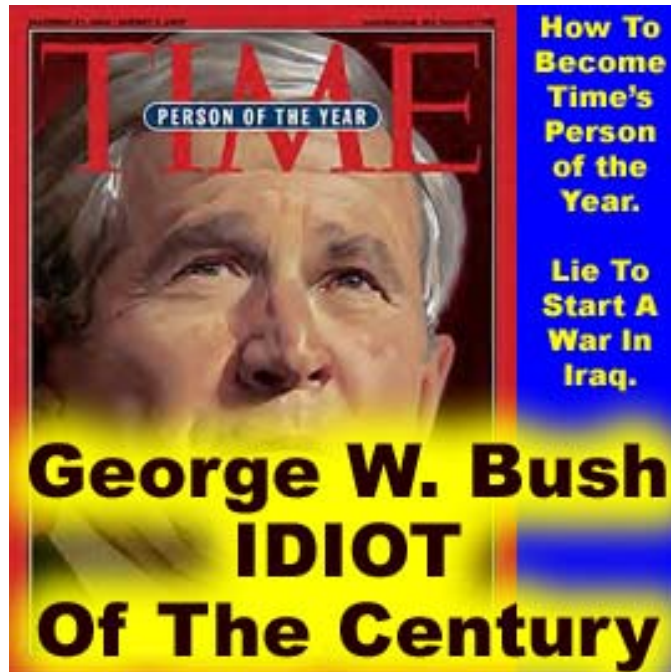


GI SPECIAL 3D21:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

My Son's Last Words Before He Went Back: 'I Don't Know Who My Enemy Is' "He Wasn't Killed" "He Was Murdered By The US Administration"

"I remember very clearly my son's last words before he went back after his two weeks' vacation. 'I don't know who my enemy is,' he said. 'It's a worthless, senseless war, a war of religion. We'll never win it.' He wasn't killed. He was murdered. He was murdered by the US administration."

November 19, 2005 Robert Fisk, The Independent

I sit in one of the dives on 44th Street, uncertain how to approach Sue Niederer and Celeste Zappala, afraid that their stories can be too easily turned into tears, their message lost after the Veterans' Day march.

They were put at the back of the New York parade, humiliated, with their little crowd of anti-war veterans and their memories of boys who left young wives for Iraq and came back in coffins.

Later I sit between the two women and remember the blood splashed across the road at Khan Dari and the 82nd Airborne washing away the brains from the highway in central Fallujah and the body lying beneath a tarp in north Baghdad. I've seen the American corpses. Now here are the American mothers.

Sue lost her son Seth on 3 February last year. He was looking for "improvised explosive devices" near Iskanderiya, south of Baghdad - the infamous IEDs, roadside bombs which have taken hundreds of American lives - when a booby trap blew up next to him.

Dates are important to Sue. She goes back over them repeatedly, as if this will somehow straighten things out, make sense of the immorality of her son's death, perhaps - I sense this powerfully, though I am not certain - bring him, however briefly, back to life.

Seth married on 26 August 2003, just five days before he was first deployed to Iraq; his young wife, Kelly, scarcely had time to know her husband. He came home on leave on 1 January 2004, left on 17 January and was killed just three weeks later.

Sue's voice rises in indignation above the noise of the New York diner, angry and brave and drowning out the joshing of two vets at the other end of the table.

"I remember very clearly my son's last words before he went back after his two weeks' vacation. 'I don't know who my enemy is,' he said. 'It's a worthless, senseless war, a war of religion. We'll never win it.' He wasn't killed. He was murdered. He was murdered by the US administration. He was out looking for IEDs. He found one, stopped his convoy and was blown up. I regard it as a suicide mission."

I know Iskanderiya, the place where Seth died. It's a flyblown Sunni Muslim town south of Baghdad, throat-cutting country where insurgents man their own checkpoints beside the palm groves and canals. Vietnam comes to mind.

The other voices round the table are lowered now. The waiter turns up with pizzas and Pepsis and red wine. There's an American flag in the centre of the table. These mothers and ex-soldiers all talk of their patriotism, although these days they might agree with Nurse Edith Cavell: that patriotism is not enough.

Celeste's son Sherwood was killed on 26 April last year, his end as tragic as it was unnecessary. He was protecting a group of military inspectors hunting for President Bush's mythical weapons of mass destruction when a perfume factory they were searching in Baghdad suddenly exploded.

"He was getting out of the cab of his truck to help the wounded when some debris came crashing out of the sky and hit him," Celeste says. "When they left on their mission, they were supposed to have a lorry with them with equipment that would explode bombs by radio before they reached the scene. But that day, the lorry broke down and a British officer told them to set off on the mission without it.

"I will always remember that my son died just a month after George W Bush made that videotape in front of the press - the one where he made a joke about looking for weapons of mass destruction and pretended to search under his desk for the weapons. He was making fun of the fact he hadn't found them - but my son died looking for them and they didn't exist."

Sherwood and his 28-year-old wife, Deborah, had a young son. "We always tell him that his father was a hero," Celeste says. "We think of him that way. He was a noble man." Sherwood had joined the National Guard in 1997, believing - like thousands of other American servicemen in Iraq - that he could use the money to pay off his college loans. "He'd told us he would go and do the job and that he would bring all his men home safely. There were 15 of them, all from Pennsylvania, and he kept his word. They all came home safely - except for Sherwood."

At the other end of our table, Alex Rayon, who served in R Battery, 5th Battalion, 10th Marines, in the original 2003 invasion force, says he was against the war from the start, refusing to believe there were any weapons of mass destruction.

"When I got into Iraq, I saw what our artillery rounds did to people. I had to go up front to see where the rounds were falling and I saw whole Iraqi cities engulfed in flames. There were Iraqi dead on the sides of the roads - I couldn't tell if they were men or women."

Is it therefore so surprising that this little group of mothers and ex-soldiers should have trailed along behind the Veterans' Parade in New York or that they should now represent Military Families Speak Out and Iraq Veterans Against the War, and should have joined older men who belonged to Vietnam Veterans Against the War? [Not so little guy, well over 100. And they didn't trail, they damn well marched in the parade too.]

These are not the men and women whom George Bush wants to have at hand when he denounces congressmen for claiming he fiddled the intelligence files before the war, when he tells yet more enthusiastic young soldiers that America will "prevail" in its "war on terror" and I can see why.

"My husband, Greg, was an absolute Republican, even after my son was killed," Sue says. "But then we went to see Michael Moore's film Fahrenheit 9/11. And as we walked out, my husband apologised to me. I said: 'What are you apologising for?' And he said: 'I'm sorry - everything you've said about the war is correct. I'll back you 100 per cent in everything you say and everything you do.'"

I say goodbye to this little group of brave American men and women - the ex-soldiers have no jobs, no future save their enthusiasm for their own campaign against the Iraq

war - and leave their table with its sad, gold-fringed American flag and head off into the fumes and noise of Times Square.

Up on a giant television screen, Vice-President Cheney - he who went on lying about the non-existent links between Saddam and 9/11 long after the invasion - is solemnly bowing his head in the Arlington cemetery. Ah yes, he is honouring the fallen. And I wonder if he will ever understand his betrayal of the men and women back on 44th Street.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIER KILLED

November 20, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-11-35C

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- A Task Force Baghdad Soldier was killed by small-arms fire while on patrol north of Baghdad Nov. 20.

II MEF Marine Killed By IED Near Hadithah

11/20/05 MNF-Iraq: Release A051120c & Reuters

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device attack while conducting combat operations against the enemy in the vicinity of Hadithah, Nov. 19.

The powerful bomb detonated as a U.S. military convoy was passing through the town, a militant stronghold on the Euphrates river about 220 km northwest of Baghdad.

Immediately after the blast, gunmen opened fire on the convoy, the U.S. military said in a statement.

Haditha lies at the edge of Iraq's western desert province of Anbar, the heartland of the insurgency, where U.S. troops have launched a series of major offensives this year.

II MEF MARINE DIES OF AL KARMAH WOUNDS

November 20, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-11-36C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died of wounds received from small arms fire while conducting combat operations against the enemy in al Karmah, Nov. 19.

Marine From Tangent Is Killed

November 20, 2005 Statesman Journal

A Marine from Tangent was killed Saturday in Iraq, his family confirmed.

Lance Cpl. Tyler Troyer, 21, with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine G Company, was attacked by insurgents on an early morning patrol near Fallujah, his mother told the Democrat Herald in Albany.

Terri Thorpe, his mother, said Troyer was shot in the head.

Troyer, a 2002 graduate of West Albany High School, enlisted in the Marines immediately after graduation to earn money for college, Thorpe said.

He had been serving in Iraq since July.

Soldier From Villa Park Dies In Iraq Ambush

Nov 20, 2005 (AP)

VILLA PARK, Ill. A 21-year-old soldier from Villa Park has been killed in Iraq.

The Army says Private Christopher Alcozer of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team was killed yesterday. His patrol was ambushed by insurgents using small arms and hand grenades in the northern Iraq city of Mosul.

Alcozer's mother -- Kathleen Alcozer -- says her son had just gotten engaged to his high school sweetheart while home on leave this month.

She says Christopher Alcozer graduated from Willowbrook High School in 2003, where he was on the wrestling team and in the school orchestra.

She says he was a talented violist and wanted to go to college to study music and education after leaving the Army.

He had been in Iraq about three months.

British Soldier Killed; Four Seriously Injured



A roadside bomb exploded near a British military vehicle. One British soldier was killed and four wounded by the bomb in Basra. (AFP/Essam Al-Sudani)

11/20/05 BBC

A British soldier has been killed and four were seriously injured in a roadside bomb attack in Basra, southern Iraq, the Ministry of Defence has said.

The attack happened at about 1230 local time to the north of the city, Army spokesman Maj Steve Melbourne said.

The MoD, which has launched an investigation into the attack, would not comment on the extent of the four soldiers' injuries.

The latest killing brings the death toll for UK soldiers in Iraq to 98.

Humvee Destroyed At Baiji:

Casualties Not Announced Yet

20 November 2005 AFP

An Iraq police source in Baiji said a US-Iraqi patrol was attacked at around 5:00 pm (1400 GMT) on Saturday.

He said one policeman was killed and four other wounded, and that a US Humvee had been destroyed. He gave no details on US casualties.

“Is This Democracy?” “Is This A Civilization?” “Is This Freedom?”

November 21, 2005 By Jill Carroll, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor
[Excerpts]

NEW OBEIDI, IRAQ

This region of Iraq is home to supply lines, incoming foreign fighters, and insurgent bases.

Throughout Steel Curtain, insurgents have typically resisted then melted away rather than confront the Marines' fire power. At least 11 marines have been killed since the operation began.

Resting in the bend of the Euphrates River, New Obeidi, located next to Obeidi, is a microcosm of the challenges and pitfalls of the broader fight against insurgents. It was the last city taken by the marines in Steel Curtain.

Fighting ended last Thursday, and the battle has turned to ensuring that insurgents don't return. [Still blind as a bat. Hello? Earth to reporter? The “insurgents” don't have to “return.” They live there. They're called Iraqis. And as a recent occupation poll reported, 85% of them want you gone, and 45% think you should be killed. Get it? Killed. 45% of Iraqis think you should be killed. Clear now?]

"These guys smile and shake your hand today, but you kill one of their brethren ... you make your own enemies if you're not careful," says Sgt. Antonio Farmer, of Wilson, N.C., as he walks through a dusty field. "It's hard to know when to turn it on and to turn it off, the aggression." **[Guess the command didn't tell him about the poll. Wonder why. The “enemies” were “made” a long time ago. Now they're fighting to get their country back from George Bush and his occupation dictatorship. Imagine that.]**

The scars of the battle are all around him and makeshift white flags fly from rooftops, car windows, and residents' hands as they walk the streets.

One marine approaches a man standing alone and offers a handshake, but the man pulls his hand away, offering instead a stern nod of acknowledgement. At the next house a group of men and boys wave. "Good, good!" they shout.

"The situation is very miserable. All the people in this city spent (three or four nights) outside the city," says Abu Abdullah, a political science professor, in rusty English.

He refuses to give his full name. "All this destruction and death came under the slogan of democracy. Is this democracy? Is this a civilization? Is this freedom?"

But on the same street where Abdullah stands, three men are trying to get the marines' attention to show them where two IEDs were hidden in the garden of a home.

"I'd hate to shoot one of these kids in the head.... You do what you can because the enemy blends in. (It's a case of) 'no better friend and no better enemy,' because you never really know who" you are dealing with, Farmer says.

The majority of the people on the street just want to know if the Marines will compensate them for their damaged homes and cars.

"Boom? Boom?" they often ask while making an explosion gesture with their hands to ask residents if they know where any weapons or IEDs are.

After walking the street for a few days, Farmer judges the remaining insurgent influence by the way the children react to them on a given street.

"Some places the kids will play with you, make fun of you 'big bad American soldiers.' But go to other places and it's different. They shy away from you," says Farmer.

TROOP NEWS

**“Americans Turned Against This War
Much More Quickly Than They Did
During The Vietnam Era”**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Nov. 19, 2005 TIM HARPER, WASHINGTON BUREAU, Toronto Star & 20 November 2005, By Frank Rich, The New York Times

WASHINGTON-It was the summer of 1970, the Baltimore Orioles were headed to a World Series victory, four Kent State University war protestors had been shot dead and the Jackson 5 topped the pop charts.

And Americans decided they had had enough of a futile war in Vietnam.

According to some historians and pollsters, history is being repeated here during the late autumn of 2005.

This was the week that Republicans took their first steps away from George W. Bush's Iraq war policy, a week when a senior legislator called for an immediate troop withdrawal and, perhaps not coincidentally, when discontent with the war mirrored almost precisely American frustration with Vietnam in the summer of '70.

Gallup pollster Frank Newport said historically Americans turned against this war much more quickly than they did during the Vietnam era.

Part of that, he said, was that Americans of the '60s were more trusting of their government, a trust that was shredded by that very same war and the Watergate scandal of the early '70s. They also thought it unthinkable the U.S. would lose a war.

"Based on the Vietnam experience, it is a matter of once burned, twice shy," Newport said.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup survey last week found that the percentage (52) of Americans who want to get out of Iraq fast, in 12 months or less, is even larger than the percentage (48) that favored a quick withdrawal from Vietnam when that war's casualty toll neared 54,000 in the apocalyptic year of 1970.

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.

SPC Katherine Jashinski Takes Stand Against War



www.ivaw.net

November 17, 2005

IVAW stands behind Army National Guard Specialist Katherine Jashinski, and in supporting Katherine, we support GI Rights.

Military personnel sign enlistment contracts and accept commissions to defend the Constitution of the United States, but they are not required to surrender their conscience when they do.

Military enlistees, especially young people who did not conscientiously object to war when they enlisted, may have experiences or teachings that reshape their religious, moral, or ethical beliefs after their enlistment. When a GI's religious, moral, or ethical beliefs no longer permit him or her to participate in war in any form, then military regulations provide a both legal and fully honorable discharge, a testament to all Americans' fundamental freedom of conscience.

Katherine applied for Conscientious Objector (CO) status in 2004, putting her on the frontline in a battle to preserve Americans' freedom of conscience. While her request has been pending, Katherine has made every effort to honorably uphold her enlistment contract.

Her command recommended disapproval based on when she applied, and after almost a year, the Department of Army's Conscientious Objector Review Board recently ruled that she did not present clear and convincing evidence to be classified as a Conscientious Objector.

A military CO must prove:

1. Objection to participation in war in any form, and that
2. Religious, moral, and/or ethical beliefs are deeply and sincerely held, and that
3. He/she was not a CO at the time of enlistment, but that a conscientious objection to war formed after enlistment.

However, as anyone in the military can attest, GIs don't get briefings on what to do if in a moral, ethical, or religious struggle with one's conscience, or how to prepare evidence proving one's sincerity. As was Katherine's case, many in the military may not even know that a service member can apply for CO status and discharge.

Only now, as a very last resort, and in the face of disciplinary action, a dishonorable discharge, or even jail, has Katherine refused to deploy in order to maintain her spiritual integrity.

We believe Katherine's forced deployment would be yet another in a long line of actions by the military to defy its own rules to get the numbers of people they need to continue this war.

Prisoners Of Stop-Loss: **“Why? Why? You've Already Been To Afghanistan Twice!”**

November 20, 2005 By Hart Seely, Staff writer, The Post-Standard, Excerpts]

Baghdad, Iraq - They don't talk about it much. They push the subject from their minds. It serves no purpose. But now and then, the thought does surface. After all, they did their time. They served their country. They planned to move on.

They weren't supposed to be here.

But the U.S. Army needed them, and it invoked the once rare policy it calls "stop loss," though others call it a "backdoor draft."

So here they are: In Iraq.

"There's no sense in dwelling on these things," said Staff Sergeant Paul B. Zundel, 33, of Baton Rouge, La., who in more peaceful times would have ended his five-year Army career in September. "All you can do is do your job and take it one day at a time."

Zundel is one of at least 10 members of Bravo Troop, 1-71 Cavalry Regiment, whose plans to go civilian this year were scuttled by the military policy that tethers soldiers to their weapons in times of need. Back when they enlisted, at least somewhere in all those papers they signed, a clause stipulated that they were committing themselves to eight years in the military, if needed.

When Zundel signed up in September 2000 before the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks the possibility of having to serve an extra year never crossed his mind. Zundel had received a four-year degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, a history major, and he figured to hang up his helmet after five years.

"I want to start a family," he said. "I just don't think I can do that while in the Army, not at this stage. That's the big reason why I wanted to get out."

Zundel had served in Kosovo and already done a year in Iraq. But in mid-2004, the Army's leadership began breaking the news about stop loss.

"I really didn't believe it when they first told us," said Sgt. Timothy R. Majewski, 22, of Buffalo. "I don't think anybody believed it. . . . They said stop loss was coming down, but I was skeptical."

Majewski was due to leave the service Oct. 8.

Now, he's looking to get out after the 1st Battalion returns home, sometime late next summer. He probably will be leaving by this time next year.

In Bravo Troop, where stop loss soldiers are common, a certain protocol about the policy exists: They try not to think about it.

"You can't let it affect you," said Sgt. Christopher A. Seymour, of Lacey, Wash. "If you do, you're just going to screw over everybody around you."

Without stop loss, he would have left the Army July 17.

"I'm not the only one," Seymour continued. "Half of my platoon is stop loss."

Seymour, 22, is in his third deployment to a war. He already served two tours in Afghanistan.

"Yeah, for all of us, our time was up," he continued. "And, yeah, it just sucked. But what are you going to do? You're over here, and there's no sense letting it stew inside you. You have to do your job, so that everybody around you can get home safe. And right now, that's all that matters."

"For my wife, having an infant at home, it was hardest for her," said Spc. Delbert S. Hunter, 21, of Lexington, Ky. "I'm going to miss the first birthday and the first Christmas, all that stuff.

"In her opinion, I should be home," he said.

Hunter's wife is expecting their second child. Without stop loss, he would have left the Army Oct. 2.

"If I stayed in my room and dwelled on the fact that I'm not home, well, that would not make me get home any faster," Hunter said.

In some cases, parents reacted the most angrily to the news.

"It was just, 'Why? Why? You've already been to Afghanistan twice! Why do you have to go over for the third time, and to Iraq?' recalled Sgt. Andrew J. Kisz, 23, of Palm Harbor, Fla., of his folks' reaction. "It didn't make sense to them, 'Why does it have to be my son that gets stopped?' "

Kisz had planned to attend Appalachian State University in North Carolina, where he was accepted for the fall semester. When stop loss came down, his parents called their congressman and even the governor. But nothing could change it.

"It bothered me when I first got here," Kisz said. "Now, I just kind of put it out of my mind. I try not to think about it, because that's not going to be beneficial to anybody here, including myself."

Huh?

Defective Vests Recalled, But Pentagon Says Troops Not At Risk

[Thanks to Don Bacon, The Smedley Butlers Society, who sent this in.]

Nov. 18, 2005 By Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 2005 – **The Army and Marine Corps are recalling about 18,000 protective vests, but officials emphasize that troops wearing them aren't at risk and that the recall has nothing to do with ballistic plate protection.**

The recall, announced Nov. 17, affects 18,425 Outer Tactical Vests - 8,083 from the Army and 10,342 from the Marine Corps, defense officials said.

Officials call the recall a precautionary measure, ordered because the 14 affected lots of vests may not have met contractual specifications regarding ballistic performance when they were produced and fielded between 1999 and 2001.

An administrative review conducted in September was unable to confirm that vests had met all the required specifications, officials said.

The Most Freedom Hating University In America?

Act Now To Support Hampton University Students Charged With "Cajoling," And "Proselytizing," "Unauthorized Flyers" & "Unapproved Protest"

[Yeah, that headline is a bit unfair. Obviously these asshole administrators have valuable skills. Maybe they could relocate to Baghdad, running one of the prisons over that way. Unfortunately, Stalin and Hitler are gone, so their most creative ideas of what laws people must follow are limited in application. But the Bush regime might be interested.]

From: D
Sent: November 20, 2005 5:53 PM
Subject: URGENT: **Hampton students face expulsion tomorrow for peaceful protest!**

PLEASE FORWARD WIDELY*

URGENT: Three Hampton University (Virginia) students have a hearing at 10 AM Monday to determine whether they will be expelled for participating in peaceful protest!

The students were only informed of this hearing at 6 PM Friday night. Read below how you can help.

For ongoing updates: <http://www.campusantiwar.net/>

Act NOW to support Hampton University Students
Protesters Arrested by Campus Police,
Administration Files Disciplinary Charges Against Students

On Wednesday, November 2, 2005 students at Hampton University participated in a nation-wide student walkout to highlight problems such as the massive urban renewal in New Orleans, HIV/AIDS, Homophobia, the crisis in Sudan, and the War in Iraq.

During the walk-out, several students were booked just because they had on "Resist or Die" stickers and others were booked for looking "suspicious."

Some students were even threatened with expulsion.

Today, students have a hearing under the grounds that they were "cajoling" and "proselytizing," observed putting up unauthorized flyers and involved in unapproved protest and demonstration.

These students attempted to educate the student body about political and social issues. And because they decided to participate in the student walk-out, the most severe punishment for this infraction is expulsion from the University.

TAKE ACTION

Take action now to support Hampton University Students' right to educate and inform the student body about human rights.

Be sure to call and/or send a letter to the following decision maker(s):

Dr. Bennie McMorris,
Vice President for Student Affairs
757-727-5264
bennie.mcmorris@hamptonu.edu

Woodson Hopewell,

Dean of Men
woodson.hopewell@hamptonu.edu
757-727-5303

Jewel Long,
Dean of Women
jewel.long@hamptonu.edu
757-727-5486

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

NOTES FROM A LOST WAR



An Iraqi boy flashes 'V' for Victory sign at the site of a roadside bomb blast in Basra, November 20, 2005. One British soldier was killed by the roadside bomb and four others were injured, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said in London. REUTERS/Atef Hassan

Support For Resistance Up Over Last Year

19 November 2005 Aljazeera

"Armed resistance arose as a reaction to occupation. It is legitimate and is not an innovation. The popular support which the insurgents enjoy in many parts of the country exceeds what they enjoyed a year ago," Harith al-Dhari, the chairman of the Association of Muslim Scholars, said.

Iraqis March Against Torture

11/20/05 Radio Free Europe

Hundreds of Iraqis marched in western Baghdad today demanding an end to the torture of detainees and calling for the international community to put pressure on Iraqi and U.S. authorities to ensure that such abuse does not occur.

Assorted Resistance Action

11/20/05 Radio Free Europe

Reports said explosions of two roadside bombs targeting a joint U.S.-Iraqi Army patrol today in Abu Ghurayb, 25 kilometers west of Baghdad, killed three Iraqi soldiers.

In Tikrit, 180 kilometers north of Baghdad, insurgents today captured two women who worked at an Iraqi army base.

BAGHDAD - Three Iraqi soldiers were killed and five wounded when in an attack by a makeshift bomb and gunmen on an Iraqi army patrol in western Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Good Riddance”

November 19, 2005 Mike Whitney, uruknet.info [Excerpt]

There's no chance the Democrats will lead us out of this quagmire; they're in it up to their axels. They may moan about "being misled" by the president, but don't take that as a condemnation of the war. They're already preening their rhetoric about a "victory strategy" followed by the steady increase of American servicemen deployed to the desert meat-grinder.

So, who cares if they take a drubbing on the House floor?

They are a party adrift; steadily sinking from the arrogance and ideological vacuity of their leaders. It would be better for everyone if they just packed their bags and went home.

Good riddance.

More Murtha

From: Don Bacon: The smedleybutlersociety@msn.com
To: GI Special
Sent: November 20, 2005
Subject: Murtha

You never compromise on principle, which is why we love you.

You never waver, never give an inch, your standards are absolute.

But some of the rest of us are not so strict.

Here comes the first Congressman with any clout, and he says: "Our military has done everything that has been asked of them, the U.S. can not accomplish anything further in Iraq militarily. IT IS TIME TO BRING THEM HOME."

Murtha says something that we've been saying.

He comments on his visits to Walter Reed, and his empathy for the troops.

He's created a stir.

He's a stalking horse for a ruined army.

He's called a coward by the party in power, and otherwise dumped on.

So some of us take Murtha's words, IT IS TIME TO BRING THEM HOME, and promote the words.

We don't promote any ulterior motive he may or may not have.

We'll hate it when those troops go into Venezuela or Iran.

But we've got to get out of Iraq.

So we promote the idea.

We're not doing any good in Iraq, we're doing as lot of harm, and it's time to bring them home.

We're content taking it one step at a time.

We desperately need to get out of Iraq.

Here's a chance to build the movement on Murtha's words.

Some of us are taking it, with full respect for your position.

In solidarity,
Don

Reply:

Tonight I had a conversation with a wise, good woman from Pennsylvania whose son, 19, got back from Iraq not long ago. When he went, he believed in the cause. Reality set in, and he is opposed to it now, full bore. He saw too much.

She's familiar with Murtha, and he didn't just wander in innocently from the turnip patch. He's cold as ice, hard as a rock, and every tear is scripted. He is, indeed, the voice of the senior officer corps; not the top, but not far below the top.

He and they are 100% for the Empire: bigger, stronger and more dominant in the world. He wants out of Iraq so the armed forces can be refitted for use elsewhere to maintain that Empire.

The point is to have no illusions about who he is and what he is, and why he's making his move. And it's not about his experiences at Walter Reed either. If the war were going well, he wouldn't be telling all those sad stories.

Smedley Butler would ID Murtha on sight: the enemy, engaging in a ruse of war, talking peace and proposing a strategic withdrawal to better prepare for the next war.

It's also true, as you write that he opens a door, in spite of himself.

If it's OK for him to denounce the war, then it becomes just a scooch easier for the Pvt. and the Sgt. to come out against the war too. And maybe, as Soldiers X, Y and Z did in Baquaba, organize a group of soldiers against the war.

The reason that matters is: we have to win the ranks to our side.

Politicians have never caused reforms. Not one time. They respond to movements from below demanding change, built in the streets and, as in the case of Vietnam, in the mess halls and barracks and on shipboard. They decide people better get something, just to shut them up.

The problem is with people who say, "Oh, look at Murtha, why now we can take it easy." Or people who keep looking for a savior in the enemy camp.

We been there, done that. After Vietnam, the Imperial politicians licked their wounds, and planned for future. The future was called Iraq. That time had it's Murthas too: people bought their bullshit.

So, sure, use him, just like he'd like to use us. But without illusions, and above all without stopping our efforts to reach out to the troops and give aid and comfort to those turning against not only the war, but the whole rotten Imperial system, including the Murthas of the world.

Above all, do not let the troops be deceived by the enemy bearing a false flag.

Respect,
T

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)

Sounds Of The Season

From: Iraq Veterans Mom
To: GI Special
Sent: November 17, 2005
Subject: Sounds of the season

Thought you might just need a chuckle...this ought to do it.

**To The Tune Of:
God Rest Ye Merri Gentlemen**

**Got rest ye weary Veterans, we know you are dismayed.
Remember Christ the Savior, says peace is still the way
He'll save you all from Rumsfeld's power for he has gone astray.
Oh, oh, tidings of evening the score...even the score.
Oh, oh, tidings of evening the score.**

**From God the heavenly Father, this blessed message came.
Bush lies have gotten GIs killed, and thousands more are maimed.
How charges now of treason loom, that war crimes have been named.
Good tidings, impeachment is in store...impeachment and more.
The White House Iraq Group will finally be no more.**

To The Tune Of: Silver Bells

City sidewalks...D.C. sidewalks
Dressed in full riot gear
In the air there's a feeling of distrust

Hear the snow crunch...see the kids bunch
Their folks can't afford oil
And above all the protests you'll hear

Silver bells...damn those bells
Katrina's poor victims still screaming
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring
A terrorist attack's on the way

Children passing...wealthy laughing
Cuz of bush policies
As the Congress rush home with a pay raise

Hear them gasping...illness lasting
They won't live one more year
As their savings all dwindle you'll hear

Silver bells...damn those bells
Christmas is cancelled this season
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring
Soon it will be judgment day.

To The Tune: Santa Clause Is Coming To Town

You better watch out, gonna make you cry,

You better speak out, I'm telling you why
Chalabi is coming to town

He's makin' a list, Cheney, Snow and Rice,
Gonna find out who naughty or nice
Chalabi is coming to town

He knows when we are sleeping
He knows we're not awake
He know just who is bad or good
Revoke his passport for goodness sake...so

You better watch out, gonna make you cry,
You better speak out, I'm telling you why
Chalabi is coming to town.

To The Tune Of: Jingle Bells

Jingle bells
Inflation swells
Morals fade away
Oh what fun it is to live in liberty hooray, hey

Jingle bells
Intel smells
Bush lies lead the way
Oh what fun it is to live in a corrupt USA

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Great Iraqi Troop Training Fiasco Rolls On: “They Often Failed To Wake Up When Told And Failed To Follow Orders”

Nov. 15, 2005 Martha Raddatz, ABC News

The U.S. military said today that more than 112,000 Iraqi police and nearly 100,000 Iraqi troops have been trained and equipped so far. While the numbers seem impressive, the greater concern is whether those Iraqi forces are capable of effectively securing their country.

Today's report from the Pentagon says only one battalion -- about 700 Iraqi troops -- has reached level one, meaning the soldiers can operate independently.

The report also finds that approximately 27,000 others are capable of taking a lead role in combat, but only with strong support from U.S. forces.

As for the others, U.S. officials say there are a variety of problems -- from equipment shortages to lack of medics and logistic support.

On a recent trip to al Anbar province, an ABC News team saw firsthand some of the more basic problems.

A team of approximately 60 Iraqi security personnel had joined 1,000 U.S. Marines, but they often failed to wake up when told and failed to follow orders. One senior Iraqi soldier passed out from the heat after only half a day of operations.

So how fast can these soldiers be trained to operate independently, and how many Iraqis need to be in the lead role before U.S. troops can substantially draw down?

Those are questions that U.S. officials will not answer.

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS.



11.18.05: A US Marine searches a civilian at a snap checkpoint set up moments earlier in Zaidon during a US Marine operation. (AFP/David Furst)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign" and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any changes being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to occupy their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush's Job Rating Falls To New Low: Democrats Also Despised

[Thanks to Don Bacon, the Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

One surprising finding is that the Democrats have not been able to capitalize on the decline of the president and other Republican leaders' ratings. The positive rating of the Democrats in Congress has continued to fall and currently stands at only 25 percent, two points lower than the also declining rating for Republicans in Congress.

November 17, 2005 The Harris Poll #83

The latest Harris Poll finds that President Bush's positive job rating has continued to fall, touching another new low for his presidency at 34 percent. This compares with his positive ratings of fully 88 percent after 9/11, 65 percent in November 2002, 50 percent at the end of 2003, 50 percent in November 2004, 45 percent in June of this year, and 40 percent in August.

President Bush's positive ratings, now, compare unfavorably with those of three of the last four two-term presidents at a comparable time in their fifth year in office. In

November (or the nearest month to it when the Harris Poll measured it) of their fifth year, their positive ratings, Presidents Johnson (67%), Reagan (66%) and Clinton (58%) all enjoyed the support of substantial majorities.

President Nixon however (29%) was significantly less popular than President Bush is now. **[A lousy 5 points better isn't very fucking "significant."]**

This negative trend is reflected by similar downward trends in the ratings of other Republican leaders and members of the Cabinet:

Vice President Dick Cheney's positive rating has fallen five points since August from 35 percent to 30 percent.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's positive rating has fallen from 40 percent in August to 34 percent now.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert's positive rating is down four points since August, from 26 percent to 22 percent

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's positive rating is down from 28 percent to 23 percent which suggests he will not be a strong presidential candidate in 2008.

The positive rating of the Republicans in Congress is down from 32 percent to 27 percent since August.

The top issues in earlier surveys this year are still the top issues, although the actual numbers have changed.

"The war" (34%), the economy (13%), Iraq (13%), healthcare (11%) and education (10%) continue to head the list of unprompted answers given to a question about "the most important issues for the government to address".

However, the biggest fall of all since August is in the number of adults who think the country is moving in the right direction, which has dropped ten points from 37 percent to 27 percent.

One surprising finding is that the Democrats have not been able to capitalize on the decline of the president and other Republican leaders' ratings. The positive rating of the Democrats in Congress has continued to fall and currently stands at only 25 percent, two points lower than the also declining rating for Republicans in Congress.

[The next time you run into one of those elitist assholes who babbles about how stupid Americans are, or how we don't care about the war, smack them down with this. People are smart enough to see that we have two Imperial political parties, neither of which gives a shit about the lives of the troops or working class people.]

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Venezuela's Chavez Kicks Bush In The Nuts: Thousands In Mass. To Get Cheaper Oil

November 20, 2005 By Michael Levenson and Susan Milligan, Boston Globe
Correspondent and Globe Staff

A subsidiary of the Venezuelan national oil company will ship 12 million gallons of discounted home-heating oil to local charities and 45,000 low-income families in Massachusetts next month under a deal arranged by US Representative William D. Delahunt, a local nonprofit energy corporation, and Venezuela's president, White House critic Hugo Chávez.

The approximately \$9 million deal will bring nine million gallons of oil to families and three million gallons to institutions that serve the poor, such as homeless shelters, said officials from Citizens Energy Corp., which is signing the contract. Families would pay about \$276 for a 200-gallon shipment, a savings of about \$184 and enough to last about three weeks.

No Translation Necessary



Venezuelans chant anti-Bush slogans during a march in Caracas November 19, 2005. Thousands marched in Caracas. (Howard Yanes/Reuters)

Bolivians Rising Up Against The Empire Too

20 November 2005 By David Rieff, The New York Times [Excerpt]

For most Bolivians, globalization, or what they commonly refer to as neoliberalism, has failed so utterly to deliver the promised prosperity that some Bolivian commentators I met insisted that what is astonishing is not the radicalization of the population but rather the fact that this radicalization took as long as it did.

Bolivia often seems now like a country on the brink of a nervous breakdown. Every day, peasants or housewives or the unemployed erect hundreds of makeshift roadblocks to protest shortages of fuel (a particularly galling affront in a country with vast hydrocarbon resources) or to demand increased subsidies for education or to air any of the dozens of issues that have aroused popular anger.

The language of these protests is insistently, defiantly leftist, with ritual denunciations of multinational corporations, of the United States and of the old Bolivian elite, who are white, mostly descendants of Spanish and German settlers.

Two presidents were chased out of office in the last two years by popular protests made up largely of MAS supporters: first Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada, then Carlos Mesa.

Received:

“How Are Things In Ft. Carson Now?”

From: broaddusd
To: GI Special
Sent: November 20, 2005
Subject: blackmail

I read the article on ft. carson soldiers blackmailed if they don't re-enlist.

what became of you guys?

did ya have to re-enlist?

how are things in ft. carson now?

thank you very much.

[Replies invited. T]

Received:

But Wouldn't It Take Six Months?

From: H
To: GI Special
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2005

But wouldn't it take about six months for them to pack up all the stuff and get it out of there? It seemed like it took them longer than that to bring it over there.

If they came up with a plan to be completely cleaned out by the sixth month, it just seems like there wouldn't be much time for anything other than packing.

Everyone knows that our nation has been thoroughly embarrassed to shit over this whole debacle so, why should the assholes be permitted to waste a bunch more tax dollars after the fact.

I mean, I wasn't alive during the Vietnam evacuation, and I don't remember ever hearing how long that took from start to finish but, I did see some footage of helicopters falling off of ships, into the ocean because, they didn't have time to pack them up properly. [Yes. They were running for their lives. They overstayed their welcome. Lesson learned.]

Machines are obviously worth nothing compared to human lives but, sometimes machines can help save lives too. It would've been nice to have some more of those helicopters around during Katrina.

You know that someone would have to be responsible for restocking the shelves too, if that stuff didn't come back.

If we can get it back without any further harm, it just seems to me like we should. The problem with this war, as I see it, wasn't so much about the "elites" having too many tools at their disposal; as much as the problem was that there were "elites" in power to begin with.

What do you think?

Solidarity,
H

REPLY:

According to some soldiers from Iraq who have been in touch with GI Special, it would require about two days for troops organizing themselves to get to the nearest border, or less, provided that all officers were either simply ignored or, if ill-humored, placed under arrest. All it would take is a general announcement:

“OK, you can get the fuck out of Iraq NOW. You may leave by the nearest available exit.”

Furthermore, one may surmise the resistance would be delighted to clear the roads, provide gasoline and food, and might even throw a flower or two, instead of launching RPGs.

As for the equipment, the 20,000+ mercenaries the Bush regime is buying can hang around and pack it up. For the big bucks they’re pulling down, they could do something besides kill civilians.

When you write: “The problem with this war, as I see it, wasn't so much about the "elites" having too many tools at their disposal; as much as the problem was that there were "elites" in power to begin with,” you have identified the issue crisply and clearly.

**Solidarity,
T**

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.

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.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/,
<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.