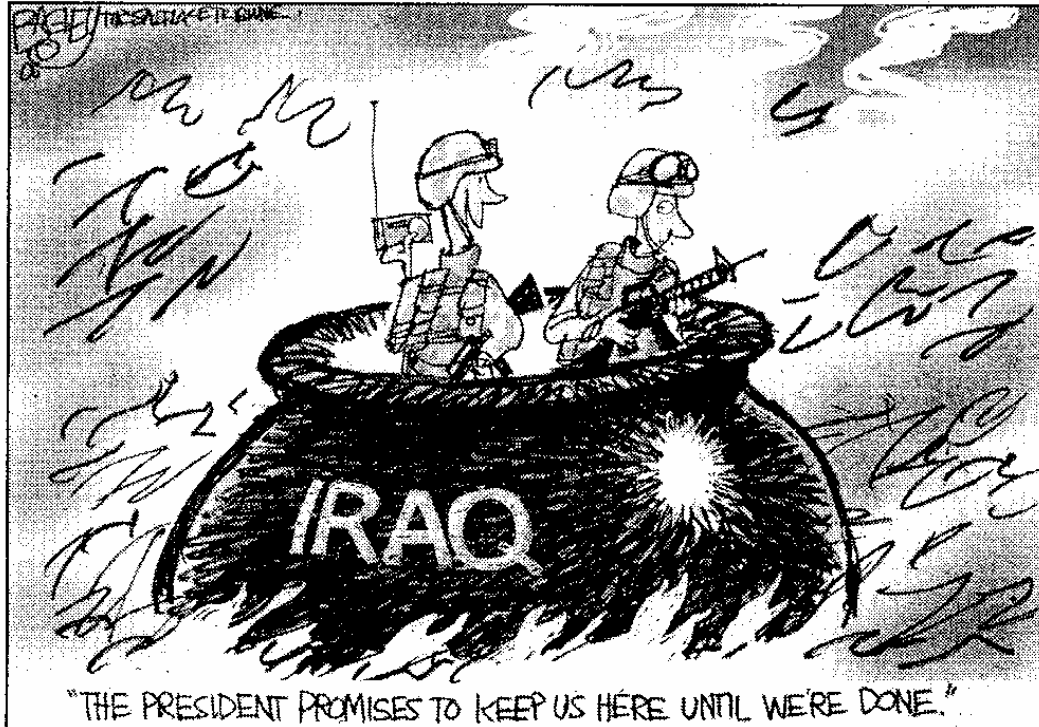


GI SPECIAL 4128:



**Stupid, Sadistic Freak
Assholes In Command
At FOB Falcon Defy
Army Policy:
Risk Soldiers Health And Lives
For No Good Reason At All**

October 02, 2006

I am deployed in Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

According to many soldiers previously deployed, including several senior noncommissioned officers, it is not Army standard to conduct multiple physical fitness tests in combat.

Our leadership decided to go against Army policy.

Out here in South Baghdad, also known as the "Red Zone," soldiers die daily. Many are working 16-plus hour days, odd shifts, and pulling details in between.

I do not believe it's fair to give them record APFTs in the combat zone.

How fair is it to impose upon a soldier the risk of getting flagged when he is doing dangerous work, being ripped away from his family for 12 or more consecutive months?

The climate here is extremely hot and tiring. It is not possible to get a beneficial workout when you risk becoming a heat casualty. Even the coolest part of the day, 5 a.m., is almost 90 degrees. Some soldiers work nights and cannot get up at that hour to conduct PT.

To run here is impossible, unless you want to sprain your ankle or break your leg. There are no paved or smooth runways. There is nothing but hard, bumpy rock everywhere, which can be hazardous even to walk around.

Prior to deployment, we are given our record APFT. The soldiers are in excellent shape before deploying.

I do not see just cause in conducting anything beyond a diagnostic PT test in a combat theater of operations.

**Spc. John Meehan
Fort Hood, Texas**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

MND Baghdad Soldier Dies From Wounds Following Small-Arms Fire Attack

27 September 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20060927-07

BAGHDAD: A Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldier died at approximately noon today from wounds he received when his patrol was attacked by small-arms fire in southern Baghdad.

MNF W Soldier Dies In Anbar

27 September 2006 THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR MULTINATIONAL FORCE
WEST RELEASE No. 20060927-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division died Monday from enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province

MNFW Marine Killed In Anbar

27 September 2006 Multi-National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20060927-04

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died Monday from enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province

Port Arthur Resident Killed In Iraq

9/27/2006 KBTW

A Port Arthur family tonight is in mourning. Relatives tell us 28-year-old Edward Charles Reynolds was killed Monday night in Iraq when his vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

Reynolds was in the Army and had been in Iraq for nearly two years. Reynolds was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School. He leaves behind three children.

Bomb Kills Kaneohe Marine In Iraq

September 23, 2006 By Gregg K. Kakesako, Honolulu Star-Bulletin

A Kaneohe Marine unit completing its seven-month combat tour in Iraq next month has suffered its 12th casualty this year.

The Marine Corps said Cpl. Yull Estrada Rodriguez, 21, of Alegre Lajas, Puerto Rico, was the gunner of a 7-ton truck when it struck a homemade bomb Wednesday in Al-Anbar province.

Estrada Rodriguez enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 2004 and reported to Hawaii in July 2004.

It was his second combat tour. Estrada Rodriguez deployed to Afghanistan in late 2004 with Kaneohe Bay's 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. He left Kaneohe for Iraq with the same unit in March.

His awards include the Purple Heart, two Combat Action ribbons, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and two Sea Service Deployment ribbons.

He is survived by his mother and father.

Estrada Rodriguez's unit, the 3rd Battalion, is being replaced by its affiliate unit, the 2nd Battalion. A Kaneohe spokesman yesterday said that a majority of Rodriguez's unit is expected to be home next month.

Three 3rd Battalion Marines were killed in Afghanistan in 2004.

Thirty-three soldiers, two sailors, 56 Marines, one Air Force personnel and one civilian with Hawaii ties have been killed in Iraq since the war started in March 19, 2003.

Local Sailor Killed In Iraq; “He Was Counting Down The Days To Come Home”

September 19, 2006 BY STEPHANIE HEINATZ SHEINATZ, DAILY PRESS

HAMPTON: His Little Creek-based explosive disposal unit went three years without losing a sailor. It's lost two in recent weeks.

From a window inside her Hampton home, Cristale Roddy saw them coming.

The command master chief. The chaplain. The executive officer of Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 2.

The somberness of their walk, the sadness in their eyes, might not have registered with her a month ago.

But on Aug. 22, during his fourth trip to the desert, Chief Petty Officer Paul Darga was killed in Iraq by a homemade bomb. Cristale's husband - Petty Officer 2nd Class Dave Roddy - was not only Darga's friend and battle buddy, but he was also with him when he

died. "I guess that's how I knew," Cristale Roddy said Monday of the casualty notification team walking up her driveway Saturday. "I've been uncomfortable the last three weeks. Losing one of our own served as a reminder."

Dave Roddy was killed Saturday in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, one of the most volatile regions of the war-torn country. The 32-year-old was responding to a report of an improvised explosive device when a secondary bomb exploded nearby.

As of early Monday morning, 2,678 troops have been killed in Iraq. Homemade bombs, or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as the Defense Department dubs them, remain the leading cause of death and injury there. By Monday afternoon, the sailors bearing the devastating news were long gone.

"I'm hanging in there," Cristale said quietly.

A support system is there for her. Dave's parents - Bob and Carol Roddy - had driven down from Maryland.

Dave's buddies in Iraq kept the phone ringing. One said he wasn't going to go to sleep that night until he talked to Cristale, sending his condolences.

Several fellow Navy wives, including the unit's ombudsman, filled the house with food and children. The kids kept the couple's three young children - 10-year-old Jessica and 7-year-old twins, Matthew and Michael - busy playing.

Cristale watched them run around, recognizing that military kids serve, too. A small magnet hanging in her car says just that.

The food was stuffed into a refrigerator where, on the door, a program from Darga's memorial service still hangs.

Occasionally someone talked about Dave, telling their favorite story of a man who loved to laugh.

Dave didn't immediately join the service after high school, his mother, Carol, said.

He worked a few civilian jobs, including one as a clerk at a video rental store. That's where he met Cristale.

"I was returning a movie," she said, smiling at the memory. "He was just so very sweet, and a jokester."

They married 11 years ago.

In late 1999, Dave decided to join the Navy.

"I supported him," Cristale said. "I knew that he wasn't a 9-to-5 kind of guy."

At first he was a more typical sailor, stationed on ships, riding the high seas. He loved it, his mother said.

Dave was an electrician, a position that helped fill his desire to fix things. "One day he was talking with some guys on the ship about EOD," Carol said. "He fell in love with it."

He started researching how to become a member of the Navy's elite bomb experts. Then he ran into a roadblock.

Several years back, while stationed in Japan, Dave was hit by a civilian truck driver. His injuries required nine surgeries and a lot of rehabilitation.

"But he never gave up on getting into Navy dive school," Carol said of the first step sailors must take to become an EOD technician. "He said he would run again and he would make it. That's how dedicated he was."

He did make it.

A little more than a year ago, he graduated from explosive disposal training and was assigned to Little Creek. Earlier this year, from January to March, he deployed to Kuwait. Dave returned home until June, when he left for Iraq.

EOD sailors are often likened to firefighters. Their job, when a bomb is found threatening the safety of other troops, is to run toward the danger, not away from it.

When they're not diffusing or blowing up explosives, they're investigating bombs that have exploded. In May, dozens of sailors in Dave's unit were awarded Bronze Stars, the military's fourth-highest medal for bravery.

To Dave, though, his wife said, "he wasn't a hero or brave. He thought of it as just doing his job."

After Darga was killed, though, Dave was shook up, his mother said. While in Iraq, he was fortunate to call home pretty regularly. He called more after his friend's death.

He talked to his parents a week ago, calling to check up his mother who just had surgery. "And he promised he'd be safe," Bob Roddy said.

Cristale talked to him for the last time Friday.

He was looking forward to wrestling with the boys, becoming a soccer coach and, hopefully, being with his family for the holidays, she said.

"He was counting down the days to come home," Cristale said.

Kinston Native Wounded In Iraq

September 20, 2006 KATIE MARSHALL, STAFF WRITER, Freedom ENC Communications

A Kinston native was wounded in a suicide truck bomb in Iraq last week that killed two American soldiers.

“We were just sitting outside talking about what we were going to do when we got back home,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bright, 33, during a telephone interview from a hospital in Germany. “Some talked about family vacations and new babies.”

The soldiers were resting Thursday when a suicide truck bomb hit a U.S. Army outpost in Baghdad. “A construction truck came inside like usual,” he said.

Of the 98 soldiers in the Charlie Battery of the 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery based out of Baumholder, Germany, 25 were injured and two died.

Bright suffered a broken leg and burns caused by the explosion and flying debris. He was transported to a hospital in Germany after the bombing, where he will finish out his recovery.

“My wife and daughter visit me every day,” he said. When his wife, Lisa, and 3-year-old daughter Maya are not visiting, Bright has physical therapy sessions and is learning to walk on crutches. He is scheduled to have a third surgery on his leg.

His mother, Helen Bright, was watching the news here after she found out her baby son had been injured. “It was going across the screen that military men were caught in a suicide bombing,” she said. “I figured that was the reason his leg was broken.”

Bright said her son has served in Desert Storm and two tours in Iraq.

“I hope and pray he would come back to the states,” she said.

For more than three years, Bright has been keeping in touch with her son and his family through numerous phone calls, e-mails and letters. “I’ve gotten used to him living in Germany,” she said.

Nicholas Bright was sent to Baghdad from Germany to secure a substation at a power distribution plant.

“He could have been one of them,” said Helen Bright. “I ask the Lord everyday to keep him safe.”

***Great Moments In U.S. Military
History:
Massacre In Baquba
“We Were An 11-Member Family.
Eight Were Killed”***

“The Americans Killed My Relatives Who Had No Guilt Or Relation With Any Group”



Residents identify the bodies of some of the eight people killed by a U.S. raid and air strike in Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, September 27, 2006. (Helmiy al-Azawi/Reuters)

“They were innocent people,” said Manal Jassim, the homeowner’s daughter. “We were sleeping when they entered our house at dawn. I found my father, mother, aunt and sister-in-law laying dead. We were an 11-member family. Eight were killed.”

9.27.06 The Associated Press

American troops killed eight people, four of them women, after taking heavy fire during a raid Wednesday on a suspected terrorist’s house northeast of Baghdad, the U.S. command said.

But relatives of the dead disputed the U.S. account, saying their family had nothing to do with any terrorist group.

Outside the pockmarked house, which relatives said belonged to Mohammed Jassim, bullet casings littered the ground and blood stained the sand. Family members cried and consoled one another as the bodies of the women were taken away.

“This is an ugly criminal act by the U.S. soldiers against Iraqi citizens,” Manal Jassim, who lost her parents and other relatives in the attack, told Associated Press Television News.

Iraq's major Sunni clerical organization, the Association of Muslim Scholars, condemned the raid as a "terrorist massacre."

A family member said all eight people killed were relatives and disputed that they had any links to a terrorist group. "The Americans killed my relatives who had no guilt or relation with any group," Saleh Ali told The Associated Press.

"They were innocent people," said Manal Jassim, the homeowner's daughter. "We were sleeping when they entered our house at dawn. I found my father, mother, aunt and sister-in-law laying dead. We were an 11-member family. Eight were killed."



Women after seeing the bodies of their relatives who were killed by a U.S. air strike in Baquba September 27, 2006. (Helmey al-Azawi/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**The Outbreak Of One Bomb It Kills An Italian Soldier, The Five Wounded;
"The Women Of Dead Langella Have Asked Get Out From The Afghanistan Of The Italian Contingent"**



Caporal the greater George Langella, killed today in Afghanistan

26 september 2006 Publishing Group The Expressed Spa, **Translation powered by SYSTRAN [Do you suppose they have a Pentagon contract?]**

KABUL: A bomb is exploded to the passage of a convoy of the Isaf to South of Kabul, killing an Italian soldier and hurting of others two in serious way. Others three military ones, between which a woman, is remained hurt in light way.

The died Italian soldier is caporal the greater George Langella. Been born in 1975 to Imperia, he belonged to 21esima the company of according to regiment the alpine ones of Wedge and operated in Afghanistan framed in the Battle Group 3.

Langella was of Gives Marine, in province of Imperia, and was married from little more than a year. The wedding with Fabiano Frank, been born to Rome, had been celebrated in the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Forests of Boves the 11 september of 2005.

After the Langella wedding it had been moved to Boves. Military sources report that the caporal greater it had an immense experience of operations to the foreign country, since already had participated to an other mission in Afghanistan and had been to Sarajevo.

The two military serious wounded are the marshal Francisco Cirimi, that he has brought back a fort trauma you make them, and caporal the greater Vincenzo Cardella, hurt to the inferior limbs.

For both they have been necessary participations in knows it operating. Ago to know the Defense General Staff.

The three military Italians remained hurt in light way are ricoverati near the international airport of Kabul. They have brought back only light contusions and they are in good conditions of health.

Between them, the woman, the corporal is also one Wide-brimmed hat Rendina, the first woman Italian soldier ever hurt in action. Rendina is from Naples in 1982, is marriageable, has enlisted a year ago, 29 August 2005, and is corporal of the alpine ones. Her assignment is explorer.

The others the two light wounded are corporal the greater Salvatore Coppola, 28 years, original of Mesagne and resident to Saint Tower Susanna (Are drunk a toast), and the corporal Salvatore Belfiore, 20 years, been born to Turin and resident to Cases.

The attack has been rivendicato from the military services talebane Muslims with one telephone call to the envoy of the Arabic TV To the Jazeera. The talebano megaphone, Muhammad Hanif, have asserted that its men had taken of sight a convoy of Italian soldiers.

The attack has happened to the 8 local hour (the 05,30 Italian hour), during one normal activity of lead patrol the Italian soldiers with three vehicles armors light (Vbl to you) Puma in the district of Chahar Asyab, one ten of kilometers to south of Kabul.

A rudimentale device set in action probably at a distance is exploded and has invested third means, on which six military Italians traveled.

The words of Napolitano seem to answer to how many, above all on the left, for forehead to the women of dead Langella have asked get out from the Afghanistan of the Italian contingent.

Three Italian Soldiers Wounded By Another Afghan Bomb; Pressure From Home To Get Out Increasing

September 28, 2006 Xinhua

Three Italian soldiers were slightly wounded and an Afghan interpreter seriously hurt Wednesday when a roadside bomb exploded near the Italian command post at the western Afghan city of Herat, according to Italian News Agency ANSA.

It was the second bomb attack on Italians in two days.

The latest attacks by the Islamist Taliban militia have sparked further calls for Italy to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Defense Chief of Staff Admiral Gianpaolo di Paola said the security measures protecting Italian troops were "already high" but the situation was one of "highs and lows".

Following Italy's recent withdrawal from Iraq, pacifist and leftist groups in Premier Romano Prodi's center-left government have argued troops should be pulled out of Afghanistan too.

Italy has some 1,700 troops serving in Afghanistan as part of the Nato-led ISAF peacekeeping mission there.

The attack was the latest in a spree of bombings in previously calm western Afghanistan, where NATO and Afghan officials have reported an increase in Taliban activity.

On Wednesday, insurgents attacked an Afghan police checkpoint in southern Helmand province

Afghan Occupation Tries A New Tactic: Murder By Starvation And Disease

27 Sep 2006 Agence France-Presse

ASADABAD, Afghanistan: Authorities have stopped food and other supplies from reaching a pro-Taliban district in eastern Afghanistan for more than two weeks, officials and residents said Wednesday.

Residents of the Korangal valley of eastern Kunar province said women had died because they had not been able to get medical attention and food was running low, but officials played down the claims.

The siege of the valley started early this month at the request of provincial authorities to pressure villagers accused of supporting Taliban and other Islamist militants, officials said.

Troops with the US-led coalition are helping to enforce the blockade, a US military spokesman told AFP.

"We've closed their road," provincial governor Shalizai Didar said. "We won't allow any supply to their villages until they stop helping Taliban and other terrorists."

"We tried very hard to convince the people to stop helping the Taliban but they wouldn't. So now we are using the last option," he said.

"They have closed the road to the valley. They don't even allow medicines, food -- and they don't let sick people out of the valley," Fatullah said.

"Some of our women died as they couldn't go to see the doctors outside the valley," he said, adding that food stocks, mainly wheat and maize, were running low and children were "facing starvation."

Australian Government Pulls Combat Force Out Of Afghanistan After Australian Commandos “Battled Hundreds Of Taliban Fighters”

September 27, 2006 By Noor Khan, The Associated Press & Sep 28, 2006 AAP

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said his country's elite combat troops risked becoming overworked in trouble spots around the world, in his latest comments defending his decision to withdraw them from Afghanistan.

Australia is sending 400 more troops to Afghanistan, mostly military engineers to work on reconstruction projects in the south, doubling the size of its deployment there. But it is withdrawing about 200 Special Air Service troops and commandos who have been in Afghanistan for the past year.

It was revealed Australian commandos battled hundreds of Taliban fighters and flew helicopters under enemy fire to evacuate wounded coalition soldiers in recent tough fighting in Afghanistan.

TROOP NEWS

“We Have No Kings In The United States”

“No One Is Above The Law”

“To All Members Of The U.S. Armed Forces; The American People”

From David Cline, President, Veterans For Peace

From: David Cline, President, Veterans For Peace
To: GI Special
Sent: September 27, 2006 1:25 AM
Subject: VFP Letter to Congress about War Crimes Act

To All Members of the United States Congress,

cc: All members of the U.S. Armed Forces; the American people

In the past five years, since the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001, the people of our nation have been told time and time again that the world has changed, we have a new enemy and we must change to fight that enemy. This argument has been presented over and over to justify deviations from and at times dismissal of our nation's basic ideals.

Veterans For Peace and millions of other U.S. citizens believe the time has come to return to our nation's core beliefs as called for by our Declaration of Independence and Constitution, the rule of law, justice and the recognition of all people's unalienable human and civil rights.

Recent news reports indicate that the Bush administration is seeking legislation to eliminate key elements of the War Crimes Act. Veterans For Peace believes such an effort is an attempt by administration officials to protect themselves from prosecution, even as they prosecute enlisted men and women for actions committed under their command in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

It is the highest form of hypocrisy to claim to support our troops while allowing the policy makers and planners of a war of choice, that we believe is illegal, immoral and unjust, to change existing law to protect themselves from prosecution for committing war crimes after ordering the troops to war.

It is obvious that these officials are trying to change the law because they believe they have broken the law.

How convenient for them that they have the power to persuade you to protect them.

How inconvenient for the soldier on the ground who must follow their orders.

Veterans For Peace vehemently insists that Congress

(1) Reject any effort to weaken the 1996 War Crimes Act (USC §2441), and

(2) Based on USC §2441 and Article II of the Constitution, which makes treaties ratified by the U.S. Senate the supreme law of the land, initiate impeachment proceedings

against President Bush and Vice-President Cheney for the war crimes they have committed and for the treaties they have violated by the invasion and occupation of Iraq; including, but by no means limited to, waging a war of aggression, crimes against peace, and war crimes.

Veterans For Peace reminds Congress that the Uniform Code of Military Justice already applies the Geneva Conventions to everyone in the U.S. military. The purpose of the War Crimes Act is to provide the same accountability to the military's civilian leaders.

Gutting the War Crimes Act will exempt high government officials from the very war crimes charges they are now leveling against enlisted men and women and in some cases asking for the death penalty.

It is easy to claim adherence to high ideals in times of prosperity and relative comfort. The test is in time of challenge and adversity.

We face such times today. Will we live up to what we claim to be; land of the free and home of the brave? The American people as a whole must answer these questions but you are in elected positions to take a lead.

Hold the Bush administration accountable for its actions. Support our troops.

Do not create a double standard, one for the troops another for the administration.

We have no Kings in the United States. No one is above the law.

We have a President and he is a servant of the people. Even in times of war.

Urgently,

**David Cline, President
Veterans For Peace
September 24, 2006**

cc: All members of the U.S. Armed Forces; the American people

**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)

3,500 From 25th ID Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse



4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 25th Infantry Division. 3,000 of the brigade's 3,500 troops are seen during a deployment ceremony at Fort Richardson, Alaska, Sept. 27, 2006. The brigade is scheduled to depart for Iraq in the next two weeks. (AP Photo/AI Grillo)

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



The casket of 2nd Lt. Emily Perez at the West Point Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2006. Perez, the highest ranking black and Hispanic woman cadet in corps history, was buried two weeks after she was killed by a bomb in Iraq. (AP Photo/Tim Roske)

British Military Supply Workers Announce Job Action Against Their Defense Department; Not Taking Any More Shit From Management

September 28, 2006 David Hencke, Westminster correspondent, The Guardian

Frontline British troops in Afghanistan and Iraq face shortages in a range of equipment, from ammunition to toilet paper, following a decision by 4,000 defence workers to take industrial action over job losses.

The action, which comes as troops are under enormous pressure fighting a resurgent Taliban and growing violence in Iraq, is expected to begin next week.

It will involve a work to rule, an overtime ban and a refusal to cover for staff at five Ministry of Defence depots across England. They supply the armed forces with food, basic equipment, small arms and bullets.

Staff employed by the Defence Logistics Organisation voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action.

Workers belonging to the Public and Commercial Services Union are in dispute with the MoD over plans to relocate staff, which officials fear will lead to job cuts and worse employment conditions.

The staff, based at sites across England, including Andover, Telford and Yeovilton, face losing their jobs or being transferred to Bath or Bristol. Officials said the plans were being "pushed through" with little or no consultation.

The union's general secretary, Mark Serwotka, said: "This unprecedented vote by MoD staff illustrates the strength of anger over the arbitrary and flawed nature of these plans, which are being forced through with little consultation.

"Dedicated staff who support our armed forces across the globe are dismayed over plans which will not only damage the local economies of the sites affected, but force families to uproot and move to one of the most expensive areas of the country without any guarantee on job security.

"With growing anger over privatisation and job cuts, the MoD need to seriously reconsider plans which lack sound business planning and which will have a damaging impact on the support our armed forces receive."

FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



A U.S. soldier unrolls concertina wire at an intersection in eastern Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 14, 2006. Iraqi soldiers assigned to build checkpoints around the targeted neighborhood of Shaab arrived several hours late, forcing US soldiers to build makeshift barriers around the neighborhood. (AP Photo/Antonio Castaneda)

In Spain, Airman Alberto Marries Airman Alberto; So What?

October 02, 2006 Army Times

The groom ... and the groom

Two enlisted men in the Spanish air force were wed in a ceremony Sept. 15, the first known marriage of two service members since the once-conservative Catholic country's legalization of gay marriage.

The two grooms, both named Alberto, were joined by Seville Mayor Alfredo Sanchez Monteseirin at the town hall. The mayor is a member of the ruling Socialist party, which legalized gay marriage last year and has pushed through other liberal laws including fast-track divorce and allowing for medically assisted fertilization.

The laws have irked the Roman Catholic Church and the country's conservative establishment, which has accused the government of tearing away the nation's traditional values.

But the wedding has caused barely a ripple of controversy in Spanish society. It drew little notice from the country's main newspapers.

Spain's Defense Ministry had no comment on the event, saying it considers the wedding a personal matter and the men will be allowed to continue their careers.

Teens Breach Security At Army Munitions Plant

9.25.06 USA Today

Questions are being raised about security at one of the U.S. military's major suppliers of explosives.

Guards at the Holston Army Ammunition Plant in Kingsport, Tenn., say that boaters have entered a restricted area on a river that runs by the 6,000-acre property that holes are often found in the fence and that two teens recently wandered through the site and got close to the explosives.

They allege their concerns have been ignored by supervisors.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“70 Percent To 98 Percent Of The Local Population Gives The Insurgency ‘Passive Support’”

[In the midst of an occupation propaganda report, a bit of cold reality. T]

September 25, 2006 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

RAWAH, Iraq: Sunni insurgents in Anbar province are “losing the fight strategically,” but will not be defeated unless U.S. forces continue to fight them until Iraqi security forces can assume full responsibility for the counterinsurgency campaign here, say U.S. officers.

Unlike Baghdad, where rival sectarian militias devote much energy to attacking each other and the civilian population, here in the Sunni heartland U.S. and Iraqi forces are facing a classic insurgency, in which a tiny number of active combatants enjoy the passive support of at least 70 percent of the population.

The exact number of Sunni insurgents in any one area fluctuates as fighters move from town to town. But in this Euphrates River valley town and the surrounding area, with a population of about 20,000, the number is fewer than 100, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matt Gray, an intelligence technician with 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, which has operated in this area for the past year.

Despite the attention focused on al-Qaida in Iraq’s foreign fighters by U.S. leaders, non-Iraqis comprise less than 10 percent of the Sunni insurgency, Gray said.

Task Force 4-14 officers estimate that 70 percent to 98 percent of the local population gives the insurgency “passive support,” which they define as being unwilling to inform the coalition or Iraqi security forces of insurgent activity

“The quality and number of people providing us information has gone up exponentially,” Gray said in mid-July, *although he acknowledged that these informants were still not giving U.S. troops advance notice of attacks.* [Oh.]

To get around this, TF 4-14 set up two e-mail addresses: rawahtips@yahoo.com and anahtips@yahoo.com, to allow residents to send information without the insurgents knowing. An average of one tip per day rolled in, but then the insurgents burned down every Internet cafe in the two towns, which, in a region in which home Internet access is a rarity, effectively shut down that source of intelligence.

The death of al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, an outcome for which the U.S. committed its most elite forces and invested hundreds of millions of dollars during an almost three-year manhunt, has not resulted in any noticeable decrease in insurgent activity, according to [Capt. Andrew] Decker and Gray.

The insurgents continue to move men and materiel down the Euphrates with relative impunity. “We’ve got no capability right now to interdict the river,” [Lt. Col.] Freitag said. “That’s certainly a frustration point for me.”

In Rawah, the next step is clear to Freitag: Coalition forces must conduct an information operations campaign to “drive a wedge between the (insurgents) and the local population.”

He said coalition forces have to demonstrate to locals how insurgents hurt them and how their security and quality of life would be improved through support for the coalition.

[In Yorktown, the next step is clear to General Corwallis: British forces must conduct an information operations campaign to “drive a wedge between the (insurgents) and the local population.”

[He said British forces have to demonstrate to locals how insurgents hurt them and how their security and quality of life would be improved through support for His Majesty’s government.]

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

Assorted Resistance Action



A police officer looks at the car of a fellow officer which was damaged by a bomb attack in Baghdad September 27, 2006. The police officer was killed after a bomb planted in his car exploded, police said. REUTERS/Thaier al-Sudani (IRAQ)

September 27, 2006 (CNN) & AP & Reuters

A bomb planted in an Iraqi police officer's car exploded in Baghdad, killing the officer and a civilian, Iraqi emergency police said.

The explosion occurred on central Baghdad's Rasheed Street as the officer was heading to work.

In the capital's Dora district, an official of the neighborhood power station and a friend were killed, police said. The two were shot by unknown assailants while driving through the area.

In Karma, 50 miles west of Baghdad, an Iraqi soldier on foot patrol was killed down by a sniper.

Two Iraqi soldiers were also killed and three wounded when unidentified people opened fire on them in their car in an area south of Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad. The incident occurred Tuesday evening, officials said.

A police patrol transferring detainees was struck by a roadside bomb in Baquba. It killed four people, including two detainees, and wounded two policemen, a police source said.

Mortar rounds landed on and around an Iraqi army checkpoint in the small town of Rashad south of Kirkuk, killing two soldiers and wounding three others, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol exploded in Mussayab, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, wounding three policemen, a police source said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“Those GIs Deserve To Be
Remembered As Heroes Of
Decency Who Continue To Remind
Us That Dissent Can Be
Patriotism, Too”**

Jay Carr, A.M. New York

Think of "Sir! No Sir!" as a filmic extension of the Vietnam War Memorial.

Using period footage and contemporary interviews with combat veterans who turned against the war after having fought in it, it reminds us how they had to muster a new kind of bravery in the face of military, political and media outrage at their outspokenness.

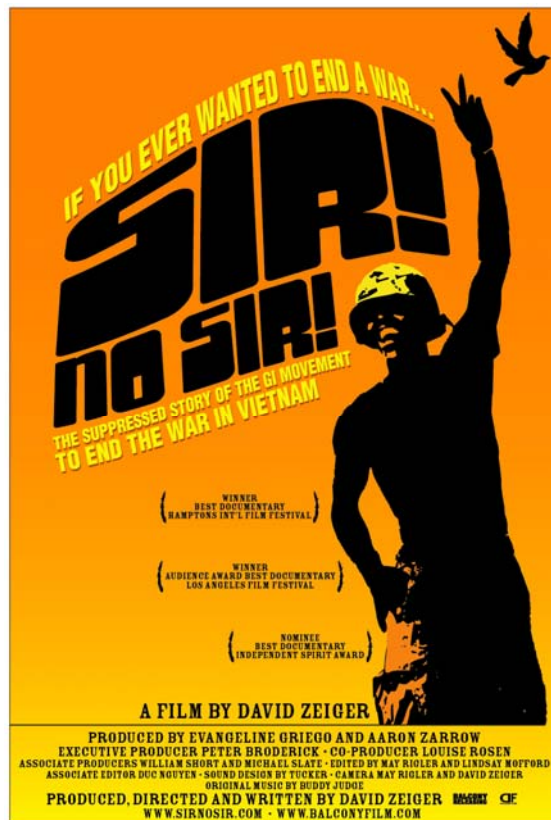
It's a powerful film that resonates damningly.

It must have been awfully lonely for a lot of them, clapped into stockades, often court-martialed. But in the best American tradition, they stuck to their principles.

The parallels between the Vietnam War protest from the bottom of the military pecking order and current objections to the war in Iraq by today's generals are eerie and chastening.

The well-researched film, narrated by Troy Garrity (whose mother, Jane Fonda, appears then and now) distinguishes usefully between the soldiers' revolt and the civilian anti-war movement that grew alongside it.

Whether disgusted by the murder of civilians in Vietnam or by the war's racist dimensions, those GIs deserve to be remembered as heroes of decency who continue to remind us that dissent can be patriotism, too.



Sir! No Sir!:
At A Theatre Near You!
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at www.sirnosir.com.

Also available will be a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of

"A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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.

“Can The Army Do Its Job?” “There Are Going To Be More Deaths And Longer Wars Because You're Not At Your Peak Readiness”

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Sep 26 By Will Dunham (Reuters) [Excerpt]

Army leaders are expressing concern over getting sufficient resources to sustain overseas deployments and replace and fix tanks, armored vehicles and other equipment battered in Iraq.

The Army has warned of declining combat readiness of units as soldiers face less time at home bases for rest, training and re-equipping after a yearlong combat tour. In fact, a brigade due to deploy in January will have spent barely a year at its home base between tours in Iraq.

"The real question is: Can the Army do its job?" asked Lawrence Korb, assistant secretary of defense for manpower issues under former President Ronald Reagan. "The Army is not going to be what it should be. There are going to be more deaths and longer wars because you're not at your peak readiness."

“The Just Plain Intelligent Report On The Storming Of The White House And The Capitol; The Arrest, Conviction And

Imprisonment Of The Bush Administration”

September 25, 2006 by Mark Drolette, Dissident Voice

Whew! I'm glad that's been cleared up.

I'm talking about the “consensus view of the 16 disparate (American) spy services” as provided in the recently-disclosed National Intelligence Estimate, a classified U.S. government assessment compiled in April “that concluded the (Iraq) war has helped create a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that the overall terrorist threat has grown since the Sept. 11 attacks” (per Associated Press writer Nedra Pickler, 09/24/06).

The Democrats are right on it, too, boy.

Though they've faithfully commented publicly on all the thousand or so previous government reports concerning 9/11 and Iraq and torture and reconstruction fraud and the national surplus of reports that, basically, have all shared the same conclusion: the Bushies are all a bunch of corrupt, bald-faced liars who've made America a despised pariah state, and then backed up their righteous displeasure with strong, patriotic action like, well, um, nothing really quite yet, still, make no mistake: you can tell this time for sure they mean real business because at several press conferences already, the Dems have somberly held copies of the NIE conclusion much higher over their heads than they would've in times past, noticeably shaken it more often with greater umbrage and audibly uttered an unmistakably higher number of “tsk-tsks.”

Can truly courageous “Nyeah, nyeah, nyeah-nyeah, nyeah” be far behind?

I've a confession to make, and it's not coerced, either (although that's inconsequential anymore given the Bushies' official line toward torture-induced admittances: “Coerced, schmoerced, a confession's a confession”): I've not read any of those reports. Not a single one. The titles are enough for me.

Some may call this laziness. I call it time management and common sense about common criminals. Besides, didn't your mother ever ask you if you read a report entitled “Why You Should Jump Off a Bridge,” would you do it?

In other words, I don't need to read no steenking report to smell the steenk; it's been malevolently malodorous around this place for years.

But, believe it or not, and I'm not saying I possess some sort of prophetic powers here, you unnerstand; I'm just sayin' I'd actually kind of guessed that the attack-Iraq, get-more-violence thing just might turn out to be the case.

A while back, too, it was, around late 2002 and early 2003, at a time when I and several million of my closest friends around the globe took to the streets repeatedly to loudly proclaim, among other things, that an illegal, immoral and unprovoked attack on a pipsqueak nation like Iraq that had nothing to do with 9/11 -- after all, you'd need to look

inside for the perpetrators of that heinous crime and I ain't talkin' about navel gazing -- would, indeed, foment at least slight resentment against the United States and possibly prompt otherwise peace-loving individuals to want to exact revenge on those who killed their families, destroyed their homes, occupied their country and looted their resources for no good reason.

Now, admittedly, that's not to say there weren't a couple of very bad reasons for launching America's horrific war of aggression, those being, of course, the relentless, conscienceless, remorseless and murderous pursuits of power and wealth by nasty neocon nutcases like Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, etc.

Let us not forget Poppy Bush, either, and his pinheaded progeny perfectly positioned per a pair of purloined presidencies to perpetually prosecute the poisonous proceedings.

Here's the title of a report I'd really like to see: "The Just Plain Intelligent Report on the Storming of the White House and the Capitol; the Arrest, Conviction and Imprisonment of the Bush Administration and Ninety-Nine Percent of Congress on Charges of Treason, War Crimes, Dereliction of Duty and General Nincompoopery; and the Upcoming Convening of the Constitution Reconstitution Convention."

The title's a bit unwieldy, true, but even so, that would be one report I'd actually take the time to read.

Slowly and smilingly.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON

Whipped In Lebanon, Zionist Army Finds Something It Can Do: Rob Banks

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

20 September 2006 Palestinian Centre for Human Rights PRESS RELEASE

In a new piracy crime perpetrated by a state army under orders from the highest levels of a state government, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) raided financial institutions in the cities of Ramallah, Nablus, Tulkarm, and Jenin.

IOF raided the National Jordanian Bank in Nablus and 11 money exchanges in the four cities. The raiding forces confiscated the property of the raided sites, and detained 7 of their owners.

In addition, IOF confiscated 6 million New Israeli Shekels (NIS) (approximately 1.336 million dollars) claiming that the confiscation was based on information that the money exchanges funnel cash to be used in operations against Israeli targets.

In Nablus, IOF raided the National Jordanian Bank and 3 money exchanges, confiscating money and arresting one money exchange owner. The raided exchanges belong to Husam Fakhri Abu Eleyan, Anwar Mustafa Eleyan, Amjad Mahmoud Hamad, Afif Mohammad Afif M'lietat, and Ghalib Hussein Sweidan. It is noted that Sweidan (40) was arrested from his home.

In Tulkarm, IOF raided 3 money exchanges and confiscated cash and financial documents. The exchanges belong to Kamal Abdel Halim Salim Theyab, Ibrahim Mustafa Ahmad Awad, and Mohammad Ahmad Awad. IOF detained the first two of these owners and the son of the third owner.

In Jenin, IOF raided 3 money exchanges and confiscated cash. The exchanges belong to Sa'id M'rar Abu M'rar, Mohammad Ibrahim Nassar, and Younis Helmi Younis El-Jarmi.

In Ramallah IOF raided El-Hawari and El-Ajouri money exchanges and confiscated cash. They detained Ghazi El-Ajour, the owner of one of the exchanges, and two of his sons.

It is noted that IOF conducted a similar raid on 25 February 2004 against the Arab Bank and Cairo-Amman Bank in Ramallah and El-Bireh, confiscating 40 million NIS (approximately 9 million dollars).

The then defense minister Shaol Mofaz claimed that there was intelligence information indicating that the 390 bank accounts of Palestinian charitable organizations targeted in the raid were used to finance operations against Israel. [Israel always has an excuse for it's crimes. What amazes me is so many people pretending to believe the lies.---- J.]

PCHR strongly condemns IOF piracy against financial institutions in the West Bank, and stresses that this raid is a form of collective punishment and economic sanctions imposed by IOF against Palestinians. The Centre points to the fact that Israel imposes restrictions and supervision on all financial transactions from abroad, refuting the claim made regarding the latest raid.

In the Center's view, the complacency of the international community and the High Contracting Parties of the 4th Geneva Convention and their failure to take effective steps to stop Israeli war crimes has been a supporting and encouraging element for Israel to continue perpetrating additional war crimes against Palestinian civilians.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



DONALD RUMSFELD: POLITICAL GENIUS The Secretary Of Defense Speaks

"There's no question but that any time there's a war, the forces of the countries involved are asked to do a great deal," Rumsfeld, September 26, 2006; quote from Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post

Poll: In Match-Up Between Hillary And Kerry, Most Democrats Would Choose Suicide

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

September 18, 2006 The Borowitz Report

A new survey of Democratic voters indicates that in a hypothetical match-up between Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and former presidential nominee John Kerry, most Democrats would choose suicide over either candidate.

The poll, conducted by the University of Minnesota's Opinion Research Institute, shows Mr. Kerry drawing 21%, Sen. Clinton 18%, and various forms of suicide 61%.

"Throwing yourself in front of a speeding city bus" was the most popular means of suicide at 22%, with "jumping off the roof of a really tall building or bridge" coming in second at 17%.

According to pollster Rockwell Pritchard, the surging popularity of suicide bodes ill for both Sen. Clinton and Sen. Kerry as potential presidential candidates in 2008.

"It's still very early, but even at this stage of the game the prospect of one of those two being nominated shouldn't be making Democrats want to kill themselves in these numbers," Mr. Pritchard said.

Reached at his home in Massachusetts, Sen. Kerry pointed out that while he did not do as well as suicide, he still polled higher than Sen. Clinton, adding, "That's better than a sharp stick in the eye."

But Mr. Pritchard was quick to throw cold water on Mr. Kerry's upbeat assessment: "In a head-to-head match-up, a sharp stick in the eye beats Sen. Kerry by a two-to-one margin."

Elsewhere, reacting to the Pope's recent gaffes about Muslims, President Bush said. "I guess I'm the only person left who's infallible."

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