

GI SPECIAL 3D1:

Roll Call



*Probably still smiling and waging peace
Lennox Sweeney, 1941-2005*

From: Diane Rejman
To: GI Special
Sent: October 31, 2005
Subject: Veterans for Peace Chapter 101 has lost member, Lennox Sweeney

Would you be interested/willing to post this article about a very active member of our Veterans for Peace chapter?

Thanks,
Diane

[Honored to be of service. T]

Veterans for Peace South Bay/Peninsula (CA) Chapter member Lennox Sweeney has left us

We will sure miss him.

At 1:45 pm, October 13, 2005, our wonderful Lennox Sweeney was taken off life support. He was surrounded by love and friends holding his hand when he passed quietly a few minutes later. Lennox had suffered a brain aneurysm the previous morning.

Lennox was one of the original members of the South Bay/Peninsula Chapter of Veterans for Peace. He was very active and sometimes seemed to be everywhere, with

his signs and his car prominently covered with bumper stickers. He made many of the great signs all of us used in parades and vigils throughout the Bay area. He was also a late night companion of George Johnson, during the many times they stayed up making buttons, many of which were designed by Lennox.

Born in Pasadena and a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley, Lennox was the son of Keester Sweeney, a respected Hollywood makeup artist who took his wife, Nova, and two sons with him when he was sent on distant locations by MGM Studio. Keester Sweeney traveled with the family to such exotic places as Egypt for the filming of "Valley of the Kings" and to Tahiti for "Mutiny on the Bounty." As a child, Lennox Sweeney and the rest of his clan enjoyed living in Hawaii for the filming of "Hawaii 5-0."

A former Navy intelligence officer and retired Stanford Linear Accelerator Center employee, Lennox most recently spent Saturday mornings vigiling for peace at a busy intersection in San Jose. That vigil will continue on in his name.

Many in other Veterans for Peace chapters may have met him. He attended the last three conventions.

In one of his last actions, Lennox attended the September 24th march in Washington, where he was arrested along with Cindy Sheehan and Cornel West. Prior to that, he attended Camp Casey in Crawford, TX on his way back from the VFP Convention. Last year he showed up at the San Francisco Veterans' Day parade just two weeks after having a liver transplant!

When I think of Lennox, I picture him always smiling.

Services: A memorial and celebration of Lennox' life will be held 2 p.m. Nov. 5, at MACLA, 510 S. First St., San Jose, between William and Reed streets, with refreshments and music afterward.

Following Are Excerpts From E-Mails Sent By Those Who Knew Him:

"...a great warrior for peace."

"The news of Lennox passing is hard to take. He was a noble and lovable person whom we all valued as a good friend. His being there for every need has been an inspiration."

"I liked and respected Lennox very much --and am saddened by word of his untimely death."

"This is a very sad day. Lennox, even while fighting health problems, has always been an anchor, a man of wisdom and maker of great protest signs for the peace movement in the South Bay, counter-recruitment and in Veterans for Peace for a very long time. He went to the September 24th march in Washington, DC and is present at most every event... encouraging our youth and helping to organize and stage VFP events. He also worked in the Dennis Kucinich for President Campaign."

"He was a great person."

"I always saw Lennox smiling. He had a wonderful sense of humor and could smile at the absurdities. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to know him."

"He will be missed by many, even if we did not know him well - and we'll need to take up the workload he has helped with so often."

"I met Lennox a few times. How sad. He was such a nice person."

"I never saw Lennox when he wasn't smiling and able to be happy about something. I will miss him."

"I feel if a part of my conscious has died, and I'll never see the Lennox's smile again. I can say no more, without tears. This has caused me to re-examine my life and what I want to put out in this time of war and the national class war against our people at home. I have also lost a piece of my heart."

"This is the true joy in life- the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one: The 'being' a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy." George Bernard Shaw

Two Michigan Servicemen Killed

Oct 31, 2005 AP

NORTH ADAMS, MICHIGAN -- The Defense Department says another US soldier with Michigan ties has died in Iraq. Army Staff Sergeant Lewis J. Gentry, of Detroit, died Wednesday in Mosul from a non-combat-related cause.

According to today's announcement, the 48-year-old was assigned to the Army's 94th Engineer Battalion in Vilseck, Germany.

The news of Gentry's death comes shortly after a US Marine from Hillsdale County died while on duty in Iraq. A family spokesman says Sergeant Michael Paul Hodshire of North Adams died today. He was 25.

Gentry and Hodshire were the 65th and 66th members of the US armed forces with known Michigan ties to die in Iraq.

El Rancho High Graduate Killed; Mora Was Member Of Class Of 2000

10/30/2005 By Debbie Pfeiffer Trunnell, Staff Writer, Whittier Daily News

PICO RIVERA -- El Rancho High School officials Monday were mourning the death of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq, a 2000 graduate of the high school and possibly the first alumnus to die in a war since Vietnam, officials said.

Arthur A. Mora Jr., who was killed Wednesday, was a quiet student who apparently missed having his photo taken for his senior yearbook.

"It's sad and possibly our first loss in this war," said El Rancho High Principal Julie Ellis.

Mora, 23, a U.S. Army sergeant, was killed in Balad, Iraq, when the vehicle in which he was patrolling was hit by indirect fire, according to Martha Rudd, spokeswoman for the U.S. Army.

Mora, who was based at Fort Stewart, Ga., was a member of the Army's 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Mora is the second soldier from the Whittier area to die this month.

Soldier From South Haven Among Five Killed By Blast

October 26, 2005 (AP)

SOUTH HAVEN, Mich. A western Michigan soldier was among five U.S. soldiers killed during Iraq's constitutional referendum when an explosive detonated near their vehicle in Ramadi, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

Army Staff Sgt. Vincent E. Summers, 38, a native of South Haven, died Oct. 15, the military said. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga.

The weekend of the blast, the military said five soldiers died while participating in a combat operation after a roadside bomb exploded in Ramadi, a mostly Sunni Arab city located about 70 miles west of Baghdad.

The government had delayed the release of Summers' name until Tuesday while waiting for DNA confirmation of his identity. Army spokeswoman Elizabeth Robbins told The Grand Rapids Press that the explosion had prevented visual identification of the soldiers.

Summers, who joined the military in 1998, lived in Columbus, Ga., with his wife and son. His current tour began in January and he would have returned from Iraq in three months, said Monica Manganaro, a spokeswoman at Fort Benning. Robbins said the soldier's mother no longer lives in Michigan and that his father preceded him in death.

Soldier From New York Killed

October 23, 2005 Newsday Inc

LOWVILLE, N.Y. -- A Marine from northern New York was killed in Iraq this week, according to published reports.

Seamus Davey, 25, a Marine reservist based in Reno, Nevada died in an explosion, his mother told radio station WWNYT in Watertown.

Davey, a 1998 graduate of Lowville Academy in Lewis County, would have turned 26 next week.

He is the second soldier from the village killed in Iraq in the past six months. In April, Cpl. Kelly Matthew Cannan, 21, was one of two soldiers who died when a bomb exploded near their Humvee in Ar Ramadi.

Lowville lies 60 miles northeast of Syracuse.

Family Mourns Soldier Killed In Iraq: "He Didn't Want To Go Back"

Oct. 26, 2005 ABC News Internet Ventures

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr. had promised his 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter that he would be coming home to Killeen, Texas, just after Christmas.

On Tuesday, the Pentagon announced that Alexander died Saturday in San Antonio of wounds suffered Oct. 17 in a blast in Samarra, 60 miles north of the Iraqi capital. The American death toll in the Iraq war has reached 2,000.

"He was always smiling," said Sasha Spence, Alexander's sister. "If you were down, he would pick you up."

"He was a wonderful person," she added. "He never met a stranger."

Alexander's platoon had two nicknames for him, "A-train" and "Grandpa," because he was their oldest member, said his mother, Anne Spence. Alexander was 34.

She said she worried about her son, but she "gave to him God."

Alexander was patrolling in his Bradley fighting vehicle when a roadside bomb exploded. Military officials told Alexander's family that he helped pull a number of soldiers from the burning vehicle, but that he was severely injured in the attack. He was flown from Iraq to the Army's burn unit in San Antonio, and died several days later.

"He was like a hero, he was trying to save them," said Anne Spence.

Alexander had been home recently for three months because of a broken arm. When it came time for him to return to Iraq, he didn't want to go, but knew it was his duty, his mother said.

"He showed a little concern when it was time to go back, he was a little depressed," she said. "He didn't want to go back, but he said he was in the Army."

His funeral will be held Saturday in Clanton, Ala.

"He was a wonderful brother and I would give anything to have him back," said Sasha Spence.

Explosion Near Tikrit Kills Soldier From Md.

October 23, 2005 By Michael Laris, The Washington Post Company

A U.S. Army Reservist and power-generator mechanic from Randallstown, Md., was killed last week in an explosion near Tikrit, Iraq.

Kendall K. Frederick, 21, a specialist with the 983rd Engineer Battalion based in Monclova, Ohio, was traveling in a convoy near Tikrit on Wednesday when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, according to the Defense Department, which announced his death Friday.

Maj. Greg Yesko, a spokesman for the 99th Regional Readiness Command, which includes Maryland, said Frederick was traveling in the last truck in the convoy when the explosion occurred.

Frederick served with a battalion that specializes in heavy construction, including roads and other infrastructure, Yesko said. In Iraq, such work requires a portable electricity source and such mechanics as Frederick to keep things going.

"They operate and maintain generators," Yesko said. "When you're doing construction, you need mobile power."

It was the latest in a deadly series of incidents in Iraq in recent days involving soldiers from Maryland, and it added to the mounting U.S. death toll in the conflict.

Another Virgin Islander Killed

Oct. 21, 2005 By Melody Rames-Wiggins, St. Thomas Source

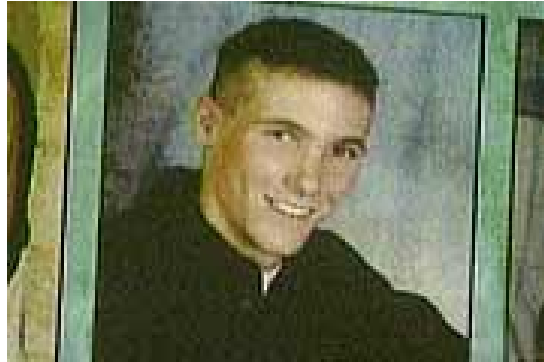
Private First Class Jose M. Rosario of Campo Rico, St. Croix, was killed on Wednesday while on assignment in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Rosario, a 2004 graduate of the St. Croix Educational Complex Adult Education, lived in Estate Campo Rico before deploying to Iraq.

Rosario was killed on Wednesday when his Humvee was hit by indirect fire while on patrol in Balad, Iraq. He was a member of the C/5-7 Armored Squadron, 1st Brigade Combat Team 42nd Infantry Division.

He is the fourth soldier with ties to the Virgin Islands to die in the Iraq War.

Tucson Soldier Killed in the Line of Duty



Oct 19, 2005 By Dan Marries, KOLD News 13 Weekend Anchor

The military hasn't confirmed his death yet, but officials say 21-year-old Army Specialist Thomas Byrd's name was on the manifest of an assault vehicle that was destroyed when a roadside bomb blew it up over the weekend near Ramadi, Iraq.

All five soldiers inside the Bradley Assault Vehicle were killed, but the military won't confirm who died until they positively identify the remains in the wreckage.

By all accounts, Tommy Byrd was the kind of guy everyone wanted to be around. He lived his life to the fullest, and for those who knew and loved him, the news of his death has left an emotional scar that may never heal.

Parting Tribute to Fallen Soldier; Timothy J. Roark

October 12 2005 Contributed by: tomw, Houston Chronicle

A former Houston man was killed last week while serving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Roark, 29, died in Balad, Iraq, on Oct. 2, of a noncombat injury, according to the Defense Department.

No further information was available from the department because Monday was Columbus Day, a federal holiday.

Roark was assigned to the Army's 4th Battalion, 123rd Aviation Regiment at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

His last known local address was in far north Houston near the Greenspoint area.

Attempts to reach his family were unsuccessful.

MORE:

Guest Viewpoint: Patriot Detail: Parting Tribute To Fallen Soldiers

BY MAJ. JOE FEHELEY, Press & Sun Bulletin.

Major Joe "Hooter" Feheley was raised in Binghamton and now lives in Miami. He is with the 332 Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, Balad, Iraq. This letter was sent to his aunt, Kathryn Burbank, of Endwell.

While I'm in Iraq, one of my goals is to send my friends e-mails describing things that we couldn't hear about from sources like CNN. I'm as frustrated when I'm home as any of you with the kind of news we hear from over here, so I thought I might be able to share a few things you wouldn't normally get to hear about.

This morning, I experienced one that you won't hear about on CNN. They have a ceremony here at Balad Air Base that's called Patriot Detail. It's a voluntary ceremony that you receive notice for through e-mail; and usually there's only about 30 minutes to an hour's head's-up for it.

The ceremony is to honor our soldiers who've fallen in the line of duty here in Iraq. Balad has the honor of being the last place in Iraq that all fallen soldiers go from on their last journey home.

This morning, I was catching up on e-mail at 0555 just before heading off to sleep, and I saw an e-mail saying that there was a Patriot Detail that people were going to gather for at 0600.

I left our hard ops shelter just in time to make it to the side of the flight line, where the heavy aircraft park and where everyone was gathering for the ceremony. I'm happy to say that about 75 to 100 volunteers (mostly Air Force) gathered as the sun was rising to say goodbye to an Army staff sergeant they never knew. His name was Timothy Roark.

The ceremony was very unpretentious. We marched about a quarter-mile in two columns to the back of a C-5, which is our biggest transport in the military. We stopped at the back of the C-5 and turned to face each other in the line opposite.

After about 10 minutes, they brought the flag-covered coffin through the two lines and we all brought up our salutes at a very slow motion as you've probably seen in other military funeral ceremonies.

It's amazing what your mind can think of at moments like that. I had been staring at the nose of the sergeant across from me for the previous 10 minutes, and when the coffin was brought through I noticed that there were birds flying around the flight-line and I noticed that the sun was absolutely beautiful as it was coming over the horizon. I also immediately thought that Army Staff Sergeant Timothy Roark wouldn't get to see this sunrise.

Somewhere in Iraq he died, and I know it wasn't in his life plans to miss this sunrise. I wondered where he died and why someone like me couldn't have been there to help him when he needed it. I wondered about his family back home and what they were going through right then preparing for his arrival. I also knew they weren't thinking it would be this kind of homecoming.

As the coffin went by, we slowly lowered our salutes and performed a forward facing movement to look toward the C-5. We marched into the C-5, where the chaplain performed a ceremony to honor Sgt. Roark. You can imagine what the insides of a giant C-5 (which can hold whole Army helicopters or M1A1 battle tanks) looks like with only a single coffin wrapped within an American flag. There wasn't a single other piece of cargo except Timothy Roark.

The C-5 emptied its contents when it arrived at Balad and took nothing out except Timothy and the crew. The chaplain gave about a five-minute reading and then the head of the honor guard dismissed everyone and the ceremony was over. Simple, yet very moving.

Now, as I write this, Timothy Rourke is somewhere between us and you, so if you're the praying type, please say one today for him.

Thanks.

Catawba Marine Killed In Iraq Leaves Behind New Marriage

October 26, 2005 The Associated Press

Like his father, Gray Cockerham III joined the Marines.

But the younger Cockerham won't get to enjoy post-military life or his young marriage.

The 21-year-old Marine corporal was killed Friday by a roadside bomb near Al Amariyah, Iraq. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, the Department of Defense said Wednesday in officially announcing his death.

Cockerham joined the Marine Corps in May 2003 and left soon after for Iraq. He married his girlfriend, Amanda Johnson, on a trip home to Catawba County about a year ago. Both had graduated from Hickory's St. Stephen's High School in 2002, where Cockerham played on the school soccer team all four years, according to friends.

Over the summer, he was called back for a second tour of duty.

Cockerham was initially listed as missing in action, and friends and family members held out hope he would be found alive. But they learned the bad news Monday night.

Chuck Davis, the former boys' soccer coach at St. Stephens, remembers Cockerham's hard work on the team, which he shared with younger players.

"I told them how Gray was a hard worker and how he sacrificed," he said Tuesday. "If you want to score goals bad enough, you'll be like Gray Cockerham."

Members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church posted a message on its sign asking people to pray for the Cockerham family.

Cockerham is survived by his wife, Amanda Johnson Cockerham; his parents, Ben and Jill Cockerham; and a younger brother, Adam.

He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Capt. Tyler B. Swisher, 35, of Cincinnati, Ohio, also of Camp Lejeune, died in the same accident as Cockerham, the defense department said Wednesday. Their vehicle was traveling beside a canal when the explosion caused them to be thrown into the water.

Soldier Killed In Iraq Had Volunteered For Patrol

Oct. 23, 2005 Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texas soldier who was killed in Iraq had volunteered to go on patrol on the day he died, his family said.

Army Spc. Russell H. Nahvi, of Arlington, died Wednesday in Balad, Iraq. The 24-year-old medic had been scheduled to return from Iraq in January.

"He e-mailed his sister the day he died, and he told her not to tell us that he would be going in on patrol," said his mother, Nancy Nahvi, of Arlington. "That's where it all happened"

Two weeks before his death, her son told her that he was bored when confined to the base and wanted to be in the field, where he could actively help. When his friend and fellow medic went on leave, he volunteered to fill in on patrols, Nancy Nahvi said.

He was participating in one such patrol when indirect enemy fire struck his vehicle.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

4 TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIERS KILLED

October 31, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-46C & Reuters

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Four Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed when their patrol struck an improvised explosive device in the Yusufiyah district southwest of Baghdad Oct. 31.

U.S. commanders say the area, criss-crossed by irrigation canals, dirt roads and sheltering palm groves acts as a reserve based for insurgents operating in Baghdad.

TWO 29TH BCT SOLDIERS KILLED NEAR ANACONDA

October 31, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-47C

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, IRAQ--Two 29th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device at approximately 9:06 a.m. Oct. 31 while on a patrol north of LSA Anaconda.

MARINE KILLED IN AL AMIRIYAH

October 31, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-48C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action while conducting combat operations against the enemy when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device in the vicinity of Al Amiriyah on Oct. 30.

LETHAL ENVIRONMENT:

NO MISSION: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



10.30.05 A US Soldier from the First Battalion, 17th Infantry takes cover behind a Stryker vehicle in Mosul. (AFP/Cris Bouroncle)

More Civilians Butchered: “They Are Turning This Town Into Another Falluja”

10.30.05 Aljazeera & 10.31 BBC & KUNA & By Alastair Macdonald, (Reuters) & Aljazeera

The US military said it had killed 10 fighters in the Hsaiba area near the Syrian border, in the latest military operation.

But residents and witnesses told Aljazeera that all the dead were civilians.

Doctors at a hospital in the nearby town of Qaim said there were more than 40 were killed and 20 were wounded including women and children.

A doctor in the area said that bodies were still being pulled out of the buildings hit in the strike hours later, and one local tribal leader has insisted that there were no insurgents in the area, the Reuters news agency has reported.

Colonel David Lapan said "Civilian deaths cannot be verified and hospital officials frequently make such claims." **[Yes. Now why could that be? Duh.]**

"The Americans started to bomb around Betha from after midnight (2100 GMT) until dawn," said a police officer, reached by telephone, who asked not to be named for his own security. **[Oh. Maybe they “frequently make such claims” because frequently civilians are getting slaughtered.]**

Speaking to Aljazeera, Iraqi journalist Atwar Bahjat said US forces pounded the area with heavy artillery.

Many homes and businesses have been destroyed during the shelling, she said.

Residents and witnesses are enraged by the destruction caused by the shelling and confirmed that all those killed in the latest assault were civilians, not fighters, she added.

"While we were trying to attend to the wounded, US fighter planes began bombing the place again," Iraqi journalist Mahmud al-Rawi told Aljazeera.

He told Aljazeera that the area had been cut off by US forces, who had blocked roads preventing people from leaving the village and going to al-Qaim.

Al-Rawi said US planes and Apache helicopters had pounded Hsaiba almost daily.

"They are turning this town into another Falluja," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“The Administration’s Promises For Afghanistan Were All Lies”

October 23, 2005 Mike Whitney, opednews.com. [Excerpt]

For all practical purposes, the country has returned to its brutal pre-Taliban days where the nation was divided into fiefdoms controlled by regional warlords. Many of the candidates participated in the civil war during the 1990's that devastated much of the country. They are now in a position to challenge the power of the central government and obstruct efforts to further integrate the country.

After 4 years of occupation, we can see that the administration’s promises for Afghanistan were all lies.

The military has never tried to liberate the countryside from the tyranny of the warlords, nor has Bush’s promise of a Marshall Plan ever materialized.

The Karzai government is a feeble puppet-regime with no popular base and with no real power beyond the confines of Kabul. Judging by its inability to address

any of Afghanistan's urgent problems; security, drug-trafficking, sanitation, human rights abuses, we can conclude that Karzai and his American overlords are a serious obstacle to Afghanistan's rehabilitation.

There's really no chance of meaningful recovery or development in Afghanistan until Karzai is replaced by someone with a broader popular mandate.

The increasing attacks on American forces are a sign of the widespread frustration with the American occupation.

Things will only get worse in Afghanistan until the United States leaves. We are no longer trusted among the people, nor can we claim the moral authority to know what is in their best interest.

The fact is that American troops are no longer guarantors of the peace but, rather, are the main instigators of the hostilities.

According to Stars and Stripes magazine, "the recent surge in fighting (in Afghanistan) could be attributed more to American aggressiveness than anything Al Qaida is doing." Just like in Iraq, the American tendency to "shoot now, and ask questions later" is the primary source of the burgeoning violence.

The recent parliamentary elections demonstrate beyond a doubt that America's involvement has only strengthened the most reactionary and brutal elements in Afghani society.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

TROOP NEWS

4th ID Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

Oct. 31, 2005 By Staff Sgt. Brent A. Hunt, Army News Service [Excerpt]

Marking the official beginning of the 4th Infantry Division's deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers of the "Ivy" Division cased their colors at a ceremony on Fort Hood's Cameron Field Oct. 28.

Although 470 Soldiers from the division's Support Brigade have already made their way to the troubled region to set up beans and bullets for the incoming troops, the rest of the division's 20,500 Soldiers are scheduled to hit ground through the rest of this year.

“It Is Time For American Citizens To Take Control Of The Military Powers That Be” [Update On War Resister, Sgt. Kevin Benderman]

[Thanks to Lietta & Arthur Ruger for forwarding]

31 Oct 2005 From: Monica Benderman

Hello Lieta

Thank you for writing. This is Monica. :-)

I am aware of the GI Special article. It was actually a reprint of an article that was published in part in the Tacoma News Tribune last Monday.

The concern regarding Kevin was referencing a situation from the past two weeks.

It was rectified on Friday when I contacted Cynthia McKinney's office and one of her aides stepped in.

There was concern because of the hearing involved with the "charges" the RCF was investigating against Kevin.

Kevin and I had spoken on Monday, and then there was no access. Kevin has been at Ft. Lewis for 3 months and had not been able to contact his attorney, nor has he been allowed visits by the civilian chaplains that he requested, with the exception of one initial visit that had to again be facilitated with much pressure from outside resources.

Apparently, and I cannot confirm 100%, the RCF was concerned that one of the inmates, in particular Kevin, might have called the Tacoma News Tribune, and informed the inmates that the phone system was not working on Tuesday morning.

Amazingly, the phones began working late Saturday, after Kevin was directly contacted by Congresswoman McKinney's office, and the facility was informed that this contact would continue indefinitely.

We appreciate the support that everyone is giving. More than anything else, we hope that people will help distribute the links to our new website, www.BendermanTimeline.com.

It is a work in progress designed first to show the psychological games and manipulations the military command will apply when a soldier dares to speak the truth. After that, we would like it to be a resource for veterans with questions regarding military issues.

Kevin and I hope that our situation will provide all the proof people need, with real documentation and evidence, to come to their own realization that it is time for American citizens to take control of the military powers that be and hold them accountable for their treatment of the veterans and active duty soldiers who have made incredible sacrifices to defend our constitution.

It's time our citizens used the power the constitution gives them and gets involved in their country again.

Thank you for sharing, and thank you for your interest.

Monica Benderman

“We Must Stop The Madness!” Israeli Artillerymen Protest The Shelling Of Gaza

November 01, 2005 From: Adam Keller via MAX WATTS

The following appeal was circulated in Hebrew on the Israeli Tapuz Discussion Forums.

English translation by Adam Keller.

Hi, I ask you to spread this! To as many people as possible!

We have already collected some signatures, I ask any Artilleryman who wants to join to contact me at simlev81@walla.com

I am worried and ask for your support!

Thanks, hoping for a more sane time.

We must stop the madness!

This time you would not be able to say “I didn’t know”.

This time you would not be able to say that it was a mistake by the gunlayer, the aimer, the battery commander or the Central Fire Control. Mistakes, disasters and murders by the Artillery are facts of the past and a danger for the future!

The Artillery is not an effective tool for the task now imposed on it.

At such a thickly-populated area as Gaza, artillery pieces are nothing but a danger to the population and also a danger to us, to our international image. Setting an artillery battery to shell targets in the heart of a civilian population will inevitably, sooner or later, lead to a terrible disaster which will hand an enormous victory to the Hamas and Jihad.

Sooner or later, a shell will go off course and kill dozens or even hundreds of Palestinian civilians, most of them completely innocent. Israel will be placed at the pillory and possibly be even subjected to international sanctions. A single fiasco is all it would take to place the Hamas and Jihad at the very gates of the political victory which they desire.

There will be intensive international involvement in the Territories, aimed at protecting the Palestinians people from Israeli brutality and massacres. We will, of course, claim that it was nothing but a regrettable mistake, completely unintended. But nobody will listen to us – and rightly so.

The price in blood resulting from this inevitable coming fiasco will be unforgivable.

We will not be able to deal with another massacre of civilians like that at Kanna Village in Lebanon, in 1996, where more than a hundred human beings were murdered by a single artillery shell.

We, fighters of the Artillery Corps, make our call loud and clear:

Restrain Defence Minister Mofaz and his friends!

Don’t let our fighting comrades become the “unintended” mass murderers of civilians!

In Gaza there are living people, not cardboard toys!

Remember – a stray shell is a victory for terror!

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing

resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

Returning Reservists Seeking Help With Re-Employment Fucked Over By Incompetent Bureaucrats

“Families have told us of the heavy financial burdens that the call-ups have caused,” he said. “They have to struggle with mortgage payments, fuel costs, child care and other costs of raising a family. Often, savings aren’t adequate, and families live in fear of bankruptcy.”

October 31, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

The federal government is failing National Guard and reserve members returning from mobilization with a cumbersome system to guarantee employment and re-employment rights, a new government report says.

A reservist with employer problems could be passed through four federal agencies — the departments of Defense, Justice and Labor and the Office of Special Counsel — that cannot share electronic files and often have their own investigative procedures.

The result: Taking a complaint from initial reporting to final resolution can take a long time — more than 600 days in some cases — with a lot of irritating starts and stops for both employee and employer, the Government Accountability Office says in a report provided to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

The report shows that the rights of Guard and reserve members “are at risk of being mired in a bureaucracy that can’t communicate with itself,” he said. “It demonstrates the need to streamline these procedures and designate one agency to oversee how service members’ problems are handled from start to finish.”

Kennedy vowed to do what he can to help. “These men and women have already made tremendous sacrifices in doing their duty, and it is our job to be sure that the federal government does its duty to our volunteer military, to ensure that no one suffers on the job for serving their country on the battlefield.”

The report cites a variety of problems, starting with military personnel records for reservists that often do not contain any data about their employers. That information could help the Pentagon contact an employer to tell them about the requirements for rehiring reservists, continuing their retirement and health care benefits and ensuring military service does not result in a direct or indirect penalty, the GAO said.

Incompatible record keeping among agencies is a larger problem, the report says. This leads to delays in transferring files to another agency while the receiving agency compiles a new record, often going back over some of the same ground, the report says. **This shuffle between agencies makes it difficult for anyone in the government to track exactly how long a Guard or reserve member has been waiting for help, since managers in one agency cannot easily monitor progress in another. The GAO investigated a sampling of 52 cases and found that average processing time from start to finish was 619 days.**

The diffuse responsibilities among agencies also make it easier for files to be lost. Congressional investigators went looking for paper copies of files at a Labor Department office, but four of the 64 files requested could not be located even eight weeks later, the report says.

Kennedy said employment issues rank high among the concerns of reservists and their families.

“Families have told us of the heavy financial burdens that the call-ups have caused,” he said. “They have to struggle with mortgage payments, fuel costs, child care and other costs of raising a family. Often, savings aren’t adequate, and families live in fear of bankruptcy.”

These kinds of pressures exacerbate the stress of re-employment on families, Kennedy aides said.

War-Profiteer Bribe Inquiry Finds Special Ops Commander & Slush Fund For “Social Events”

October 28, 2005 New York Times

Federal authorities are looking into a bribery scheme as well as accusations of improper influence involving millions of dollars in battlefield equipment used by America's Special Operations troops.

The investigations, unfolding on several fronts, are examining the hiring of former a former Special Operations Command official by a military contractor as well as financial contributions made by military contractors to a nonprofit organization that ran social events for the special forces.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Fallujah: “It Is Honorable Resistance” “What Was Taken By Force Cannot Be Regained Without Force”

One U.S. officer complained that the insurgents, who he alleges pay Iraqis to attack U.S. forces, had spent more money since the Tal Afar invasion than Iraq's federal government had.

10.31.05 By Philip Shishkin, Wall St. Journal

Fallujah once had 250,000 residents. The current population is in flux, as those who fled have been returning. A damage-compensation plan from the central government has stalled, with less than half the estimated rebuilding costs paid out to 28,000 families so far.

Although the security situation has improved since last year's assault, the insurgency still is going strong in Fallujah and elsewhere.

Indeed, many locals interviewed here support the insurgency. “It is honorable resistance: What was taken by force cannot be regained without force,” says Abdul Karim. “It represents Iraqi dignity.”

“They talk about Saddam's crimes, but what about the actions of the Americans in Fallujah and other places?” says All Nuami, who lives in Baghdad.

Fallujah has made some progress since last year's fighting. Many schools and shops have reopened. On a recent drive through the city, several fruit-and-vegetable vendors could be seen open for business, along with a tire-repair workshop.

Still, enormous rebuilding challenges lie ahead. “There's no sewage system, the pump stations are still destroyed; the factories are not working,” says Fawzi Mohammed, a member of the city's reconstruction committee. With Fallujah's industrial base knocked dead, unemployment increased—it exceeds 60% now—feeding both the social malaise and the insurgency.

“I want to live, I want my kids to live, but now I'm jobless and poor. Is that right in such a rich country?” says former Col. Amir Ismail, 45, who lost his job in the old Iraqi Army after the U.S. decision to disband it.

The situation is similar in other cities where the U.S. has used massive force to quell resistance.

Nearly two months after 8,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops swarmed the northwestern city of Tal Afar, in the largest U.S. military operation since Fallujah, money for reconstruction has been slow in coming.

Before the siege of Tal Afar, the Iraqi government pledged to spend \$40 million to rebuild the former insurgent haven. As of mid-October, none of that money had arrived.

“We have not received a single dinar of the money we were promised,” said Gen. Aziz Ali Hussein at a meeting with U.S. military officials in the city recently.

One U.S. officer complained that the insurgents, who he alleges pay Iraqis to attack U.S. forces, had spent more money since the Tal Afar invasion than Iraq’s federal government had.

U.S. officials say the centrally controlled Iraqi government has too much on its plate in Baghdad to deal with problems in outlying provinces. Meanwhile, cities such as Tal Afar have no money to do their own reconstruction or pay their local security forces.

Assorted Resistance Action

10.30.05 Aljazeera & Oct 31 (KUNA) & BBC & By Robert H. Reid, ASSOCIATED PRESS & By Alastair Macdonald, (Reuters)

In Beji, the bodies of four truck drivers were found. Eyewitness said that armed fighters driving four Opel cars killed the truck drivers.

Police said an assistant manager at Iraq's North Oil Company in Kirkuk was shot and killed on Saturday by a group of armed men.

A car bomb has exploded in a crowded commercial district of the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

It appears to have targeted a police patrol, and reports say six officers were among the dead.

The car bombing happened at about 2030 local time (1730 GMT).

At least four cars were totally destroyed by the blast, an AFP news agency photographer at the scene said.

Another explosion, thought to have been caused by a rocket-propelled grenade, followed soon afterwards, close to the British forces' base in the city.

In the town of Bani Saad, 60km (35 miles) north-east of Baghdad, two mortar rounds hit an Iraqi army base, killing two soldiers and wounding seven, Iraqi police have reported.

An Iraqi border guard was killed and seven other Iraqi security personnel were wounded when a bomber detonated his vehicle at a checkpoint in Sinjar near the border with Syria, Dr. Fadhil Abdul-Kareem said.

In Kirkuk, two policemen were injured in a bomb attack on their patrol, according to the police.

BAQUBA - Two Iraqi army soldiers were killed and four wounded when several mortars fell on an Iraqi army headquarters south of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, a military source said.

DULOYAH - An Iraqi translator working for U.S. forces was killed in Duloeyah, north of Baghdad, when armed fighters opened fire on his car while he was driving to work, police said.

FALLUJA - Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and four wounded by a roadside bomb north of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Ghouls On The Loose

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: October 31, 2005 2:07 AM

If President Nosferatu and his undead cronies are allowed to remain in power, there are likely to be at least two thousand or three thousand more young Americans slaughtered before the corporate cannibals lurch off into the sunset. And that sure as hell ain't no Halloween prank!

Solidarity,
Z

Got That Right

10.30.05 Cindy Sheehan, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd. [Excerpt]

"The responsibility for lying to the American people and targeting critics and dissidents needs to go all the way up the chain of command. Scooter Libby was clearly one of the administration's attack dogs unleashed on opponents of this fraudulent war, but he serves higher masters."

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

Nothing Makes Any Sense



Camp Casey, Crawford, Texas 2005

Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 31, 2005
Subject: Nothing Makes Any Sense

Nothing Makes Any Sense

You don't understand the language.
You don't understand the culture.

**You don't understand the customs.
You don't understand the religion.
You don't understand the heat.
The fucking heat.
Body armor makes it even more unbearable.
The dirt and grime and sand gets into everything.
You don't understand your anger and frustration.
Don't these people understand we are here to help them?
You can't trust anyone.
The constant stress and tension keeps you from sleeping.
Sleep means everything.
Everything revolves around your moods, and your fears.
Nothing makes any sense.
Beginning to forget what it's like being back in the World.
I could never do another tour.
Life seems so cheap here.
The mind drifts in so many directions.
I hate this fucking place.
The military is so fucked up.
People in my unit are starting to use drugs.
You can't trust anyone.
Patriotism and bringing peace to Iraq makes no fucking sense.
George Bush makes no fucking sense.
Doesn't he know that people are dying over here?
Doesn't he know the injuries are so fucking bad?
Drew was killed yesterday by a fucking RPG.
So many civilians are getting killed.
So fucking many.
When I get back home, I don't want to be fucked with anymore.
America is coming unraveled.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
October 31, 2005**

THE GAME IS NOT LIFE

October 25, 2005 Monica Benderman, Kevin Benderman Timeline. Monica Benderman may be reached at mdawnb@coastalnow.net or monica@BendermanTimeline.com

It's been two and a half years. There are almost 2000 soldiers deaths officially accounted for. How many family members does that come to? Is there a number?

The war has cost billions. Where did it all go? Is there an accurate number?

There are thousands of Iraqi casualties. Does anyone know their names? Has anyone counted?

In the wars before, history tells of the great loss of life – the monetary cost. Are there numbers we can trust?

Hundreds of thousands of protestors have marched in a thousand different cities. Are we sure of the count? Should we count again?

Numbers – empty boots – downturned rifles in the sand – crosses on a field – on a beach – along the side of the road -- continuous dollar counts on countless websites – crowds at the capitol – on buses – on subways – the million man march – are they people?

How many times have you been arrested for the "cause?" That symbolic confinement, did you forget that the game has you already confined? Who in their right mind would plan to be arrested? Did you smile while they bound your hands? Did they treat you like a person or a number?

What exactly do the numbers mean?

The giant board game of life. Who wins? The ones who know the most numbers?

The game does nothing – it tells us nothing – it means nothing, except one more number to add, one more number to shout out –one more candle to light.

DEAD – is dead. When the first soldier died, freedom lost its meaning. When the last soldier dies....

when will the last soldier die?

And – don't tell me that soldier died for our freedom. You are the only one who can earn your freedom, and it doesn't come from counting numbers.

Death does not bring freedom, except from the numbers – the endless numbers that are one more clever way to avoid the truth – no one can see the solution - everyone just keep counting.

STOP.

Dead is dead. So what is life?

As the parents are in the streets protesting number 2000, where are their children? Who takes care of them while the passion is the "cause"? Don't tell me your passion is to keep children alive –

The way to keep children alive is to be with them, to teach them a higher standard than what has come before by putting them before the cause. To raise them with love and to educate them to real life, not the game, so they grow up fearless and free – confident in themselves so others cannot control them.

As Congress is in its chambers counting the dollar signs in the spending measures they pass, where is the money? Just one more part of the game. Is the

money being spent to improve life? Don't tell me a bridge in Alaska is in the best interests of the people. Does anyone know who the people are?

As you look at the rows of empty boots and crosses, is it a person that you cry for? Do you see faces of the sacrifice – a life, the tears? Pictures of you crying before a cross with no name, for what, did you know the man? They're gone because of war.

Why did you wait until now to care? Because now he's a number?

As you make plans to be arrested and carried off, counting the number of times you have been processed in this "war," what is happening to people who have been falsely imprisoned for their beliefs? As you laugh, and drink together at the end of a day of civil disobedience, and plan the next venue to "do it all again," do you remember that people are REALLY confined for telling the truth about the game, or is it that you really don't want to know?

How much is your life worth? I bet you know a number – what's in the bank account?

But how about life? Do you know the value of your life? Or have you not yet lost enough to care?

It cannot be worth much if you are still willing to play the game. You would not be relying on someone else to sacrifice for your cause.

The game is over – you want sacrifice – then make it.

If your life matters – then fight for it – don't claim another's sacrifice in your name, how cowardly. Fight for it – by living it with passion, and living REAL. Feel your own pain, don't pass it off to someone else and claim to believe in the "cause."

If you want that bridge, then build it, don't force others to pay for something they will never use – and then walk across it proudly as if you care about the people on the other side.

If you want your children to live in freedom, then give them the freedom they deserve. Love them, teach them, make theirs the most important lives in yours, and show them that your stand is not a game.

If you want to be remembered for having gone to jail for a cause - then make it real.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Welcome To Liberated Iraq:

US Unveils New Prison

Oct 30 Agence France Presse

The US military has opened a new prison with capacity for more than 1,700 detainees near the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah.

Fort Suse began operations on October 17 and the first inmates arrived on October 24, a US military statement said Sunday.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Hypocrisy Squared; Scooter Meet José Padilla

October 28, 2005 By DAVE LINDORFF, CounterPunch

When President Bush was confronted by reporters as he left the White House for Camp David following the announcement of the five indictments of, and the resignation of Vice President Dick Cheney chief of state I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, he offered up a lame comment, which at the same time exposed him as a grotesque hypocrite.

"In our system," he said, "each individual is presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial."

Sure. That's what will happen with Scooter, and with Karl Rove if he gets indicted when the other shoe drops.

But what about Jose Padilla?

This U.S. citizen, picked up at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport back in 2001, has been held in a military brig without charge, without access to an attorney, and in solitary confinement without any contact with family members for four years because President Bush has claimed the right, on his sole authority, to declare any American citizen to be an "enemy combatant" and to revoke their Constitutional rights and rights of citizenship.

No formal charges have been filed against Padilla.

Instead, the Justice Department has just made unsupported statements claiming first that he was planning to build and detonate a dirty-nuke bomb, then dropping that and claiming that he planned to blow up gas lines in apartment buildings.

Since Padilla is unable to contest these charges-or really even to know what the charges are or who has been testifying against him-no one can know their veracity.

White House Halts Royal Visit To New Orleans To 'Save Face'

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: Good god, you know you're in trouble if your compassion level looks bad compared to Charles and Camilla!]

October 30, 2005 Nicholas Wapshott in New York, The Observer

The crisis engulfing the White House has forced the Prince of Wales to alter his plans to visit hurricane-ravaged New Orleans over the next week.

A visit to the city was planned by Clarence House and Downing Street to display the compassionate side of the Duchess of Cornwall.

However, the trip has been put on hold by the White House, which is anxious that it may draw attention back to President George Bush's much-criticised response to the Katrina victims.

The New Orleans visit has been left off the itinerary and, if it happens at all, will be little more than a whistle-stop tour.

'Meeting the flood victims would have been the perfect way of showing the warm side of Camilla which so few have so far seen,' said a senior British government source.

After President Bush was portrayed as uncaring in the wake of Katrina, the White House questioned whether the Prince's presence in New Orleans would contrast unfavourably with the President's failure to respond in good time.

'They thought - rightly - that compared to Charles and Camilla, who are so good at expressing concern, the President would look even more unconvincing,' said the source.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

All GI Special issues achieved at website <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following have also posted issues; there may be others:

<http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.