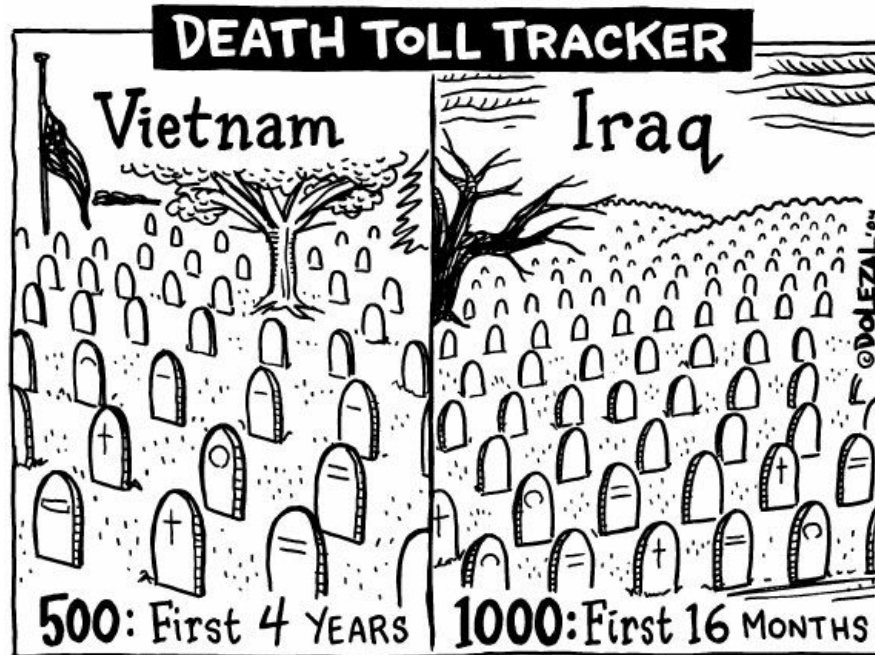


GI SPECIAL 4C7:



[Thanks to PB, who sent this in: Roxanne.typepad.com]

**Fuck What The Troops
Want:
After Meeting Occupation
General,
Collaborator Politician Says He
Has Promise:
U.S. Troops Will Never Leave
Iraq**

March 4, 2006 ALEXANDRA ZAVIS, Associated Press Writer

President Jalal Talabani on Saturday underscored the need for a unity government in Iraq after a spasm of sectarian killing and said he had been assured U.S. forces would remain in the country as long as needed, “no matter what the period.” [And since the Iraqis will never stop fighting for their liberation from the occupation, that means never.]

Talabani spoke to reporters after a meeting with Gen. John Abizaid, chief of U.S. Central Command, who met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad on Saturday.

Talabani said Abizaid assured him Saturday that U.S. forces “are ready to stay as long as we ask them, no matter what the period is.”

Fuck What The Troops Want: U.S. Command Denies There Is Any Withdrawal Plan

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Mar 5 By Ibon Villeda, Reuters

The U.S. military in Iraq said on Sunday media reports that America and Britain planned to pull all troops out of Iraq by spring 2007 were “completely false,” reiterating that there was no timetable for withdrawal.

Two British newspapers reported on Sunday that the pull-out plan followed an acceptance by the two governments that the presence of foreign troops in Iraq was now an obstacle to securing peace.

“This news report on a withdrawal of forces within a set timeframe is completely false,” Lieutenant Colonel Barry Johnson said of the stories in Britain's Sunday Telegraph and Sunday Mirror, which quoted unnamed senior defense ministry sources.

Fuck What The Troops Want: Pentagon Says No Decrease In U.S. Forces In Iraq “For The Foreseeable Future”

MARCH 4, 2006 BY TOM BOWMAN, SUN REPORTER

The top U.S. commander in Iraq said yesterday that he hopes to make an assessment this spring about whether to reduce the number of American troops in Iraq.

But Pentagon officials speaking anonymously said a recent surge in violence there has dampened hopes that force levels can be cut anytime soon.

The expectation now is that U.S. force levels will remain the same for the foreseeable future, according to a senior military officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another Pentagon official said that with violence continuing in Iraq, the current number of American troops would likely be maintained at least through the end of 2006.

"They're planning for the long haul this year," the official said. "The numbers will be sustained or slightly increase to provide for trainers."

Currently, 133,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Iraq, a number that has remained largely unchanged for more than a year. A total of 160,000 U.S. forces were in Iraq in December, a temporary spike intended to provide security for nationwide elections.

Comment: T

Never forget. The war in Vietnam didn't end because the politicians or the commanders wanted it to end.

The war in Vietnam ended when the troops there rebelled against it, and refused to keep fighting it; fragging their officers wholesale; arranging private truces with people they didn't see as "the enemy" anymore; going on "search and evade missions" or simply flat-out refusing to go on combat missions; destroying vast quantities of equipment making missions impossible to execute: the list is endless. And the rebellion spread to the Air Force: pilots refused to bomb. And it spread to the Navy: sailors disabled their ships so they couldn't engage in combat.

It worked. The war stopped. Without an armed force willing to fight, it's very difficult for Imperial politicians to have a war. Duh

That's a fact of life the Imperial assholes issuing all these press statements quoted above have forgotten, if they ever knew it. The troops decide when the war stops. And it will happen again, in this war, not as soon as we might wish, but sooner than anyone now expects. And that will be the end of it.

Everybody knows now that 72% of troops say "end the war this year," and 29% are for immediate withdrawal.

What's new is that because of this poll, now the troops know it too. The news is spreading everywhere in the armed forces in Iraq by now. Today, for the first time, they can look in each others' eyes and know they are the majority.

And that has changed everything, forever.

It's only a matter of time before that consciousness finds expression in ways that are unmistakable, and will shake the world.

The Imperial politicians, Republican and Democrat, who always knew what Iraq was really about, thought they would win an oil empire.

They have ended by losing their troops.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Vt. Guardsman Who Sought To "Make A Difference" Killed

Mar. 3, 2006 By WILSON RING, The Associated Press, COLCHESTER, Vt.

A Vermont National Guard soldier was killed when the observation post he was in was attacked by a group of insurgents in the Iraqi city of Ramadi.

Spc. Christopher Merchant, 32, of Hardwick leaves behind a wife, Monica, and four children, ages 9 to 14. In civilian life, Merchant was a custodian at the Peoples Academy in Morrisville.

He was the second Vermont National Guardsman from Hardwick to die in Iraq while serving with Task Force Saber. Spc. Scott McLaughlin was killed Sept. 22.

Merchant was a 1991 graduate of Peoples Academy. He served in the Army from 1991 to 1995 and the National Guard from 1996 to 1999. He rejoined the Guard last year so he could serve with Task Force Saber. He arrived in Iraq in October, three months after the rest of the group.

Merchant was the sixth member of Task Force Saber to die since the unit arrived in Ramadi in July.

Task Force Saber is part of a brigade combat team led by the Pennsylvania National Guard. Merchant was a member of C Company of the 1st Battalion of the 172nd Armor Regiment based in Morrisville.

Missouri Family Recalls Soldier Killed

02/28/2006 St. Louis Dispatch

Pineville:

A soldier from southwest Missouri killed last week after less than two months in Iraq bought a car shortly before being sent overseas and gave it to his niece, his brother said.

Pfc. Christopher Marion, 20, was one of four soldiers killed Wednesday, when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee while they were on patrol in Al Hawijah, 150 miles north of Baghdad. The soldiers were with the 101st Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Marion's brother, Kevin, said the soldier had used money he earned in basic training to buy the car while home on leave.

Kevin Marion said he would remember his brother as someone who loved scary movies, parties, road trips, swimming, making people laugh and practical jokes.

A friend, Jess Allen, who graduated from McDonald County High School with Marion last year, said, "He was just all about having a good time."

Kevin Marion said his brother always planned on joining the military, even though their mother "didn't think it was that good of an idea." He said "she figured he'd be making his own decision and get a lot of experience."

British Troops Under Attack Near Basra

6 Mar 2006 Scotsman.com

BRITISH troops came under attack from a roadside bomb outside the Iraqi city of Basra today.

The device detonated west of a British Army base south of Basra as a convoy of trucks carrying soldiers believed to be from the Scots Dragoon Guards passed.

No-one was hurt in the incident which took place on a road around seven miles south of the city.

Bomb disposal teams moved in and uncovered a second bomb, known in military jargon as an IED. A third device was found some miles away a short time later. Army sources reported an increase in the number of IEDs over the previous three days.

Marines Pull Out Of Rutbah: Reduced To Checkpoints Outside

“In the long term it cuts down on Marine and civilian casualties,” Biegel said. As for the town’s suspected role in financing insurgent operations, Kosid said there is little the Marines can do until Iraq’s government establishes a security presence.

March 06, 2006 By Antonio Castaneda, Associated Press [Excerpts]

RUTBAH, Iraq: Marines used to patrol the streets of this city near the volatile Syrian border. Now they’ve penned it in with a wall of sand, leaving only three ways in or out.

The Marines ringed Rutbah with a 10.5-mile-long berm, seven feet high and 20 feet wide, in mid January and reduced their presence to checkpoints at the three entrances that also are manned by a few dozen Iraqi soldiers.

The move was forced by a major U.S. effort to make the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah a showplace of American-Iraqi cooperation.

That leaves fewer Marines to patrol a region with close tribal and economic ties to neighboring Syria, which Washington has accused of letting militants slip over the border.

The sand wall is only “an intermediate solution,” said Marine Lt. Col. Robert Kosid, whose 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion is responsible for Rutbah and several thousand square miles of desert around it.

“I think the long-term success of Rutbah involves a permanent presence in the city,” said Kosid, who was also based here on his previous tour in Iraq. But there aren’t any Iraqi forces available now.

Rutbah’s corrupt police force was disbanded last year, and hundreds of Iraqi soldiers that had been in the area were moved north in November for a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation around Qaim.

Some Marines say the checkpoints are effective at weeding out insurgents without resorting to force.

“It’s a more methodical way to use (checkpoints) to clear towns instead of going right in to sweep it,” Sgt. Spencer Biegel of Albany, Ore., said as he helped inspect cars at a checkpoint.

More than a dozen wanted suspects have been caught at Rutbah's checkpoints, he said.

“In the long term it cuts down on Marine and civilian casualties,” Biegel said. [Or, as a soldier said a year ago about a similar situation “We find if we don’t go there, they don’t fight.” Given that the citizens of Rutbah are the “insurgents,” as the story makes clear in the next line, this simply means the resistance now rules in Rutbah.]

As for the town's suspected role in financing insurgent operations, Kosid said there is little the Marines can do until Iraq's government establishes a security presence.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A CROOKED POLITICIAN WHO LIVES IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE, SO HE WILL LOOK GOOD.

That is not a good enough reason.



A US marine and a US Army soldier man their position on the rooftop of a hotel in Ramadi. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

**So Much For “That Progress In Iraq”
Bullshit**

3.5.06 Steve Chapman, Chicago Tribune

For nearly three years, Americans have been told that we are making progress in bringing stability and democratic government to Iraq.

But that state of affairs, like the horizon, keeps receding as we approach.

Lately the carnage has been waxing, not waning. Last month, for example, Iraq suffered 39 "multiple fatality bombings." The previous February, there were 18.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Canadian Takes Command Of Occupation: “Canadian Soldiers Are Coming Home In Body Bags”

March 6, 2006 Mobilization Against War and Occupation

On the morning of Thursday March 2nd, just 48 hours after command of the NATO occupation forces in Southern Afghanistan was handed over to Canadian Brigadier-General David Fraser, Canadian Cpl. Paul James Davis of Bridgewater Nova Scotia was killed when his military vehicle "flipped over" during a "routine patrol" in Kandahar Afghanistan.

Seven others were injured in the crash.

Attacks on Canadian soldiers continued in the hours and days that followed.

In the suicide bomb, roadside bomb, and axe attacks that occurred at least every 24 hours on Thursday March 2nd, Friday March 3rd, Saturday March 4th and Sunday March 5th, two Canadian soldiers were killed, and at least 12 were wounded, some critically.

MAWO Co-Chair Shannon Bundock explained these attacks in the context of the escalation of Canada's military occupation of Afghanistan: "It is no coincidence that Canadian troops are under attack in the increasingly violent "combat mission" that is Canada's occupation of Afghanistan," Bundock said.

"There are 2,300 troops stationed in Kandahar. Canadian Brigadier-General David Fraser is leading the NATO forces in 'tracking down' the Afghan people that Rick Hillier and the Government of Canada refer to as 'scumbags and murderers'.

This is a war drive. Already we are seeing that Canada's 'top soldier' Rick Hillier's predictions about this combat mission are coming true: Canadian soldiers are coming home in body bags."

Notes From A Lost War:

“I’m Sure I’ve Shaken Hands With Some People Who Have Plotted Against Us”

Mar 05, 2006 KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP)

The attack sounds like the work of a madman, an axe-wielding attempt at murder rather than an act of war.

Lieut. Trevor Greene was chatting with dozens of elders near his forward base in Gumbad when an Afghan villager pulled an axe with a 60-centimetre handle from inside his clothing.

The villager, in his 20s, held the axe high over Greene's head and yelled "Allah Akbar," God is Great.

The man fulfilled his destiny. He delivered his nearly lethal blow and then died where he stood, his body riddled with bullets from Capt. Kevin Schamuhn and two of his fellow soldiers.

Schamuhn, Greene's platoon commander, was sure Greene was dead.

"It was my initial assessment that Trevor was dead on impact because of the force with which the axe hit his head," Schamuhn recounted Saturday.

"Fortunately, that was not the case."

Greene was in serious but stable condition Sunday and on his way to a U.S.-military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

He was promoted to captain before his departure. He was due for a promotion later this year, but the boost in rank was fast-tracked so he could receive it in the field.

The notion the act was of a lone maniac quickly disappeared.

While villagers scattered in all directions, enemy small-arms fire broke out from across the river. Canadians and their Afghan allies returned fire. Then, as things calmed slightly, another man moved toward coalition forces and tossed a hand grenade.

The Afghans and Canadians returned fire again as the grenade exploded harmlessly. Schamuhn believes the man was hit but the grenade attacker scurried away in the mayhem.

As things calmed down, a U.S. Blackhawk helicopter whisked Greene away to a Canadian hospital at Kandahar Airfield. He remains there in serious condition, awaiting a plane ride to Germany and home.

The Afghans and Canadians went into the village to find answers. All they found were seven old men and some women and children.

"There were no fighting age males there," said Schamuhn.

"The leaders we had been speaking to earlier had disappeared and all the young men that we were talking to had disappeared."

No villager would say who the dead attacker was.

The platoon from Company A of the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry brigade in Afghanistan was making a series of stops in small villages Saturday from their forward operating base 70 kilometres north of Kandahar.

Villagers in a meeting hours earlier welcomed them with blankets and bread and meats.

The meetings with local leaders are known as shura and are key to getting anything done in rural areas.

The fateful meeting was off to a good start when the attacker struck, Schamuhn said.

The first hint of trouble could only be seen in the light of hindsight, he said. "About two or three minutes prior to the incident, all the children that were present were escorted away, about 20 to 30 metres away," Schamuhn recalled. [And that is not "a good start."]

"But none of us picked up on this, there was no weird feeling, no gut feeling that something was about to go down."

Schamuhn has grown to trust villagers through dozens of encounters. He and Greene had removed their helmets and set down their arms in a sign of respect and trust.

"I'm sure I've shaken hands with some people who have plotted against us," he said.

"You can't tell." [This really belongs in a collection of "famous last words from Imperial wars of occupation."]

Schamuhn said he had started to believe the oft repeated Afghan contention that foreigners are causing all the trouble. He doesn't believe it now.

"This guy, he was a local villager from this village who was coerced or persuaded by some outside force to do this against us," Schamuhn said. **[So, he's still an idiot, still can't believe that Afghans don't want an occupation army in their country. Dumbfuck prime.]**

"We were completely vulnerable to them and they took complete advantage of that. There was a lot of people who knew what was about to happen." **[Gee, maybe it's not some silly "outside force" involved? Could that be?]**

Schamuhn and his men were back Saturday night in their small camp near Gumbad. They stay in a mud-walled farmers compound, with razor wire providing an outside ring of security.

Schamuhn said his men are fine, although sleep would not come easy this night. They are warriors, he said.

"My guys are ready to fight again. They're ready to go back out and do their job."

"They are ready to go and protect and continue on this mission. They are not afraid." **[He was almost sounding credible, and then he had to overdo it with that "they are not afraid" line. After having just seen a brother get his head opened up with an axe, if they're not just a teensy bit afraid, they're as blind and stupid as their Captain.]**

Playing A Losing Hand

3.13.06 Time

In places like Helmand province, where few Afghan or foreign troops are stationed, the main burden of fending off the insurgents has fallen to an Afghan police force that is poorly trained and often overmatched by the Taliban.

PAKISTAN LEADER TELLS U.S. THEIR AFGHAN STOOGES ARE BRAIN DEAD

3.6.06 Los Angeles Times

President Pervez Musharraf accused his Afghan counterpart of being "totally oblivious" about the situation on the border of their two nations, where skirmishes between Pakistani army units and pro Taliban militants continues.

In an interview on CNN, an irritated Musharraf responded to contentions by the Afghan government that it provided Pakistan with intelligence indicating that former Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and key associates were hiding on the Pakistani side of the border.

TROOP NEWS

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



The casket of Corporal Felipe Carvalho Barbosa goes to the graveside as Corporal Barbosa's family members look on at Floral Garden Memorial Park Cemetery in High Point, North Carolina February 6, 2006. Barbosa, a Brazilian native who recently became a U.S. citizen, was serving as an infantryman with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment of the U.S. Marine Corps when he was killed in Iraq on January 28, 2006
REUTERS/Ellen Ozier

Dan Quayle, Bush The Elders' VP, Behind Job Cuts At Walter Reed!

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: March 06, 2006
Subject: IAP Worldwide Services = Cerberus Global Investments = Dan Quayle

Dear GI Special,

After reading in GI Special about the loss of jobs at Walter Reed following the new contract to IAP Worldwide Services I googled the company.

Sure enough the officers are made of Halliburton and KBR types, and the company is owned by Cerberus Global Investments, a limited partnership with 16 billion in capital.

The chairman of Cerberus Global Investments, since 2000, has been Dan Quayle.

Crony capitalism at work.

I wonder who those limited partners are?

THIS IS THE STORY HE WRITES ABOUT:

War Profiteers Target Walter Reed

3.1.06 Washington Times

Lawmakers and military officials are calling for an investigation into a \$120 million contract at Walter Reed Army Medical Center that will replace hundreds of federal union workers.

A Government Accountability Office ruling Feb. 21 upheld the Army's contract award to IAP Worldwide Services, although the Army initially determined that using federal, in-house employees would be most feasible.

IAP would provide administrative, managerial and operational support services at the hospital.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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)

“Right Now I Don't Have Any Bone On My Head It's Just Brain And Skin”

March 3 By Brandie Meng, WNEP

A local soldier caught in the line of fire while serving in Iraq is now at home and recovering from a gunshot wound to his head.

Sergeant Michael Scott Bennett said he's is relieved to be safe at his home near Montgomery and is now relaxing and enjoying being around family and friends.

On February 15 the National Guardsman with the 109th was seriously injured while on patrol just outside Ramadi, Iraq.

“Right now I don't have any bone on my head it's just brain and skin,” SGT Bennett said. “We were out on patrol going through a high rise apartment building. We made a wrong turn and got into some mud. It just rained and when it rains in Iraq, it gets bad when it rains. A lot of things sink, like Humvees.”

Bennett said as he and his team were trying to get the vehicles out of the mud, “I just peered over the Humvee to make sure, I heard shots ring out and hit me and knocked me over. I didn't realize I was hit until I got back up.”

He knew he was shot in the head when he saw blood dripping from his helmet. He said he didn't feel any pain and was even conscious enough to call home.

“I was glad to hear his voice but then I couldn't speak,” said mom, Mary Bennett.

“It was definitely a shock. I can't remember ever feeling that shock ever before,” said Bennett's wife, Jolie.

“I just wanted a hug and thank God he's alive,” the sergeant's mother said.

SGT Bennett still has a few more surgeries to undergo but he and his family are all relieved he's safe and will be okay.

Lawrence Of Arabia Invented IEDs

3.5.06 Long Island Newsday

If anyone can claim credit for inventing the improvised explosive device, it is Lawrence of Arabia. When insurgents in Iraq use IEDs to attack armored vehicles and disrupt U.S. supply lines, they are taking a page from the less advanced tactics of T.E. Lawrence, the British liaison officer who pioneered guerrilla warfare during the 1916-18 Arab revolt against Turkish rule.

His main lesson for insurgents: If you're facing a bigger and better-armed adversary, don't engage him directly.

Army Suspends 14 Recruiters In California For Faking Documents

March 06, 2006 By Jeremiah Marquez, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES: Fourteen Army recruiters have been suspended from their duties pending a military probe into allegations they falsified documents at recruiting stations in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, authorities said Friday.

Army investigators are focusing on recruiting stations in Oxnard and Santa Maria, said Michael Shepherd, an assistant chief of staff for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, based in Fort Knox, Ky.

The allegations include "falsifying documents" that accompany recruiting applications for enlistments, he said.

No further details were immediately available. Messages left with officials at Oxnard and Santa Maria recruiting stations were not immediately returned.

DoD Crooks At Work: Air Force Chief Tied To Contract Fraud; Centcom Official Being Investigated

3.5.06 Arizona Republic:

The highest-ranking officer in the Air Force pushed a \$49 million publicity project for the Thunderbirds air show that is now being investigated by federal regulators.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley and other top officials were involved in steering the contract toward a Pennsylvania company, Strategic Message Solutions, whose senior partners included a recently retired four-star Air Force general, according to the allegations.

3.5.06 Tampa Tribune:

The Pentagon inspector general is examining allegations that Lonnie Smith, a senior manager in the intelligence directorate of the U.S. Central Command, retaliated against a subordinate who complained that Smith used his influence to help his son-in-law get a job at Centcom, a potential violation of a federal law barring nepotism.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



The wreckage of a police pick up truck in Mahmoudiya March 6, 2006. A car bomb targeting a police patrol injured two policemen. (AP Photo/Haider Fatehi)

March 6, 2006 AP & CNN & KUNA & Xinhua

In Baquoba, a car explosion two policemen and wounded 4 others.

One bomb exploded as a police patrol was driving along Mughrb Street in the northern Azamiyah neighbourhood, killing one officer and a civilian bystander, Interior Ministry official Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi said. One patrol member was wounded, he said.

A car bomber hit an Interior Ministry convoy near al-Mustansiriyah University, in eastern Baghdad, killing two members of the security force and injuring three, police said.

Another car bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in downtown, injuring at least four policemen.

Two bombs went off in Baghdad's notorious southern Dora neighborhood. One targeted an Interior Ministry patrol, wounding one commando, police said.

A second went off as a U.S. patrol was passing, injuring five policemen who were guarding a bank, said al-Mohammedawi. The injured included two staff members of the bank.

In Mahmoudiya, a car bomb hit a police patrol, injuring two policemen, said police Cap. Rashid al-Samarie.

A latest explosion occurred in Jadriya neighborhood of central Baghdad, killing three policeman and injuring one other, police sources told Xinhua.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

Top Collaborator General Killed By Sniper

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. He writes: ONE SHOT, ONE KILL, AS THEY SAY]

3.6.06 Reuters & BBC

One of the highest-ranking generals in Iraq's new, U.S. trained army was shot dead in Baghdad on Monday, the U.S. military and Iraqi police said.

Major General Mubdar Hatim al-Dulaimi, commander of all Iraqi army forces in the capital, was killed by a sniper, police sources said. The man was killed by a sniper while driving through the Gazaliya area of the city at about 1700 (1400 GMT).

As the commander of the 6th Division, among the first and biggest of Iraq's new army divisions formed by U.S. forces, Dulaimi was among the most prominent officers in Iraq's security forces.

He is also thought to be the most senior Iraqi officer to be killed since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Agent

Thanks to Alycia Barr, mother of a man who served in Iraq, for sending this in. She writes:

“After reading the articles by George Liningston and George Webster concerning DU exposure and the need for testing then struggling through Garrett's piece thought you'd like to read what follows this message.

“The chemical makeup of AO and DU are different but they deliver the same death blow in the end. Curious how both substances are served up to our soldiers by the same source...our own government.

“The sad connection to these WMDs and PTSD is in the following comment...”

Paul lost his Brother just this last Saturday after his long illness with AO and PTSD.

Paul Norton wrote: "The Agent" has collected my brother's receipt, he has died.

John Norton, Grand Blanc Class of 1959 has died in Illinois. He was RA (Regular Army) U.S. Army 1963 to 1966.

Two tours in Vietnam. Honorable discharge, and Agent Orange cancers recognized by our glorious Veterans Affairs system that was so kind to fry his insides with radiation in not only the right area, but also some wrong areas for good measure.

They apologized to him in their own warm govt. way. He of course is who inspired me in the middle of the night after he began to suffer, to write the 'Agent ' poem.

Hell, I ain't no poet. It just came out. I was gonna toss it out and Shirley said save it.

It is for all the Cpl. John Norton's who have suffered, are suffering, and have yet to suffer, from Agent Orange exposure.

We poor mislead shits that joined to save America sure got a surprise didn't we?

As an enlistee myself, I can say that.

Nothing new to report except that my oldest brother John , a veteran, has died. I know he is not hurting now and is in a better place.

Younger brother Paul.

MORE:

To: firebase-news@yahooogroups.com

Sent: March 05, 2006 11:10 PM

Subject: [firebase-news] Written by a Vietnam Veteran Waiting For The Agent

This hurts

I remember when Paul Norton wrote this poem...his wife showed it to me without Paul knowing. (I read it once & a chill went through me! My God! He was speaking for every Nam Vet I knew!)

He didn't think it was any good, but his wife, Shirley & I convinced him to let us show it around...he wanted notoriety back then.

I remember Jennie said "The Agent" is scary & she didn't like it...we tried to convince her that if some of those stubborn, bull-headed Vets would read it perhaps they would think about going to get regular physicals which is their best defense against "The Agent".

My tears fall freely right now because like Paul says "The Agent " has collected my brother's receipt, he has died."

But I still hope that by reading this email it will convince a few more Veterans to get regular physicals & by doing so they may have a better chance at fending off this horrible grim reaper.

The only comfort at this time for John Norton is like Paul says "I know he is not hurting now and is in a better place."

May the wonder of angels give you peace and hope

Hugz, Shelia

The Agent

I am the reminder.

I am a herald of sorrow and anguish..

Pain and misery precede me on my appointed rounds.

I collect on debts owed. I am the keeper of receipts.

My list of diagnosis grows. I grow.

I am the Agent.

Through the years my disguises are many.

The result is the same.

I am irresistible, unstoppable, though once preventable, now terminal.

Final.

Look here to the dark angel of a generation misguided and mismanaged.

I am the way to this inglorious and undeserved end.

I have the last word.

I am the Agent.

I am the instrument of early demise ongoing.

I am a corrupter of men's ideal and intentions.

I am the Agent.

Some will escape me. Not many. All will know of me.

I know whom I have gotten and who yet remains.

I have the last word.

I am the Agent. I am dioxin. I am Agent Orange.

Written by a Vietnam Veteran Waiting For The Agent



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)

“The Politicians And Businessmen Of War Don’t Want That Gravy Train To Stop”

As long as we continue to be led by unapologetic war makers, their wealthy business cronies and the bribery from large political campaign contributors, there is no chance we will ever obtain a meaningful peace.

March 6, 2006 Gary Kohls, MD Lew Rockwell.com [Excerpt]

If we actually knew the gruesome realities of war (or even understood the immorality of spending trillions of dollars on war preparation while hundreds of millions of people are homeless and starving) we would refuse to cooperate with the things that make for war.

But that wouldn't be good for the war profiteers who profit from war.

So those businesses must hide the gruesome truths and try instead to make it look like something patriotic, with, for example, sloganeering like "Be All That You Can Be."

Or they might try to convince the soon-to-be-childless mothers of doomed, dead or dying soldiers that their child had died fighting for God, Country and Honor instead of for domination of the Middle East's oil reserves.

Let's face it. The US military standing army system has been bankrupting America at \$500+ billion year after year after year, even in times of so-called "peace."

The warmongering legacy of the Pentagon is still with us, particularly among those who wanted to "nuke the gooks" in Vietnam.

Policy-makers of that ilk are still in charge of US war-making today, and they have been solidifying their power to do so with the huge profits made off the deaths, screams, blood, guts and permanent disabilities of our hood-winked soldiers who were told that they were "saving the world for democracy" when in fact they were making the world fit for ruthless and exploitive global capitalism and the obscene profits of the few.

And the politicians and businessmen of war don't want that gravy train to stop.

As long as we continue to be led by unapologetic war makers, their wealthy business cronies and the bribery from large political campaign contributors, there is no chance we will ever obtain a meaningful peace.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: 14,000 Imprisoned Without Trial

[Thanks to many people, who sent this in.]

March 6, 2006 Mike McDonough, Guardian Newspapers Limited

US and UK forces in Iraq have detained thousands of people without charge or trial for long periods and there is growing evidence of Iraqi security forces torturing detainees, Amnesty International said today.

In a new report published today, the human rights group criticised the US-led multinational force for interning some 14,000 people.

Around 3,800 people have been held for over a year, while another 200 have been detained for more than two years, the report, *Beyond Abu Ghraib: detention and torture in Iraq*, said.

"It is a dangerous precedent for the world that the US and UK think it completely defensible to hold thousands of people without charge or trial," Amnesty spokesman Neil Durkin said.

The vast majority of the 14,000 people held in Iraq are in US custody.

Amnesty said it was concerned the lawyers do not have access to any substantive evidence against their clients.

One man, Hillal "Abdul Razzaq" Ali al-Jedda, has been in British custody since his arrest in October 2004.

The 48-year-old dual Iraqi and UK national has not been charged with any offence, and a court of appeal judgment on his detention is awaited following a hearing in January.

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

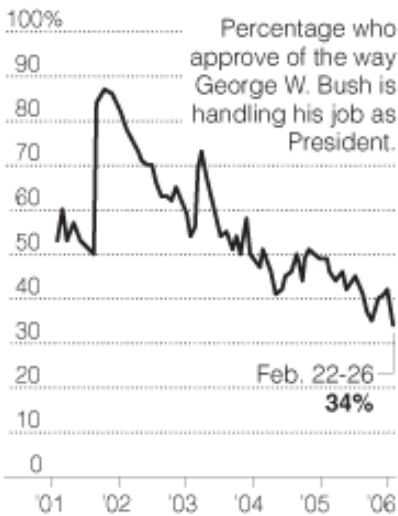
DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Blinding Flash Of The Obvious

3.13.06 Fareed Zakaria, Newsweek

The Bush administration's first, massive misstep in Iraq was to occupy a country of 25 million people with only 140,000 troops.

Falling Approval



Source: Based on nationwide telephone surveys conducted by The New York Times and CBS News. The latest poll was conducted Feb. 22-26 by CBS News with 1,012 adults.

The New York Times

D.C. Republicans And Democrats Think Government Spying On Americans Just Fine: They're Just Pissed Nobody Asked Their Permission

3.6.06 USA Today

Despite widespread criticism of President Bush's warrantless surveillance program, even vociferous detractors in Congress stop short of calling for an end to the anti-terrorist eavesdropping.

At issue for many Republicans and Democrats is not the program itself, but how little the White House told Congress about it and how much it expands presidential power.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Students Strike After Teacher Suspended For Criticizing Bush



Overland High School students demonstrate March 2, 2006, in Aurora, Colo., to protest the school district's decision to put geography teacher Jay Bennish on administrative leave. (AP Photo/Aurora Daily Sun)

AURORA, Colo., March 3, 2006, CBS/AP)

About 150 students at a suburban Denver high school walked out of class to protest a decision to put a teacher on administrative leave while the school investigates remarks he allegedly made in class about President Bush, including a comment that some people compare Mr. Bush to Adolf Hitler.

The protest came Thursday as administrators began investigating whether Overland High School teacher Jay Bennish violated a policy requiring balancing viewpoints in the classroom, Cherry Creek School District spokeswoman Tustin Amole said.

"It was peaceful. The students yelled, but there was no fighting," Amole said. "Most of them did return to class."

Capitalism At Work:

Mining Corporations And Government Cooperate To Kill And Maim Miners:

“One Dead And Another Man’s Life Ruined, And They Pay Nothing?”

March 2, 2006 By IAN URBINA and ANDREW W. LEHREN, New York Times, CRAIGSVILLE, W.Va.

In its drive to foster a more cooperative relationship with mining companies, the Bush administration has decreased major fines for safety violations since 2001, and in nearly half the cases, it has not collected the fines, according to a data analysis by The New York Times.

Federal records also show that in the last two years the federal mine safety agency has failed to hand over any delinquent cases to the Treasury Department for further collection efforts, as is supposed to occur after 180 days.

"The Bush administration ushered in this desire to develop cooperative ties between regulators and the mining industry," said Tony Oppegard, a top official at the agency in the Clinton administration. "Safety has certainly suffered as a result."

Also troubling, critics say, is that fines are regularly reduced in negotiations between mine operators and the agency. From 2001 to 2003, more than two-thirds of all major fines were cut from the original amount that the agency proposed. Most of the more recent cases are enmeshed in appeals, so it is impossible to know whether that trend has continued.

"The agency keeps talking about issuing more fines, but it doesn't matter much," said Bruce Dial, a former inspector for the mine safety agency. "The number of citations means nothing when the citations are small, negotiable and most often uncollected."

Before the January disaster at the Sago Mine near here, where 12 miners died, the operator had been cited 273 times since 2004. None of the fines exceeded \$460, roughly one-thousandth of 1 percent of the \$110 million net profit reported last year by the current owner of the mine, the International Coal Group.

(At a House oversight hearing on Wednesday, agency officials repeatedly cited the frequency of fines against Sago in the year before the accident as proof of aggressive enforcement. Exasperated, Representative Lynn Woolsey, Democrat of California, replied that maybe those fines had little effect because many were for \$60. That point set off applause from audience members.)

"Most fines are so small that they are seen not as deterrents but as the cost of doing business," said Wes Addington, a lawyer with the Appalachian Citizens Law Center in Prestonsburg, Ky., which handles mine safety cases.

Using federal records, Mr. Addington released a study in January indicating that since 1995 nearly a third of the active underground mines in Kentucky had failed to pay their fines.

"Operators know that it's cheaper to pay the fine than to fix the problem," Mr. Addington said. "But they also know the cheapest of all routes is to not pay at all. It's pretty galling."

Larry Williams, who now lives in Craigsville, 50 miles east of Charleston, knows this frustration well.

In 2002, he was working with a fellow miner, Gary Martin, in a deep mine near Rupert, 25 miles south of here, when the roof collapsed on them. Mr. Martin died instantly, and Mr. Williams was trapped for more than four hours under several thousand pounds of rock that crushed his pelvis and both legs.

The men had been pillaring, or second mining, which involves extracting the last remaining coal in tunnels by scraping it from the coal pillars used to hold up the roof. This method is considered extremely dangerous. Federal regulations aim to reduce the risk.

In this case, federal investigators found that the regulations were not followed. The operators were fined \$165,000. Those fines have not been paid, even though the mine owner, Midland Trail Resources, which did not reply to requests for comment, remains in business, according to state records.

“It makes me mad,” said Mr. Williams, 50, who is paralyzed through much of his right side. “One dead and another man’s life ruined, and they pay nothing? It just doesn’t make sense.” [It makes perfect sense. The government serves the wealthy and powerful. They make sure of that. As long as their class exists, that’s how it will be. They have outlived their usefulness. Time to wipe them off the face of the earth, once and for all. After they’ve finished their prison terms, in this case for killing miners, they can be put to work doing something useful, like digging coal.]

Government Faking Inflation Figures: One More Rip Off For Working Class Americans

February 28, 2006 by Bill Bonner, The Daily Reckoning

“But how about the inflation-price statistics that are announced monthly?” asked Richard Russell yesterday.

“For instance, the latest CPI figures show a rise of 0.7% in January or at an inflation rate of almost 9%.

To hide this the Fed depends on the ridiculous ‘core inflation’ rate, which eliminates food and energy. How about this: the core rate has been lower than the overall gain in the CPI for 39 consecutive months. That’s the longest such stretch since the government started computing the core rate back in the 1950s.”

What a shock! Government quants created the “core” measure in order to eliminate the volatility of food and energy prices. This would give us a more accurate and consistent picture of inflation, they said.

What it really does is persistently understate the actual inflation figure.

Lies, lies, lies...and more lies. But, what do you expect, dear reader? Yet, who doesn't like lies...so long as they are flattering?

[What the writer ignores is that for many workers, their wages are increased with increased inflation, when that is written into their union contracts, and that Social Security recipients also receive increases based on their government inflation figures. So the scum in Washington have figured out another way to drive our incomes lower, while enriching themselves, which is, after all, the reason they go to Washington in the first place. T]

100,000 Demonstrate In New Delhi Against Bush Visit

March 1, 2006 Times of India

GET THE MESSAGE?



Indian protesters rally against Bush in New Delhi March 1, 2006. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

A Few People In India Really Don't Like Bush



Indian protesters against the visit of Bush to India, in Bombay, India, March 2, 2006. (AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi)

Received:

Sgt. Charles E. Matheny, IV, 23

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: March 06, 2006
Subject: Sgt. Charles E. Matheny, IV, 23

Dear GI Special,

Thanks for publishing the story of Sgt. Charles E. Matheny, IV, 23, murdered in Iraq.

I don't see these stories anywhere else.

I try to read them all. It drives home the reality of the monstrous hole we've gotten ourselves into. It's the least I can do when my fellows are being murdered and maimed in Iraq. At least witness their sacrifice. My heart goes out to those left behind in the wake of this illegal and immoral war of aggression in Iraq.

I write to George Bush on occasions like this. I beg him to pray to his god for the strength to just stop taking orders from Cheney and the neocons. He is said to have beat the booze with his lord's help, surely, if he will just let the scales fall from his eyes

and admit that he, who is personally responsible for every violent death in Iraq since his shocking, awful invasion and occupation of that country, can prevent the loss of tens of thousands more innocent lives before 20 January 2007.

No one can bring back the innocents he has slaughtered already. He must stand trial for his war crimes. But he can still prevent the loss of tens of thousands more innocent lives if he will just open his eyes and realize what he has become: a liar, a murderer, a war criminal. And ask his lord for help.

Surely the god who helped him beat the booze will help he draw back from denial, take responsibility for what he has done, and murder no more.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/, <http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>,
<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>
http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/, <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>,
<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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