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"They Used Pat for Public Consumption, Just Like Jessica Lynch": An Interview with Mary Tillman

By [Emily Wilson](#), [AlterNet](#). Posted [May 26, 2008](#).

The official cover-up of football star-turned-soldier Pat Tillman's death by "friendly fire" has led his family on a four-year mission for justice.

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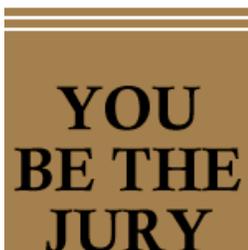
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THE CASE AGAINST THE PRESIDENT



After the Sept. 11 attacks, football star Pat Tillman left a multimillion-dollar contract with the Arizona Cardinals to join the Army Rangers, wanting to go fight Al-Qaeda. When the former NFL safety was killed in Afghanistan in April 2004, Army officials told his family he died in an enemy ambush. Five weeks later, after Tillman was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, and after Army officials at a nationally televised memorial had told a story of him charging up a hill in pursuit of enemy insurgents, the Army reported that, in fact, Tillman had been shot three times in the head by "friendly fire."

Since discovering that Tillman was killed by friendly fire, his family, led by his mother, Mary, and his brother, Kevin, who served with him in the Army, has been trying to find who was responsible for covering up what happened in Pat's death. After seven investigations, two Congressional hearings, and support from politicians ranging from Democratic California Rep. Mike Honda to Republican presidential candidate John McCain to retired general Wesley Clark, Mary Tillman says no one has been held accountable.

Now, with Narda Zacchino, former deputy editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, she has written a book about Pat's life and her struggle to find out the truth about his death. The title is *Boots on the Ground by Dusk: My Tribute to Pat Tillman*. AlterNet writer Emily Wilson sat down with her recently in San Francisco to talk about the book.

Emily Wilson: In the book you have a lot of stories about Pat as a toddler, a kid and a teenager. Why did you choose to include those?

Mary Tillman: I included the stories about Pat growing up because I felt that for the reader to care about what happened to him, they had to have a little bit of an understanding about who he was. I felt the media coverage sort of turned him into a caricature. I wanted to present him as a human being.

Emily Wilson: In four years, you have had seven investigations and two Congressional hearings. What gives you the will to keep going with this?

Mary Tillman: I think there is so much that is disturbing in the documents, the fact that they lied to us to begin with -- and you know, when you are lied to and you see discrepancies, it just makes you more concerned and confused and outraged. And at

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every turn we just kept finding new pieces of information that made it seem there was huge deception and cover-up. So I feel it's very important to find out who's accountable for the cover-up.

At this point I think most of the evidence is gone. It's been four years, and these soldiers (the ones who shot Tillman) are young, they were in a stress situation. I think it's horrific they were so negligent, but I think if there's some kind of consequence, it should have happened early on. I think putting them through that at this point -- I don't think Pat would have wanted that. But for these men in positions of authority and power to willfully deceive the public and cover up and use a young man for propaganda is outrageous, and I think they should be held accountable.

Emily Wilson: What has been the hardest thing about dealing with the Army?

Mary Tillman: I think the hardest thing is the officers we've been dealing with. They're very polished, they're very polite, they're very respectful. I mean their outward behavior is very respectful, but they're clearly lying. And it took us awhile to realize that this honest, earnest facade was just that; a facade. So it's been very hard to realize that these people who seem so genuine are not.

Emily Wilson: On "60 Minutes," Katie Couric asked the new secretary of the Army, Pete Geren: Who altered eyewitness statements to say Pat was killed by the enemy? He says this question can't be completely answered. What is your response to that?

Mary Tillman: In the Congressional hearing, they kept saying they couldn't know who falsified the Silver Star narrative, that they couldn't find out who was responsible for the cover-up. It's impossible, they say, to find this information out. And I just don't really believe that. I think there's a way. I just think they just don't want to trace it because it would lead to people they don't want uncovered.

Emily Wilson: You mention all the inconsistencies you have been told over the past four years. What were some of the most glaring?

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Emily Wilson is a freelance writer and teaches basic skills at City College of San Francisco.

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First Casualty of War is the Truth

Posted by: citizen chump on May 26, 2008 1:19 AM
Current rating: 4 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
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. . .from day one.

Mrs. Tillman is correct in her observation that the US has become calloused and unconcerned --- will only change when the sons and daughters of the six figure plus income brackets, conservatives and liberals, see their kids drafted only to return in body bags ----otherwise, those running "the show" have a very good playbook based on Vietnam conflict/others as to how to handle the folks at home. \$150/bl oil anyone -- fall is only 5 months away. Sorry once again, Mrs. T, about your loss. . .

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- >> **Tillman Got In The Way of A "Good War"** Posted by: rgoalierob
- >> **RE: First Casualty of War is the Truth** Posted by: Solar Wind
- >> **RE: First Casualty of War is the Truth** Posted by: HillbillyBob

Fragged

Posted by: SouthernWolf on May 26, 2008 4:10 AM
Current rating: 4 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

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Personally I think Mr. Tillman was fragged- "accidentally" killed by friendly fire- on orders from high up. It is known that he expressed misgivings over the war in Iraq and the last thing Bush and the Pentagon wanted was a well known citizen soldier expressing negative opinions about this war.

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- >> **Highly Unlikely** Posted by: blogbooks
 - >> **RE: Highly Unlikely [Oh come on. Could we have some (Any?) facts?** Posted by: Squarehead
 - >> **RE: Highly Unlikely [Oh come on. Could we have some (Any?) facts?** Posted by: carbon-based
 - >> **RE: Highly Unlikely [Oh come on. Could we have some (Any?) facts?** Posted by: Squarehead
 - >> **RE: Highly Unlikely [Oh come on. Could we have some (Any?) facts?** Posted by: donnee
 - >> **RE: Highly Feasable and Very Likely carbonated right wing slug** Posted by: Turiye
 - >> **RE: Highly Feasable and Very Likely carbonated right wing slug** Posted by: Squarehead
 - >> **In carbon's defense** Posted by: meetmeineleusis
 - >> **RE: Highly Feasable and Very Likely carbonated right wing slug** Posted by: carbon-based
 - >> **RE: Highly Feasable and Very Likely carbonated right wing slug** Posted by: Squarehead
 - >> **RE: Highly Feasable and Very Likely carbonated right wing slug** Posted by: Squarehead
 - >> **RE: Highly Feasable and Very Likely carbonated right wing slug** Posted by: carbon-based
 - >> **RE: Highly Unlikely** Posted by: SouthernWolf
 - >> **RE: Highly Unlikely** Posted by: Quannah
 - >> **Yes, I am a vet. I didn't think my comment would get so much response.** Posted by: blogbooks
 - >> **RE: Yes, I am a vet. I didn't think my comment would get so much response.** Posted by: Quannah
 - >> **RE: Fragged** Posted by: Liborio
 - >> **Personally, I think** Posted by: robbie.seal

Steve V. in Vermont

Posted by: steve.janv@hotmail.com on May 26, 2008 4:23 AM
Current rating: 4 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

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Our Government lied to us again, really?

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» **RE: Steve V. in Vermont** Posted by: Doubtom

» **RE: Steve V. in Vermont** Posted by: carbon-based

» **RE: Steve V. in Vermont** Posted by: Turiye

Remember him

Posted by: taxidriver on May 26, 2008 4:30 AM

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Pat Tillman showed a lot of character to walk away from millions and football fame to serve his country in the military. He deserves to be honored this Memorial Day.

Another person who deserves a Silver Star is Mrs. Tillman. She's shown great courage and fortitude while facing down Army generals and colonels who refused to tell her the truth. It's shameful to treat the parent of fallen hero this way.

Like mother, like son--brave, relentless, self-sacrificing, independent. They are models for true patriotism on this Memorial Day.

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» **RE: emember him** Posted by: carbon-based

public consumption

Posted by: tommyjonq on May 26, 2008 4:48 AM

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everybody does it. peta, unicef, the naacp. death sells. do you think we'd have a martin luther king holiday, or a lincoln's birthday, or an easter sunday, if those people had died in their sleep?

what i think is most interesting is that pat tillman voluntarily rented his own body out to TWO highly profitable exploiters: the army, AND the nfl. he not only volunteered, he actually worked very, very hard in order to be "good enough" for the sacrifice.

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» **RE: public consumption** Posted by: TagsNOLA

» **RE: public consumption** Posted by: Doubtom

» **How the hell do you know what motivated Pat Tilman? You DON'T! So let him rest in peace!** Posted by: HughScott

» **RE: public consumption** Posted by: arthurread

» **Everyone does what? What does unicef do that is connected to Lincoln's birthday? Death sells?** Posted by: Beck

It's not that complicated

Posted by: blogbooks on May 26, 2008 5:02 AM

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When Pat signed up it was a huge propaganda win for the U.S. military, its wars, and its recruitment of young folks.

After all, in a nation where the vast majority of military recruits come from underprivileged backgrounds, here was an example of a guy with everything in the world going for him that signed up anyway.

The military doesn't WANT former gang members, high school drop outs, people that are barely literate etc. in their ranks. They take them because they have to. Pat represented an exception to the rule of recruiting the poor.

A story that goes, "Pat gave up his million dollar contract in the NFL to have his head blown off by some kid from a farm in Tennessee" doesn't make nearly as good recruitment propaganda as, "Pat gave up his million dollar contract in the NFL and died heroically fighting Al Qaeda in Afghanistan."

The truth will make smart, athletic kids that would likely have viewed Pat as an example step back and go, "hmmmm, people die in the military. Maybe this isn't all fun and games after all." The lie they made up was a public relations spin on a bad situation. That's how the military and the rest of the world/government operates.

The person most likely responsible is the highest ranking officer in Pat's direct chain of command (to the Battalion level, possibly the regiment level).

It doesn't go all the way to Donald Rumsfeld. People like him making decisions that kill thousands of

people like Pat Tillman, they can't be bothered over individuals.

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>> **RE: It's not that complicated [Rumsfeld was involved in a separate case.** Posted by:

Squarehead

>> **RE: It's not that complicated [Rumsfeld was involved in a separate case.** Posted by:

Squarehead

>> **RE: It's not that complicated [Rumsfeld was involved in a separate case.** Posted by:

JSquercia

Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER

Posted by: Mister_PsyOps on May 26, 2008 5:48 AM

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

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"I admire and I respect their goal, [Code Pink and Cindy Sheehan] but I don't respect their tactics... some of her actions are a little too militant, and if you are preaching to the choir, that's fine, but if you're trying to get other people in your corner, it just doesn't seem to work. ... I had to be careful associating with certain factions."

A brave woman, no doubt. However...

Since Mary Tillman considers Cindy Sheehan and Code Pink "too militant" in their endeavors to bust a completely phony and genocidal 9/11 "war on terror", then what is the alternative? If Mrs. Tillman's goal is to "get other people in your corner" and if she doesn't "respect their tactics" [Cindy Sheehan, Code Pink, etc] then what and whose "tactics" does she respect? Who are these "other people" she wants in her "corner" and what is the so-called "goal" here?

"These soldiers are going and fighting for our system, and they hope the system works, and we hoped it would work for Pat."

Really?

I doubt that's much comfort to the roughly 1 million innocent Iraqis killed nor the thousands of Afghans murdered. On the other hand, hundreds of billions in cozy blood profits made off Big Oil and Wall Street "war on terror" is certainly another way to keep score. Quite a "system". And it certainly does "work" quite well for de facto Fascist corporate crime.

From the sound of this mess, it looks as if Mrs. Tillman is courting people like impeachment-is-off-the-table Nancy Pelosi along with the usual cast of mealy-mouthed stooge sellouts at Washington and the MSM (most invested heavily one way or another into the "war on terror" blood money death trade).

With all due regard to Mrs. Tillman's loss, if such is the case, she may as well be throwing darts at the moon.

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>> **RE: Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER** Posted by: beautifulady2003

>> **RE: Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER** Posted by: kegbot1

>> **RE: Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER** Posted by: Turiye

>> **RE: Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER** Posted by: arthurhead

>> **RE: Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER** Posted by: mullenhead

>> **RE: Tactics & Goals of FASCIST POWER** Posted by: Basenjjs

Army Ranger Bros

Posted by: Abe on May 26, 2008 6:05 AM

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Current rating: 2 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

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ARMY RANGER BROS

(Pat Tillman)

The two made quite a sacrifice
By joining the Army's elite
The motto, "Rangers Lead The Way"
Now, for one is bittersweet.

They both walked from professions
And put it All on the front line
To do their Duty to their Country
For, Freedoms of yours and mine.

He lost his Brother to the enemy
In an ambush firefight
The Ranger Creed is what He lived by

And He believed in what was right.

He said, his Grandpa was at "Pearl"
 But, felt He hadn't done His part
 So, after Nine Eleven
 He knew what to do, down in His heart.

He made the Sacrifice, Supreme
 And He surely gave His all
 And in that Army, up in Heaven
 You can bet He's standing Proud and Tall.

Del "Abe" Jones
 24 April 2004

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- >> **His "Bros" Fragged Him** Posted by: rgoalierob
- >> **RE: His "Bros" Fragged Him** Posted by: Lauren
- >> **RE: His "Bros" Fragged Him** Posted by: rgoalierob
- >> **RE: His "Bros" Fragged Him** Posted by: Turiye

My cruel opinion

Posted by: Gregory Kruse on May 26, 2008 6:28 AM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: 3 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
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Pat Tillman was a chump, just like all the other volunteers who think that fighting with weapons of mass destruction is an honorable thing. Just like the Japanese soldiers of WWII thought their purity and faith could deflect bullets and found out the hard way that faith had no effect on artillery rounds. Just like the grunts who enthusiastically volunteered to fight in WWI who where ordered out of the trenches into a virtual wall of machine-gun fire found out that enthusiasm was no match for .50 caliber lead missiles. Just like those gung-ho enlistees who wanted to take the fight to the enemy in Vietnam and were fragged by their own platoons. There used to be some glory in war when men fought face to face in a contest of strength and courage. Survivors (veterans) could take some pride in their success on the battlefield. Pat Tillman must have believed in the glory of war, must have believed that his strength, beauty, and patriotic fervor counted for something in battle. But he was purely wrong. A more ignominious death on the field of battle one can't easily imagine. He isn't a heroic figure at all, but a pitiable one. He might have been a tragic figure, but the U.S. Army, in trying to make him a hero, made him a chump.

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- >> **How the hell do you know what motivated Pat Tilman? You DON'T! So let him rest in peace!** Posted by: HughScott
- >> **RE: My cruel opinion** Posted by: carbon-based
- >> **RE: the glory of protecting ones country.** Posted by: bitsfick
- >> **You are the Chump** Posted by: robbie.seal

One Army

Posted by: Captainmagic on May 26, 2008 6:30 AM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: 3 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
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on this planet upsizes clusterf@#ks into super clusterf@#k and that's on a regular basis.

Mrs Tilman your son is to be saluted but for no other reason than because, he was 'there'. That's enough for us.

Regards Captain

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- >> **The incompetent pogues** Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- >> **We don't need to be having these "wars" period.** Posted by: Quannah
- >> **RE: We don't need to be having these "wars" period.** Posted by: Basenjjs

what is even more infuriating...

Posted by: TagsNOLA on May 26, 2008 6:37 AM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
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... is the lack of accountability for the tactical blunder that led to this goat rope in the first damn place. In the fog of war, mistakes are made and people die. But it looks like this op never had to happen this way. The platoon leader objected strenuously and, contrary to SOP, he was overruled. He and his men were ordered into a perilous situation. What was the tactical objective? From the look of it, someone's tactical decision was made in heedless disregard for the lives of Tilman and the other men in his platoon. Second

guessing or "Monday morning quarterbacking" isn't the issue here. The platoon leader is said to have objected strenuously to the tactically tenuous situation he and his men would be facing. This was a decision that had been deliberated between the platoon leader and his superiors, not a decision made on the spur of the moment in the heat of battle and the "fog of war." Someone made the decision that this mission was of sufficient importance to place these men in what was known to have been grave jeopardy. Why? Maybe the decision was perfectly justified by a factor we don't know about. If so, why the cover up?

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>> **RE: what is even more infuriating...** Posted by: Lauren

>> **RE: what is even more infuriating...** Posted by: TagsNOLA

>> **CIA Spooks peddling dope is nothing new** Posted by: mclemens

>> **RE: what is even more infuriating.[that the Taliban had so eliminated poppy production, I'll try to** Posted by: Squarehead

USAF Vietnam Vet

Posted by: wgriff3245 on May 26, 2008 7:01 AM

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Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

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Unfortunately, I was drafted during my senior year in 1970. I had no intentions of joining the military but I was forced to, so subsequently I enlisted, in what I considered to be the lesser of the four evils. Now at age 58, I have come to the conclusion that anyone who volunteers to serve in this country's military is absolutely stupid and perhaps somewhat insane. For me, the lessons that I learned during the Vietnam War and years since, when dealing with the government, have been passed on to my son. I also instructed my son and his friends, in the most strictest of terms, to never consider a stint in any branch of the US military. Once you sign the dotted line you are no more than a "lab rat" to these people, according to the "Feres Doctrine". In my case, I speak from experience, as I am suffering and mostly will die soon from the complication of herbicide poisoning (Agent Orange) which the Military denied using of Vietnam, but according to records released in 2003 by then Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld, they not only used Agent Orange in Vietnam, they used it throughout Southeast Asia and in the United States. This is only one of the lies the each President since Nixon have been telling the US public. According to a report done by Adm. Zumwalt in the 80s, which Daddy Bush has silenced, the Head of OMB, didn't want this information made public because it would 1. increase the number veterans in the VA system and 2. It would open up legal liability for the corporations (Monsanto, Dow, etc.) who produced the highly toxic, dioxin laden variations of Agent Orange.

Finally, not only did this nation denigrate mine and millions of others vets who served this nation in Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand, during Mr. Nixon's "Secret War", by classifying us as "Vietnam Era Veterans. Also the "combat" troops mostly army and marines or as the VA refers to them as the "Boots On The Ground", refer to our service as Rear Escheol Mother F#\$%*@*% "REMFs".

It is all a bunch of BS, because we are constantly being duped into serve this country for the corporate interest and definitely not for democracy. In hindsight I can also honestly say that the lucky ones are one the wall because we all died in Southeast Asia and this Government did not have the decency to tell us.

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>> **RE: USAF Vietnam Vet** Posted by: Doubtom

>> **RE: USAF Vietnam Vet** Posted by: Lauren

>> **RE: USAF Vietnam Vet** Posted by: MyLeftFoot

Users, Abusers and Exploiters

Posted by: bobtr900 on May 26, 2008 7:55 AM

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Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

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That Cheney and Rummy are, were or might have been involved in the Tillman situation is only part of the point. The fact is that their ruthless and vicious mindset permeated down through the Officer corps and even to some of the 'boots on the ground'. Tillman was one 'boot' who eventually 'saw the light'.

This permeating of the Cheney, Rummy and to a lesser extent Bush(Bush himself is, to some extent, a dumb dupe for Cheney and Rumsfeld) mindset is what so easily caused this cover-up and may well have contributed to the 'fragging' in the first place. The cowboys are righteously shooting the 'indians'.

There is no doubt in my mind that at some point in the 'life' of this situation they were involved and directly contributed to, aided and abetted this clusterf*ck which then quickly became a FUBAR.

These guys and the Bushie Rethugs and Bush himself have been lying to the American people from the 'get-go' is totally obvious. So why would they not lie and use this situation to their advantage.

Mrs. Tillman was what made the difference. Most military families would not have even questioned what the Army 'brass' told them. Most military type people and families are authoritarian type personalities who just follow along and do and believe what the authorities tell them.

Most religious people are perfect examples of this type. That is why the Bushie Rethugs can so easily exploit religious people. Religious people are already pre-conditioned to follow along and do what they are told. That is why the Rethug party so easily gets along with, uses and exploits religious people.

That they 'milked' Tillmans death for all the propaganda that it was worth is beyond doubt. They exploited Tillmans death just as they exploit every soldier and military family's sense of patriotism. They have exploited the entire nations sense of patriotism. They are exploiters, plain and simple.

Cheney, Rumsfeld and the Bushies and their Repugs are scum who use everyone they can bend to their foul evil purposes. And they actually think that is perfectly okay. They think that is 'normal and is how everybody thinks and behaves. So how are they any different than everybody else, so goes their thinking.

They do not fully know that most people do not think as they do. They are users and abusers, most people are not. So they use religion to get people to go along with their evil machinnations. That is why their is this huge conflation between the Repugs and religion. BUT, at some level they do know that they are perpetrating evil because that is the reason they are so covert about so many things they do.

For example, they know full well, that warrantless spying on the American people is against the law. Yoo, Gonzales and Bybee told them it is alright to do it but they know it was/is not alright. The Bushie Rethugs have no morals nor do Yoo, Gonzales or Bybee. Does anyone wonder why they keep screaming about morales, values and character. They are blaming everyone of us for lack thereof but that is nothing more than a smoke screen so no one will question their morals, values and character or lack thereof.

Truly Cheney, Rumsfeld and Bush and their Neocons are users, abusers and exploiters. Whether all Republicans are is, to me, in some doubt.

My guess is that most Republicans are timid and maybe even fearful people who march in lock step and behave like unprincipled robots because their party tells them to do that and has threatened them, as in the case of Tom DeLay, their enforcer, their 'hammer'. I think a lot of them are just unthinking, dumb ass, meat head(dead from the neck up, as Archie Bunker used to say) politicians who adore Ronald Reagan who told them about the eleventh commandment, that no Repug speaks out against another. So they have become 'Stepford Wives' for their party.

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>> **RE: Users, Abusers and Exploiters** Posted by: Moodotv

The Enemy Within.....

Posted by: johnmccarthy on May 26, 2008 8:10 AM

[[Report this comment](#)] [[Ignore this user](#)]

Current rating: **1** [[1](#) = poor; [5](#) = excellent]

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<http://johnmccarthy90066.tripod.com/id49.html>

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Happy Memorial Day.

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Vietnam Vet

Posted by: bettyn on May 26, 2008 8:17 AM

[[Report this comment](#)] [[Ignore this user](#)]

Current rating: **5** [[1](#) = poor; [5](#) = excellent]

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Am so sorry that you are having to go through this. My cousin got cancer from Agent Orange and passed away several years ago at age 60. I remember talking to him when he was home on leave one time. He told me that war was BOGUS and "that a lot of people were making a lot of money" off that war and would allow it to drag on as long as possible.

Isn't that always the case with this government? The kids in Iraq and Afghanistan are going through the same thing. It's just tragic. These rich bastards basically see these kids as "collateral damage"(and a way to get rid of their so-called "inferiors") in their efforts to make more money. Just sickening.

Take care and try to stay healthy.(My guess is the VA doesn't help much.)

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>> **RE: Vietnam Vet** Posted by: Adamliberal

>> **RE: Vietnam Vet** Posted by: CatDad

>> **RE: Vietnam Vet** Posted by: Basenjjs

>> **RE: Vietnam Vet [while JFK may well have turned against it eventually, he bears** Posted by: Squarehead

>> **RE: Vietnam Vet** Posted by: JSquercia

» [RE: Adamliberal](#) Posted by: Quannah

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad For Vice President

Posted by: Adamliberal on May 26, 2008 8:55 AM
 Current rating: **1** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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The perfect ticket for us Democrats:

Presidential Candidate, Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías
 Running Mate, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
 Barrack Obama, Secretary of State

This will get us the anarchy we're seeking! End rational thinking. Dump the Republicans!!!

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- » [I'm voting a NeoCon Straight Ticket](#) Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- » [RE: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad For Vice President](#) Posted by: JSquercia
- » [Thank you for taking Reagan to task](#) Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- » [RE: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad For Vice President](#) Posted by: Quannah
- » [Looks like someone forgot to take his Paxil](#) Posted by: hurricane hugo

As soon as Pat Tillman enlisted the exploitation began

Posted by: sausage on May 26, 2008 9:04 AM
 Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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When the 2002 pro football season started you couldn't watch an NFL telecast without the over-paid teleprompter readers and broken-up ex-jocks singing Pat Tillman's praises as a courageous patriot who threw away a lucrative contract to protect our sorry asses from Osama bin Laden and His Merry Band of al Qaeda terrorists!

I got so sick of hearing that propoganda bullshit that I almost---notice only "almost" on my part---quite watching the NFL on CBS, Fox and ESPN.

What was refreshing about the Tillman story was, unlike Jessica Lynch and Lynndie England, he wasn't such a broke-assed s.o.b. that enlisting in the mercenary U.S. military wasn't a way out of a life of hillbilly poverty, both economic and educational. But it stank of advertising/marketing exploitation nonetheless, what with all the supergraphics of Tillman in uniform, carrying the flag at his Ranger graduation while fat, white chickenhawks in the stands at Arrowhead, Soldiers Field, Lambeau Field, Giants Stadium and so on and so forth made their little boy-soldier salutes, as formations of National Guard jets flew overhead and cheerleaders shook their asses. I wanted to puke.

So when he was killed by "friendly" fire in Afghanistan why would anyone in his right mind expect the advertising/marketing-industrial complex driven Pentagon, let alone the TV sports cabal, and the "free market" White House to tell the truth?

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- » [RE: As soon as Pat Tillman enlisted the exploitation began](#) Posted by: MyLeftFoot

oh i am so sorry a pretty white boy got killed

Posted by: smith on May 26, 2008 9:19 AM
 Current rating: **2** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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excuse me but her son volunteered to go overseas to kill some other people and he got killed. and now is family is crying. truly the gods are laughing

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- » [Awww...jeeze...](#) Posted by: sausage
- » [RE: oh i am so sorry a pretty white boy got killed](#) Posted by: sirios
- » [Fuck you pal. Ok? Fuck you.](#) Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- » [RE: Fuck you pal. Ok? Fuck you.](#) Posted by: T.Jenks
- » [RE: oh i am so sorry a pretty white boy got killed](#) Posted by: VZEQICVA
- » [YES....KILL those other people.](#) Posted by: gellero1
- » [RE: YES....KILL those other people \[and consequently of Ming the Merciless](#) Posted by: Squarehead
- » [RE: YES....KILL; as long as you don't have to do it yourself, eh, gellero?](#) Posted by: Beck
- » [oh i am so sorry you're a bigot](#) Posted by: robbie.seal
- » [And the tragedy continues](#) Posted by: JohnJlws

Sorry, we just don't know.

Posted by: sirios on May 26, 2008 9:29 AM

[\[Report this comment\]](#) [\[Ignore this user\]](#)

Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

It is amazing how the people accept the claimed competence of this administration based on their own admission that they don't know who is responsible for what transpires on their watch.

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- >> **RE: Sorry, we just don't know.** Posted by: Adamliberal
- >> **grasping at straws** Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- >> **Neocons like you** Posted by: meetmeineleusis

PSA: Iraq Theater vs The Afghanistan Theater

Posted by: TheJibreelaMonsters on May 26, 2008 9:32 AM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: **2** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Some of you are too quick to demonize Iraq not realizing Sgt Pat Tillman was apart of the Afghanistan Theater. OK, please continue on with your American Hating. Newsflash: All three Presidential Candidates will keep the Afghan War going (along with the Iraq war but you'll just be Jedi minds-tricked). I'm go find a Memorial Day Parade and call a few of my old vet buddies.

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- >> **RE: PSA: Iraq Theater vs The Afghanistan Theater** Posted by: Adamliberal
- >> **Off topic a bit, but...** Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- >> **It starts in Iran** Posted by: TheJibreelaMonsters
- >> **sorry but** Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- >> **and....** Posted by: meetmeineleusis
- >> **RE: PSA: Iraq Theater vs [you two have a seriously dysfunctional world view.** Posted by: Squarehead
- >> **RE: PSA: Iraq Theater vs [you two have a seriously dysfunctional world view.** Posted by: Squarehead

Ted Killed JFK

Posted by: Adamliberal on May 26, 2008 10:22 AM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: **2** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Here's my conspiracy:

Ted killed his brother because he found out that JFK was going to foil his plan to kill Mary Jo. Once JFK was dead, Teddy was free to get his kill. But eventually, Bobby figured it all out. And, once again, Teddy would kill to keep his name free from any wrong doing.

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- >> **RE: Ted Killed JFK** Posted by: Squarehead

Pat Tillman

Posted by: meetmeineleusis on May 26, 2008 10:31 AM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

This man gave up a life of luxury and comfort to serve his nation. Regardless of the circumstances of his death, he deserves to be lauded for his service. God bless the Tillmans, god bless our veterans, and god damn the people who would needlessly put them into harms way. Blessings to the families.

Perhaps i'll go pour a beer on the dirt now. Seems like an appropriate day to do so.

[< Reply to this comment] [Post a new comment >] [Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5]

A Deception and cover up reminiscent of TWA's Flight 800

Posted by: ray burchard on May 26, 2008 12:12 PM [Report this comment] [Ignore this user]
 Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Where the governments ill-conceived and documented , "hide and seek" joint venture between the FAA and FBI, intended to alleviate air travelers fear of aircraft sabotage and too act as a psychological deterrent to would be terrorist.

But alas, as usual through the governments ineptitude in authorizing unqualified (human and animal) FBI agents, to stomp, scratch and slobber around in the bellies of 747 aircraft looking for planted explosives and in doing so, creating a short circuit when the fuel transfer electronics were activated.

This government ineptitude (stupidity) could possibly have been explained, but the FBI's orchestrated cover up can't be.

This constitutes the further development of America's two tiered police state, with one set of laws for those governed and another set of less stringent laws applicable to those doing the governing, in effect above the law.

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>> **RE: OFF TOPIC!** Posted by: Quannah

the same mistake

Posted by: patman47 on May 26, 2008 12:26 PM
 Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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the same mistake everyone including tillman's mother is making is saying soldiers are fighting to protect us or our system is not true. many believe that because they believed bush that iraq was a threat to us and it clearly wasn't. pakistan and saudi are the real enemies. but bush likes to hold hands with the saud family. soldiers are serving the large international corporations that make money from war. the end.

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>> **RE: the same mistake** Posted by: VZEQICVA

>> **RE: the same mistake** Posted by: patman47

>> **If we stay in Iraq for 50+ years the war will have meaning** Posted by: blogbooks

>> **RE: If we stay in Iraq for 50+ years the war will have meaning** Posted by: Quannah

>> **RE: If we stay in Iraq for 50+ years the war will have meaning** Posted by: Squarehead

>> **RE: If we stay in Iraq for 50+ years [you have not spent just \$1 trillion,** Posted by: Squarehead

The Diary

Posted by: BobNoxious on May 26, 2008 12:33 PM
 Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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The most suspicious part of the cover-up is that the Army burned his personal diary and other personal effects with his uniform.

"Clever" criminals will usually try to destroy as much evidence as possible to cover their tracks.

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Soldier with a conscience

Posted by: Jeanne on May 26, 2008 2:44 PM
 Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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Pat Tillman apparently was a soldier with a conscience, and the ability to think. A frightening specter to those who only need cannon fodder. I remember thinking when it was announced that he was quitting the NFL to join up that he was an example of a typical brainwashed American. The actuality that he had thought through the rationale for the war in Iraq and deemed it unworthy changed my opinion of Tillman. I recently watched the film "Sir, No Sir" and it strikes me that many of those soldiers who denounced the Vietnam War, and worked to end it have a lot in common with Tillman. When the military loses the willing participation of its soldiers to wage an unjust war, that war cannot continue. I wonder to what extent there is the same disillusionment within the ranks for this war. Being an "all volunteer" army might make some difference, however, filling the ranks with stop-losses personnel seems little different from conscription. The morale of this war's troops is not reported. So much of what is going on over "there" is not reported. There is a war going on, and Americans are barely aware of it anymore. Our "news" barely mentions it. Civil actions like the May 1, 2008 ILWU West Coast strike to protest the Iraq war are not deemed worthy of network news coverage. I wonder what protests might be taking place around the country that remain isolated cases because they never reach a national audience.

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the war was based on lies and deciet what makes this different

Posted by: unity1 on May 26, 2008 3:10 PM
 Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#)

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this incident is just an extension of the same policy that started this illegal an immoral war the lies the deciet, the BS all of it is the MO seeking justice is fine but don't expect to get it there has been NO justice for 8 years now, no accountability - now that some football hereo has been killed don't expect anything to change - but this story does illustrate how insane boys lusted up to kill have done so much damage to a nation that was never a threat to the US - 4.8 million lie dead from this lie and still there is NO justice in the entire world for them the worlds courts are bogus and impotent

good this mum for writing her book she adds another voice to the lies and the deciet that started this holocaust and like cindy sheenan this mother will not get her justice either

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85% against the war

Posted by: macdon1 on May 26, 2008 4:08 PM
 Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
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I have heard 85% of the American people don't support the War. I sure don't and never did. However,

everyone I know does support the troops and realizes that most of these kids go with the best of intentions. Pat Tillman was killed by a corrupt and deceitful government but his intention was noble and brave. It makes me sick to think of all these fine young American lives sacrificed or ruined for nasty, selfish, greedy old men. War is hell indeed, authored by demons with blood on their hands like George Bush and Donald Rumsfelt.

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pat tillman

Posted by: mountain19 on May 26, 2008 4:44 PM

[Report this comment]

[Ignore this user]

Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

of course they know who shot tillman! you know who you send to do an operation dont ya? this gov. wants to shoot anyone who is willing to stand up and tell the truth, and they did. there is no medal made as of yet for the honesty and bravery this hero deserves.

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Other Americans worth remembering on Memorial Day

Posted by: HughScott on May 26, 2008 5:22 PM

[Report this comment]

[Ignore this user]

Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

After honoring the fallen men and women, soldiers, sailors and airmen of present and past conflicts, we should take a moment today to remember some noteworthy Republicans who support the Iraq War but avoided military service as young men.

The following rightwing chicken hawks never wore the uniform:

- Vice President Dick Cheney
- Former DOD Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz
- Former Attorney General John Ashcroft
- Paul Bremer, former Bush-appointed Administrator of Iraq
- Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
- Former GOP Majority Whip Mitch McConnell
- Rick Santorum, former third ranking Republican in the Senate
- Former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott
- House Majority Whip Roy Blunt
- Former House Majority Leader Dick Arme
- Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush
- New York Governor George Pataki
- NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg
- Scooter Libby
- Karl Rove
- Rudy Giuliani
- Paul Gigot
- Bill Bennett
- Rush Limbaugh
- Michael Savage
- Bill Kristol
- Kenneth Starr
- Antonin Scalia
- Clarence Thomas
- Ralph Reed
- Michael Medved

Hugh E. Scott, Vietnam vet, ex-USAF pilot, lifelong registered Republican, ARDENT Obama supporter and the editor of www.PhonyFighterPilot.com -- the only website about George W. Bush that presents irrefutable, smoking-gun proof of White House corruption.

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>> **RE: Other Americans worth remembering on Memorial Day** Posted by: jvaljon1

Some Democrats worth remembering on Memorial Day

Posted by: HughScott on May 26, 2008 5:29 PM

[Report this comment]

[Ignore this user]

Current rating: 5 [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Because Republicans claim the opposing party is too liberal for leading America during wartime, the following are some prominent Democrats who DID SERVE in our armed forces:

- Senator Ted Kennedy
- Senator Tom Harkin
- Rep. Richard Gephardt
- Representative David Bonior

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle
 Senator Fritz Hollings (WWII vet, Bronze Star)
 Senator Daniel Inouye (WWII vet, Medal of Honor)
 Senator John Kerry (Vietnam vet, Silver Star, Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts)
 Rep. Charles Rangel (Korean War vet, Bronze Star, Purple Heart)
 Rep. Leonard Boswell (Vietnam vet, 2 DFCs, 2 Bronze Stars)
 Rep. Mike Thompson (Vietnam vet, Purple Heart)
 Former Senator Bob Kerrey (Vietnam vet, Medal of Honor)
 Former Vice President Al Gore (Vietnam vet, Bronze Star)
 Former Senator Max Cleland (Vietnam vet, Silver & Bronze Star, Purple Heart)
 Former Rep. "Pete" Peterson (Vietnam vet, POW, Silver Star, Purple Heart)

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I hope for Peace for the Tillmans

Posted by: JohnJlws on May 26, 2008 6:14 PM
 Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

I have no idea how this family will ever find peace. If I had it to give...but none of us do.

We should never forget Pat and the others who have died in combat, from friendly fire, accidents, or by their own hand, and we should never forget the tens of thousands who have been wounded. Nor their families. None is less a casualty of our failures, of man's inhumanity to man, than the next.

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Memorial Day always puts me in a foul mood.

Posted by: Walks-in-Storms on May 26, 2008 6:36 PM
 Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

Memorial day always pisses me off because I know the truth about how the military industrial complex corporations and those who have grown rich by sucking up to them and the congress they own view people like soldiers. When a soldier dies or is maimed for life nowadays it is for "American interests." Guess who that "American" is (and if you think you as an individual have any interests in Iraq or any of the countries where we have military bases see if you can tell yourself what they are [and "if we don't stop them over there, they'll be over here" is only true because the same corporations who brought us the war insist on leaving the nation's gates wide open]). Only when the public finally relates the way the government - the military industrial complex and its military - treats soldiers and the way it treats the taxpaying poor (the rich don't pay taxes) will all this utter nonsense stop. Don't hold your breath: as long as the MOCKINGBIRD media keeps the public behaviorally conditioned and hypnotized, the people paying the price for wars in the interests of the ruling corporations will keep being treated like Pat Tillman - and the four thousand, eighty-odd killed or twenty thousand wounded - was. For one's life, his family will get a trinket - a little red, white, and blue ribbon with a pot-metal (not even real silver) star hanging on it. And, of course (the part that makes me, a veteran, sick), "a grateful nation" - led by "did not serve" hypocrites like Cheney and Bush - will say it remembers him on Memorial Day. I happen to have a strong stomach, but it always makes me want to smash something - or somebody.

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Fools.....

Posted by: gellero1 on May 26, 2008 10:28 PM
 Current rating: **1** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

You all write as if we had no business attacking Afghanistan. Of course the cowards on this page would never volunteer to go to Afghanistan.....let the 'underprivileged' do the dirty work, right?

Mr. Tillman was killed in 'the fog of war'. It was obviously not gross negligence, if Congress can't identify it. What possible purpose would dragging the names of a squad of enlisted guys through the mud be?? Demoralize they guys who are there protecting your sorry asses?

Be thankful there still are guys like Mr. Tillman around. You should honor them today.....or did the 'fog' of your sixpack make you forget what this day was about.....fools.

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» **RE: Fools....[Your administration combines dishonesty and incompetence to a staggering degree.** Posted by: Squarehead

» **RE: Fools.....** Posted by: Squarehead

» **RE: Fools.....Who is doing YOUR dirty work?** Posted by: Beck

Should Have NEVER put boots on the Ground!

Posted by: Purple Girl on May 27, 2008 3:06 AM
 Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]
 Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

Had History, Culture or a Sociologist been consulted BEFORE running Head long into Afghanistan We

would NOT be in this self perpetuating fiasco. Tillman -like all others- was a victim of Reckless Endangerment. Airstrikes on th eCamps would have been sufficient. The mere fact THEY placed OUR Citizens in that region only assures never ending attacks against our service personnel and attacks on US.

As For Pat I am ssupecious regarding him being shot 3 times in the head- How can you hit someone that many times at a distance, so quickly without seeing WHO you are hitting- If not their face Then their Uniform?? There is far more to this story

Which leads me to a 'bitch' about the logic Mac & Bush co are using to discredit the GI Bill-They state it will reduce 'retention'. I think a lack of such an incentive diminishes the likelihood of enlistment.Add to that The constant 'Stop Loss' , repeteated tours, shortened interims-Who do they think will be crazy enough to sign up to begin with?? NO ONE...Thus leading to their Goal- A Privitized MIilitary.BLACKWATER.Who's ONLY allegiance is to the Profit Line. They will WORK for ANYONE!Another TREASON charge to be Added to the list.

HAD WE REALLY BEEN AFTER 'TERRORISTS' ANDTHE COUNTRIES WHO 'BREW & PROTECT THEM...WE WOULD HAVE ATTACKED SAUDI ARABIA where the majority of 'highjackers' called home!Of course then BushCo & Blackwater would not have a customer to be working for NOW!!

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>> **RE: Should Have NEVER put boots on the Ground!** Posted by: jvaljon1

And in all this time...

Posted by: Iconoclast421 on May 27, 2008 5:46 AM

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

What has happened? Nothing. They used Pat to help get that criminal cretin re-elected in 2004. And they're still using him.

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I Don't Understand Why

Posted by: hole11 on May 27, 2008 11:57 AM

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

Current rating: **1** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Why was Tillman just a specialist at his death?

Back in the days of old if you were a professional you were an officer. If you had millions at your disposal you could buy a commission. So what is the real deal?

Without commenting on how he died I would just like to say that Pat Tillman was a typical idiot of the time. Buying into a phony war.

I think we need to commission a statue for Tillman though. A shiny example at what not to do with your life. Throw it away on some game dumber than football.

[< Reply to this comment] [Post a new comment >] [Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5]

>> **RE: I Don't Understand Why [Society also needs such fools as he.** Posted by: Squarehead

>> **RE: I Don't Understand Why [Society also needs such fools as he.** Posted by: hole11

>> **RE: I Don't Understand Why [Society also needs such fools as he.** Posted by: Squarehead

>> **RE: I Don't Understand Why [Society also needs such fools as he.** Posted by: hole11

>> **"I Don't Understand Why"** Posted by: robbie.seal

>> **RE: "I Don't Understand Why"** Posted by: hole11

A sad commentary on leadership

Posted by: robbie.seal on May 29, 2008 10:47 AM

[Report this comment] [Ignore this user]

Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Rate this comment: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Pat Tillman's death, though famous, is nothing new. Mistakes are made and soldiers die. It doesn't matter if you are enlisted or an officer, rich or poor. Sometimes people make mistakes and you die because of it.

What is sad, is the response of his leadership. Instead of being honest and taking what trouble was coming, they lied. They gave away their integrity to avoid trouble. I hope everyone involved with this lie is now out of the military, because we don't need leaders without honor. How can soldiers trust you to make the right decisions when they know you will lie to save your butt? I wish I could look each one of them in the eye so that I could shame them. The sad thing is, they are beyond shaming.

My hat is off to the Mrs Tillman. She did not quit when she ran into roadblocks and because of her, the truth is known. Thank you for your sacrifice, Ma'am.

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