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``I don't think our country is at a place or plan or good sense to just walk away. I think we got in over our heads too quickly. It's never been a thing for the U.S. -- to get into something and leave it unfinished. I am praying there really is a plan for a finish."

-- Jeanette Rieneckert, 67, who has flown a flag at her Kenmore home for years.

``My thoughts on the third anniversary of the war are, I wish it was over. I pray no other family has to deal with the loss of a loved one. However, I know that this is unrealistic. I hate war, but I support our troops and their mission and know that the mission is an honorable one. We must continue to fight the terrorists because until they are defeated, we will not be safe."

-- Julie Barkey, of Lawrence Township, whose son, Ohio National Guard Sgt. Michael Barkey, 22, was killed in July 2004.

``The Iraq war/occupation is three years too long. 2,300 U.S. troops and 125,000 Iraqi deaths too many and several hundred billion dollars too much. Haven't we had enough lying and dying? Aren't we aware that this war has produced no winners?"

-- Greg Coleridge, 46, of Akron, director of the Economic Justice and Empowerment Program of the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee.

``When I think of Alex these days, I imagine him crammed into an armored vehicle, slowly moving down a road... looking for any sign of a freshly planted bomb. He tells me he's safe, but I don't feel it. Always hot and often exhausted, he's continually wary, both for himself and for his men."

-- Barrett Dorko, 54, a physical therapist from Silver Lake, whose son, 2nd Lt. Alex Dorko, is currently serving in Iraq.

``I was sickened by the way we entered this war. I believe it is the first time in the history of our honorable country that we invaded another country unprovoked or uninvited. I proudly wore the uniform of the Army National Guard for almost 10 years and served as a chaplain to soldiers. I am both a patriot and a Christian and I take offense at those who have taken both words and have tried to wrap them as a banner around an agenda of hatred and intolerance of other races and religions. The Christ of my beliefs did not operate that way."

Rich Ferris, 54, of Akron, pastor of Barberton Christian Church and Firestone Park Christian Church.

``It's frustrating to not see a clear end in sight, but even having been there, I don't really know what's the best course of action right now. Leaving soon would ultimately lead to a bloody civil war, but staying too much longer leads to more resentment and more U.S. bloodshed. I am still quite proud I answered the call and did my service, and I am just blessed to have returned in one piece. So many of my fellow soldiers came home and lost their relationships or their jobs or both. One even took his own life."

-- Ohio Army National Guard Major Eric Mansfield, who served a year in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 and is an anchor/reporter for WKYC and Akron/Canton News on Time Warner Cable.