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Support the troops

Slogan has different meaning for soldiers

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"I support the troops but oppose the war." Statements like this are two faced, masking an anti-war agenda with false patriotism for the troops while depicting them as victims. A reason why these people say they support the troops is because of a personal connection to them, either with a family member or friend. They do not want them to die in a war that they truly just do not understand.

Americans have become increasingly complacent, believing that the world is a relatively good place and that America is the problem. They are more concerned about their individual rights, versus the balance between their rights and the preservation of the state. Our national identity has slowly been eroded by those who believe that America is the source of oppression. The world is full of evil people, yet because of the relative safety enjoyed by Americans it has become increasingly difficult to convince people that America is at war and being threatened by Islamic extremists around the world.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The tree of Liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of Patriots and Tyrants." Some Americans have been standing up and answering the call for freedom and liberty by helping create stability in an inherently unpredictable world. However, there are still large groups of people who have lost touch with the realities of the struggle we are all currently facing.

Every member of the armed forces knows that accomplishing the mission is their No. 1 priority. American public opinion and anti-war protests have emboldened the insurgency on the battlefield, giving them hope. It has reached the point where insurgents in Iraq use protests in America as a weapon against U.S. forces. Along a road just outside Al Fallujah, an anti-war poster was found that stated that the American people did not support the war and that the only reason U.S. forces were in Iraq was to try and kill Muslims and take their oil. The insurgency was using American anti-war protesters' own posters to psychologically attack U.S. troops.

Due to the lack of support for the mission to help rebuild Iraq and deny the Islamic extremists an Islamic fundamentalist state, insurgent groups around the world are more hopeful in the fight against the spread of democracy. It is now a recognized insurgent tactic to try and sway public opinion in the hopes that the public will become sick of the war and force a pullout. This would, yet again, embolden the enemy. America would suffer another Somalia.

Those who say they support the troops should just come out and say what they really mean. Just tell the troops that you either have a friend or loved one in the military whom you don't want to die, or that you believe that the troops are victims of an American "global takeover." Of course, you support the life of one of the troops, but you don't support the mission and that means you are preventing the troops from completing their mission and doing what they must to get the job done.

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