

The main story this episode isn't about Iraq or Al-Qaeda. It's not about Uncle Colin, Bush or Dick. This hits home. This is truly important stuff.

The US government is *not* trying to scare us. It is trying to ready us. It's not a matter of *if*, it's a matter of *when*. Another terrorist attack will certainly occur on US soil and instead of soiling yourself, it's time to BE READY!

Since it doesn't seem likely that the United States will change their imperialistic foreign policy, terrorists from countries the US has driven further into the "third world" will continue to vent their hatred in violent and destructive ways.

So instead of focusing on the root of the problem, the US has opted to make a really cool website (with some of the best damn clipart ever) to get the people ready to bare the brunt of the backlash against what the government is doing. Thanks guys!

To join in on the fun, if you're near a computer, point you web browser to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Be forewarned, this thing reads like one of those Y2K pages that were so popular a few years ago.



Apparently, there are three steps to being ready. First, we have to make a kit. This is your basic stuff. Food, water, first aide, etc. Basics. Even with these kick-ass clipart pics, you wouldn't be able to tell what you were preparing for. Could be a flood, could be a suicide bomber, they're both bound to happen, nothing we can do about it, right?

Now, we're instructed to make a plan. We must have a plan for every place in the world

we may be. Look around you. At work, home, school, super market, car, on the john, etc. Do you have any idea what to do if a terrorist were to attack right now?



True, the vast majority of Americans live nowhere near choice terrorist targets like the Capitol building or Golden Gate Bridge, but that doesn't matter. A terrorist could strike anywhere at any time and there is not a damn thing anyone can do about it. Remember, it's not a question of *if*, it's a question of *when*.

What do you do in a moving vehicle if there should be a power line down? Or how about a skyscraper if an attack would happen there? And what if you were at school? Then what?!

This website has all the answers for you.



Also, we must be informed about the five types of terrorist attacks that can naturally occur. They are: biological, chemical, explosions, nuclear blasts and radiation. For some reason it fails to mention what to do if a couple of guys with box cutters highjack a couple of planes and fly them into a couple of buildings.

Like any other natural disaster, terrorist attacks are apparently unavoidable. So instead of trying to get the government to stop being a dick to every other country in the world, just fill up your gas tank and remember: don't be scared. BE READY, dammit!

(This message is brought to you by the United States Department of Fatherland... er... I mean, Homeland Security)

Are YOU ready?

## Pro-War Movement Just Gettin' Started

What do you do if you just *love* to protest, but hate to think that the US might not get the chance to bomb the piss out of a bunch of brown people? The answer is simple! Join the Pro-War protestors now forming all over this great land!

Citizens United is a grassroots organization (probably with more government backing than anyone will ever know) that wants us to support our leader, our country and our fearless troops.

"We decided we can't sit idly by while President Bush's agenda, specifically his continuing efforts on the war on terror, specifically Iraq ... while they ... Democrats, the left wing and Hollywood ... conduct a well-coordinated, well organized, well-financed effort to undo the president and really to destroy him, because that's their goal," blurted David Bossie, Citizens United's president.

Citizens United's role of Martin Sheen will be played by actor and former Tennessee Republican Sen. Fred Thompson, star (well, not really) of such film classics as Days of Thunder and Aces: Iron Eagle 3.

"Thank goodness we have a president with the courage to protect our country," says Thompson about the coming



## Gonna Fight for My Freedom Fries!

Some Americans, in their collective stupidity and uncanny ability to completely miss the point while focusing on an asinine idea, have taken it upon themselves, due to their anger at France for not being the United States' bitch, to change the name of French Fries to Freedom Fries.

Never mind that French Fries aren't even remotely French. It's the thought that counts! They certainly sound French, and apparently that's enough for Palm Beach county commissioner Burt Aaronson.

"I wont even mention the other name," he said referring to the F-word Fries.

He got his flag all in a bunch after he heard that Neal Rowland, owner of "Cubbies" restaurant in North Carolina posted a sign reading, "Because of Cubbie's support for our troops, we no longer serve french fries. We now serve freedom fries."

So from now on, please call Fre- (dammit, I almost said the F-word)... those fried sticks of potatoes "Freedom Fries." If you do not, then the terrorists have already won.

(Sources: AP, South Florida Sun-Sentinel)

war against Iraq. But what, you might ask, is Bush protecting "our" country from? Iraq has made no threats against the US. "And for those who ask what has Saddam done to us, I ask what had the 9/11 hijackers done to us before 9/11?" Snorts Fred Thompson.

Agreed, let's bomb everyone who hasn't done anything to us.

And no stupid idea would be complete without the undying support of this great nation's youth. [www.studentsforwar.com](http://www.studentsforwar.com) is born! They've even got a swell online petition and information on how to start your very own Students for War chapter in your very own school!

The Pro-War "movement" is for now unorganized. However, there have been a few protests. On February 8, 75 "pro-warriors" in Costa Mesa, CA got together, waved flags and chanted the ever-loved "USA! USA! USA!"

There have been bigger rallies in Florida, Indiana and DC, with much the same level of thoughtful intelligence.

War seems more like a set deal than a vague last-chance possibility. So since you can't beat'em, join'em.

USA! USA! USA! USA!  
USA! USA! USA!

(Source: 100% from Fox News .. we couldn't make this shit up ourselves!)  
USA!!



## US Plays the UN Veto Card Too

The US seems appalled that France and Russia have threatened to veto a UN resolution supporting use of military force against Iraq. However the US has had its fair share of damning vetoes. Many clearly biased against the Palestinians. Over the next few issues, we'll document a few (in chronological order).

**S/11940 of 23 January 1976** (9 in favor, U.S. veto, 3 abstentions-Italy, Sweden, UK. China and Libya did not participate.) The U.N. affirms "The right of Palestinian refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors to do so and the right of those choosing not to return to receive compensation for their property" and also "That Israel should withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967."

**S/12022 of 24 March 1976** (14 in favour, U.S. veto) Noted that the U.N. is "Deeply concerned further at the measures taken by the Israeli authorities leading to the present grave situation including measures aimed at changing the physical, cultural, demographic and religious character of the occupied territories and, in particular, the City of Jerusalem, the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and other violations of the human rights of the inhabitants of those territories."

(Source: UN.org - Official website of the UN)

## Dissenters Uniting Against the US? It's Not Just for Europe Anymore...

Normally you'd be hard-pressed to get warring and rival opposition groups to even agree upon which topping to get on their pizza, but when you throw a totalitarian empire-hungry super-power into the mix, anything can happen!

Factions in both Iraq and the Philippines that are usually at each others' throats have joined hands in one common cause: stopping the US from spreading their brand of "democracy" into their part of the world.

### In Iraq...

Anti-Saddam Hussein groups, which often maim and kill each other over what would be the best way to maim and kill the current Iraqi government, picked 54 members from different groups, formed a coordinating committee, elected a six-man leadership body, condemned Turkey's possible involvement in a US-led invasion and scoffed at the idea of a US military general ruling their country after Saddam is relieved of his command.

The US quietly went ape shit over this idea. It's always been understood that the Kurds opposing Saddam shouldn't do anything that even resembles forming a new plan for a government.

The US wants Turkish involvement. The Kurds don't. Unfortunately for the US, the Kurds didn't listen. They hammered out a plan for a new government and even picked who should be in charge of what. It shouldn't come as a surprise, but General Tommy Franks won't be playing Jesus in their Christmas play.

Of course, the US is afraid that if only Iraqis are running their country, the oil might not flow so freely. Quite a dilemma.

### Meanwhile, In The Philippines...

The US was *this* close to sending 1,700 troops into the Philippines last week. The reason? Simple! To target the Abu Sayyaf gang, a known terrorist group with about 225 members.

When word spread around that the US was sending troops to kick some ass, groups that normally didn't get along, suddenly had a common goal: get the US out of town.

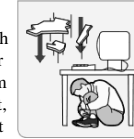
The Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army (having 9,000 and 10,000 combat troops respectively) have joined with the Abu Sayyaf gang to combine their forces to around 20,000 soldiers.

"The American people are not our enemies, but we will take it as an invasion if they come to fight," said Shariff-Moshin Julabbi, a leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, "There is no alternative but to fight."

The plan to send the US troops in seemed to be a done deal. But suddenly it was scrapped.

Officially, the reason is because the Philippines' domestic disputes to be settled with foreign military power.

In prior Philippine / US dealings, the US troops were stationed in the background, far from the heavy fighting. This time, however, they were to bare the brunt of it. The US was to delve deep into the



Abu Sayyaf gang.

This would really be no problem. 1,700 US troops made up of Marines and Special-Ops, butting heads with an enemy over seven times smaller should be a cakewalk, right? Well, throw in the 19,000 from the other two groups and you've got yourself an All-American bloodbath, Vietnam style. Bits of apple pie *everywhere!*

So, with its tail between its legs, the US backed out of a war that no one really even knew about.

There's nothing like a bunch of empire-lusting white guys to unite a bunch of normally warring nonwhite guys. Who would have thought that Arabs and Asians would have so much in common? Well, when you're dealing with the US, you either set aside your differences for a bit and rough it out or everyone dies and you become another 51st state. After the US goes away, you can go back to blowing each other up. But for now, the enemy of your enemy is your friend.

(Sources: Christian Science Monitor, AP, Washington Post, Sydney Morning Herald)

## Turkey Makes a Turkey Out of Bush

Bad puns aside, what has Turkey's refusal to allow US troops to invade Iraq via their country done to the US's attack plans?

The Pentagon and White House have publicly done little more than brush it off like it was no big deal. The media has, of course, followed suit. But the ramifications of this could actually postpone the war (though, irony being what it is, in all likely hood, by the time this issue gets in your hands, Baghdad will have fallen, Saddam Hussein will have been strung up Mussolini-style, and Bush will have invaded several other counties).

Powell has informed Bush that a lot of UN Security Council countries were watching Turkey, to see what they'd do, and if it comes to a vote, will vote accordingly.

According to White House advisors who leaked the "story," Powell told Bush concerning the possible upcoming UN vote, "You will lose, Mr. President. You will lose badly and the United States will be humiliated on the world stage."

Other talk around the White House was equally bummed, if not more colorful: "The vote in Turkey fucked things up big time."

Most seem to see the capture of the Number 3 Al Qaeda man to be a good thing to focus upon instead of Iraq. But unless he's got buttofolds of oil in his pockets, it's doubtful he'll make much of a difference.

Will the war be stopped by Turkey and the UN (due to huge public outcry) or will Bush ignore the world and stick to his guns? It may all be decided by the time you read this.

The US is being opposed *everywhere* these days. Will Bush take the hint? Somehow, that seems doubtful.

(Sources: AP, NY Times, Capitol Hill Blue.com)

