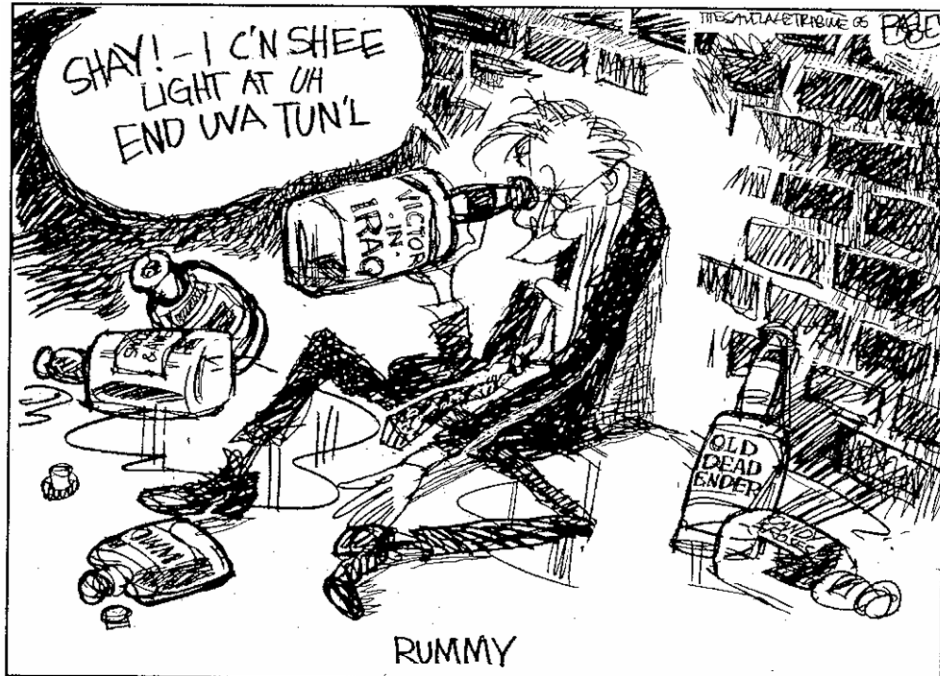


GI SPECIAL 4J21:



“Disenchantment Was Also Being Felt On The Ground In Kandahar” “Soldiers Airing Concerns On Canadian Radio”

[The most important news of the fall, so far, gets one line. No problem; when the “disenchantment” turns to action, it will be impossible to ignore. T]

21 October 2006 BBC

Canada's foreign minister has told Nato that the alliance's other members must provide more support to the military operation in southern Afghanistan.

The BBC's Lee Carter says Ottawa is growing increasingly frustrated over the unwillingness of mainly European Nato members to deploy troops to help fight mounting Taleban resistance.

Carter said such disenchantment was also being felt on the ground in Kandahar, with soldiers airing concerns on Canadian radio.

He added that Mr Mackay's plea comes as the country's conservative government grapples with declining public support for the mission.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Connellsville Marine Killed In Iraq

October 12, 2006 By Judy Kroeger, Daily Courier

A 1999 graduate of Connellsville Area Senior High School became Connellsville's first fatality in the war in Iraq.

Marine Pfc. Shelby Feniello, 25, was killed Monday at about 6 p.m. Iraqi time, when the Humvee he was driving hit several roadside bombs.

Feniello was the son of Richard Feniello and Kimberly McCune, both of Connellsville.

Don Burkholder, adjutant of American Legion Post 301, Connellsville, confirmed Feniello was the first fatality from Connellsville, although several local guardsmen have suffered injuries while serving in Iraq, he said.

"It's a shame. Our hearts go out to the family," Burkholder said.

Feniello served with the C Company, 1st Platoon, based at Camp Lejune, N.C. He joined the Marine Corps on May 10, 2004. "He was an All-American boy," Richard Feniello said of his son. "Take orders and do your duty."

"He was trying to help others who were in trouble," Richard Feniello said. "He knew there was danger. We all knew there was danger. He was just doing his job. He thought he was (doing) right. He was a good guy."

Richard Feniello said he last spoke to his son on Saturday when he called. "He had only been there a month this time. He knew it was a bad situation. (Anbar) is where some of the fiercest fighting has taken place."

Feniello's aunt, Sheryl Nagy, of Connellsville, said this was the serviceman's second tour in Iraq. "He was there for seven months, then back at Camp Lejeune for seven months. He went back to Iraq on Sept. 10."

Feniello returned home from his first tour in the war zone on Oct. 11 of last year, almost a year to day of his death, said his father.

Feniello's unit went to Ramadi, in al-Anbar Province, in the north of the country near the Syrian border.

"He was driving a Humvee," Nagy said. "There was a call for reinforcements. They were en route to a battle and ran over roadside bombs. His was the first in line."

The two other people in the Humvee also died. Several other Marines in other vehicles were injured.

Nagy said before leaving for his second tour in Iraq, Feniello got to spend time with his family. "My sister had a send-off for him," Nagy said.

His loss leaves a hole in the family, said his aunt. "He was an only child. His loss is devastating," Nagy said.

"He had a great personality. He was always smiling. He had a wonderful girlfriend, Emily Saylor. She goes to IUP. He came up often to visit Emily. He was always so happy. His senior year, he was named class flirt. That's just how he was," Nagy said.

While attending Connellsville High School, Feniello was a member of the wrestling team. He had wrestled since he was young, and also played football in junior high school. He also loved hunting and fishing.

"He was a good kid, a good athlete," said Tom Dolde, who served as Feniello's head wrestling coach. "He was always smiling. He went to the states (tournament) when he was younger. He was pretty tough, a heavyweight. He was such a polite kid. He always said hello, always had a smile on his face." "He was a great kid and a hard worker," said Tommy Dolde, who served as assistant wrestling coach at the time. "He never whined about injuries, and you enjoy coaching kids like that."

Robert McLuckey serves as secondary curriculum director for the district. He was principal at Junior High East when Feniello was a student. "He was a very nice boy," McLuckey said. "You remember how people treat you. He was always very respectful. He was a kid who interacted well with others."

McLuckey added, "Every night we turn on the TV and hear of more and more American service people killed in Iraq. It's upsetting. But when it hits close to home, it's more upsetting. I feel bad for him, and I feel bad for his family."

Before joining the Marines, Feniello held several part-time jobs, his father said. One was with Allegheny Power, another with United Parcel Service. After high school, he attended Westmoreland County Community College. He graduated from WCCC with an associate degree in accounting.

Richard Feniello said the family was not certain when his son's body would arrive back in the United States.

Family Grieves For Soldier, 21, Killed In Iraq

Oct 13, 2006 PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)

A U.S. Marine from Salem has been killed in fighting in Iraq, the Defense Department said Thursday.

Lance Cpl. Derek W. Jones, 21, died when a roadside bomb exploded Sunday while he was in the Al Anbar province in Iraq. He was a rifleman and team leader assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Two other Marines - Lance Cpl. Jeremy S. Sandvick Monroe, 20, of Chinook, Mont.; and Capt. Robert M. Secher, 33, of Germantown, Tenn. - died in Sunday's blast.

A 2003 graduate of Sprague High School, Jones joined the Marines in 2004. He served in Afghanistan from May 2005 to January and went to Iraq in September, the Marines said.

His widow, Pamela, 20, posted a lengthy message to her husband on a MySpace.com Web page, saying in part "you are my everything and always will be." Their daughter is nearly 2.

He and Pamela eloped to Hawaii and were married last year. They returned to Salem in February 2006 for a large reception, his mother, Laurie Hadden, told The Oregonian newspaper.

"Everyone was so happy to see him," she recalled. "He was dressed all in his dress blues. I remember thinking how much he'd grown into a man."

His brother, Chad, is a senior linebacker on the Sprague football team, and the players planned to honor Jones by wearing U.S. flag stickers on their helmets for Thursday night's game against rival McNary High School.

Based on a listing kept by Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office, Jones was the 73rd person from Oregon, or with strong ties to the state, to die in fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A TRAITOR WHO LIVES
IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE
That is not a good enough reason.**



Troops from the US army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team head into Baghdad 03 October 2006. The mission would be marred by the death of one of the soldiers, killed by a sniper after the troops visited a school. (AFP/File/Dave Clark)

Valdosta Family Mourns Soldier's Death

10.11.06 wctv6

The body of SSGT James Ellis was flown back to the United States and arrived Wednesday night at Tallahassee Regional Airport, the same airport where just a few months ago he returned to visit his family for a short break.

His wife, Ulrica Ellis, recalled the first time she met her husband on a blind date.

She said, "Some people don't believe in love at first sight, but we did."

The couple married in 2004, never parting until James was deployed with the Army last December. His mission was Baghdad. She would often wait for his phone calls, and each time they talked about his next return.

"He looked forward to coming home. It's all we talked about was him coming home."

Ulrica says James was to return home in November, but on October 2 an improvised explosive device killed the 25-year-old, tearing away a husband and best friend from Ulrica, and father from their daughter, 14-month-old Ja'Niayah.

Ulrica's eyes filled with tears, looking after the toddler as she played with her cousin.

"I don't think she knows what's going on or if she even has an idea, and that's the hard part I'm going to have to face."

A flag draped coffin was the reality for Ulrica that the phone calls from James she once waited for would not come anymore.

She said, "Those were his last words, I'm going to call soon, I'm going to pack my bags. And not even two days after that they showed up at my door and I knew. I knew he wasn't going to call again."

She called James her best friend, wiping more tears from her eyes, and then she called him her hero not just to her, but to their young daughter who will grow up remembering her father as a hero and to a country he gave his life for.

SSGT James Ellis was stationed out of Fort Hood in Texas. However, once he was deployed, Ulrica and then three-month-old Ja'Niayah moved to Valdosta to be close to family.

Funeral services are planned for Sunday in Valdosta.

U.S. Occupation Command In Iraq Very Sorry So Few U.S. Troops Being Killed: “Let’s Pick A Fight With The Mahdi Army!”

Oct 21 (KUNA)

A US helicopter on Saturday bombed an office of Al-Sadr militia in Suwaira, 45 kilometers south of Baghdad, witnesses said.

[It has a name, dickhead. It’s called the Mahdi Army. It’s the largest, best organized Shia armed force. Provoking a Shia uprising in response to these idiot attacks would make the U.S. troop Iraq death toll so far look like a report from a freeway traffic accident. T]

Witnesses told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that a US helicopter fired four missiles on the militia's office, noting that a number of militiamen were killed and wounded in the bombing, but the presence of Iraqi and US forces made it impossible to figure a death toll.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Interview With A Resistance Commander: “Men Who Had Been Hedging Their Bets, Are Now Signing Up To Fight Again Against What They See As Foreign Invaders”

21 October 2006 By David Loyn, BBC News, Afghanistan [Excerpts]

"You destroyed our government and all because of just one guest in our country, Osama," said the man leading the war against the British.

We sat late at night in what must have been the women's side of a house commandeered for just that night by a man who stays constantly on the move.

The family were not there of course, but their presence was all around.

A Chinese-made sewing machine sat in the corner, and small scraps of cloth littered the floor, mingling with the rinds and pith of pomegranates, which the Taleban soldiers who filled the room ate as we talked.

We sat cross-legged on thin felt mattresses lining the wall, with the commander propped up on a cushion in the corner.

He was an intelligent man in his 40s, smoother and more groomed than many Talibs I have come across, with delicate hands.

He spat his pips into a small bowl as we talked, breaking off frequently to listen to a two-way radio, receiving news at one point that a British military vehicle had been hit by a landmine.

The commander waved me away impatiently when I said that the British had come to provide security for reconstruction.

"They have had five years and look at the state of the roads here" he said.

And there is another problem with the roads.

As we made our way towards our rendezvous along the main road from Kandahar to the west, Afghanistan's trade lifeline, we were stopped every few minutes at checkpoints.

At every one we were asked for money: not much - 10 Afs - about 10p (\$0.19) at each one. But they demand more from truck drivers, and the amounts add up.

These checkpoints are not manned by bandits but by soldiers from the newly constituted Afghan National Army, at one point supervised by an American patrol, keeping watch from a discreet distance on the ridge.

Corruption on this road has a powerful symbolic resonance for Afghans, because it was to stop just this kind of casual theft that the Taleban began.

Their founding myth is an epic drive from the Pakistani border to Kandahar in 1994, destroying checkpoints manned by rival mujahideen as they went.

The Taleban leader Mullah Omar began with 20 men and by the time he arrived in Kandahar he was the head of a movement that went on to take the capital two years later.

That Nato is allowing institutionalised corruption on this same road again is extraordinary.

The Taleban can hardly believe their luck since they know what people are saying: Nato and President Karzai are allowing the same kind of corruption that the Taleban stopped in the 90s.

So men, who had been hedging their bets, are now signing up to fight again against what they see as foreign invaders.

The other key Taleban recruiting tool, apart from the corruption of the state which they see as being endorsed by the British-led Nato forces, is the increasing violence.

The mosques and homes I saw destroyed by Nato bombs have helped the Taleban to win hearts and minds.

When we stopped one evening at nightfall to break the Ramadan fast that they had kept zealously in the hours of daylight, I was ordered to finish eating quickly.

This was so we would not lay our eyes on the women who would come to sit down where we had been, to eat the scraps from communal bowls the men had left half-full of food.

The commander told me that mistakes were made during the years of Taleban rule.

They did not want to impose themselves so harshly this time, yet playing host to Osama Bin Laden was not one of the mistakes he was talking about.

He said there were hundreds of suicide bombers now waiting to attack the British-led forces.

He was having to hold them back because if they all came at once there would be chaos.

He justified the tactic as a valuable weapon in a war which now looks unwinnable for Nato without destruction on an unthinkable scale.

MORE:

Press Release Warms Resistance Will “Increase Attacks In Fighting That ‘Would Be A Surprise To Many’”

October 21, 2006 Amir Shah, ASSOCIATED PRESS

[A] statement, purportedly from fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Omar, urged militants to step up attacks on Afghan and foreign troops. It told NATO to leave Afghanistan, saying the alliance was "losing their soldiers only for America."

The statement was forwarded by e-mail to the Associated Press by Muhammad Hanif, who claims to speak for the hard-line militia. It warned that the Taliban would increase attacks in fighting that "would be a surprise to many."

"I would again ask mujahideen (holy warriors) to intensify their attacks but they should avoid any harm to innocent people and children," said the statement, issued on the eve of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

"I want to make it clear that the puppet of aggressors and his associates are searching for exit. We will never give them an exit. They will be brought to Islamic justice," it said.

Collaborator Intelligence Chief Blown Up

Oct 21 (KUNA)

A senior Afghan security official was killed in a remote-controlled bomb attack.

Chief of the intelligence department of Afghanistan's southeastern Khost province was on way home when his vehicle was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb in the

Ismailkhel area of the province. Police chief of the province Mohammad Ayub said the intelligence chief's vehicle was destroyed with a remote-controlled bomb.

TROOP NEWS

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



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

**Congress Votes Themselves
\$3000 A Year Raise;
Fucks Over Troops On Pay:
“I Guess The Government Doesn’t Feel
That Service Members Are Worth More”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
10.23.06

It was a sad day for soldiers when Congress, the Senate and the White House gave them a 2.2 percent pay raise while they voted themselves a \$3,000 raise and a 2.7 percent raise for other government workers.

The average enlisted raise will be about \$200.

I guess the government doesn't feel that service members are worth more.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard LaChapelle (ret.)
Douglas, Mass.

NO MORE: KEEP THEM ALL HOME NOW



Fort Hood, Texas, Oct. 15: Staff Sgt. Eugene Viruet consoled his daughter Miranda, 8, as they spent time together prior to his deployment to Iraq. More than 150 soldiers from the unit's 2nd brigade departed for Iraq Sunday morning. David Morris, Killeen Daily Herald via Associated Press

RESISTANCE WHERE IT COUNTS:

**Hear Soldiers Who Served In Iraq Report How They
Organized Against The War On The Front Lines**



THERE HAS TO BE A POINT
WHEN WE REACH A HIGH
ENOUGH NUMBER OF TROOPS IN
OUR PEACE EFFORT THAT A
UNIFIED BOYCOTT OF ALL
MILITARY ACTION WILL HAVE
A DESIRED EFFECT

- SOLDIER X

Hear from Antiwar Soldiers

JEFF ENGLEHART, JOE HATCHER, and GARETT REPPENHAGEN

1st Infantry Division, Diyala Province, Iraq, 2004 - 2005

Find out what you can do to support the G.I. Movement!

JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH
55 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK CITY
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

SPONSORED BY: THE MILITARY PROJECT,
IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR (IVAW) NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
NEW YORK CITY LABOR AGAINST THE WAR (NYCLAW)

ENDORSERS LIST IN FORMATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG

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 or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576
Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Initial Release Of Recruiting Data Last Week Omitted Crucial Details: “Trying To Gloss Over The Wars’ Impact On Recruiting Is Futile And Counterproductive”

October 23, 2006 Editorial, Army Times

The Pentagon has issued final recruiting numbers for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, along with press releases crowing about how the services hit 100 percent of their goals in a tough wartime recruiting environment.

But what defense officials did not say spoke far louder.

It’s true that all the active components met 100 percent of their goals.

But to do that, the Army had to ease several quality standards last year, while the Marine Corps had to bite into its delayed entry pool more than it likes to make its numbers.

And if the Navy and Air Force are not seeing similar problems, that is largely because both are cutting active-duty end strength; neither the Air National Guard nor the Navy Reserve made its recruiting goals last year.

Moreover, the initial release of recruiting data last week omitted crucial details: enlistment exam scores and percentages of high school graduates, the most important measures of recruit “quality.” Curious, especially since this data was trumpeted during the force-wide drawdown of the 1990s, a buyer’s dream market for recruiters.

When defense officials finally produced the data two days later it’s easy to see why they’re not eager to emphasize this side of the story.

In terms of recruits with high-school diplomas, the Army was down to 81 percent last fiscal year; its poorest showing in the past two decades by far.

And the percentage of Army recruits in the bottom half of enlistment exam scores jumped to 39 percent; a 12-percentage point increase since 2003. The Air Force and Marine Corps also saw increases in this area in the past few years, though much smaller.

Trying to gloss over the wars' impact on recruiting is futile and counterproductive.

It erodes the Pentagon's credibility and does a disservice to military leaders who have a right to know about and a duty to prepare for the possibility that more of their new troops may bring increased challenges to morale, discipline and training.

Telling the whole story, and proposing realistic solutions, is a more responsible course.

Gold Star Families Denied Grief Counseling: "Some Families Aren't Getting Their Loved Ones' Entire Bodies Back To Bury"

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

October 11, 2006 BY STEPHANIE HEINATZ, Daily Press

For more than two years now, Suzanne Stack has been living with the reality that her husband won't be coming home. That he was killed in Iraq. That their three young children, until very recently, have been unable to talk about their father without breaking down.

And still, "I don't really fully understand the whole grief process," she said.

The 47-year-old woman does understand depression, though.

Tricare, which oversees health care coverage for military families, doesn't cover extended grief counseling for military families unless they are diagnosed with a mental disorder, like depression.

After Sgt. Maj. Michael Stack was killed in April 2004 during an ambush on his convoy, Suzanne said, "the children were fairly well devastated.

Getting help for them was difficult. I did know to say, 'I think they might be depressed.' "

But some women with Gold Star Wives of America are asking why a grieving parent should have to claim that his or her child has a mental disorder to get them a professional to talk to when they're understandably, even naturally, bereaved.

"Depression and grief, to me, are very different things," Suzanne Stack said.

The Gold Star Wives, a nonprofit organization for military widows, is beginning a campaign to get some sort of grief counseling added to the benefits covered under Tricare.

Late last month, Rose Lee, the Gold Star Wives' chairwoman for government relations, testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, saying, "Mental health is an issue affecting widows and children. I'm hearing from new widows more and more. Vet centers provide counseling, but it's not always nearby.

"And Tricare doesn't provide grief counseling."

Tricare does offer eight counseling sessions, a Tricare spokesman said. Following those sessions, the spokesman said, the family member is evaluated.

At that point, a mental illness or behavioral problem has to be diagnosed to continue coverage, he said.

Suzanne Stack has recently been appointed to the Tricare beneficiary advisory panel, where she represents the Gold Star Wives.

At last month's meeting, Stack said, she brought up this issue, telling the panel, "It's a real problem when you can't get counseling for your children or yourself."

Part of the problem, though, is that in medical terms grief isn't considered an illness.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which both military and civilian clinicians use to identify an illness, includes everything from Alzheimer's and alcohol-induced sleep disorder to anxiety and social phobia.

Grief is not listed.

"It's not exactly adding insult to injury, but that's just something else you have to deal with," Stack said.

"You're dealing with your own set of grief issues and you're thrust into so many decisions right away. To work the system at a time when you really aren't able to isn't a good thing."

"One of the things I envision happening is having something already set in place where when you feel you need grief counseling, it should be available to you."

Especially since the front lines of Iraq are so "odd," she said. "It's not a predictable war. People die from these roadside bombs and suicide bombers. It's very emotional. Very turbulent. Very difficult."

And making a hard situation even harder, she said, some families aren't getting their loved ones' entire bodies back to bury. Stack was at least able to see her husband's body.

That didn't make seeing a coffin any easier for the three of their six children still living at home. The younger kids were 3, 5 and 7 years old at the time.

"It was a very tough age. They don't really understand death. They don't really understand war. When you combine the two, it's a very difficult conversation to have."

Because everything happened so quickly, Stack said, she suffered from what some spouses call "widow's fog."

"There are times you can't remember your own name, your own phone number. You write things down because you know you won't remember it later."

Stack said she pushed through that fog for her children.

"I'm not going to let my husband down. He knew when he went to war this could happen. I did, too. He knew I could handle it. I did, too."

She just didn't realize it would be so hard.

"It's been a very long road, and we have a long way to go."

Today, the children seem to be adjusting to their changed life.

They still see a counselor. Suzanne sees one off and on.

"I get therapy from getting up every day and getting my kids going and hearing their laughter. I'm trying ... to give them the best I can give them, to raise them the way we had talked about, and to give them the love that both of us would have."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Fighters Stage Parades Close To U.S. Occupation Military Bases

[Check the new occupation lie: "Al-Qaida-linked gunmen." This bullshit has replaced the old Rumsfeld labels, which quit working a couple years ago: Remember "Dead-enders"? "Saddam Hussein remnants"? "Foreign fighters"? About the only card they have left is to call the resistance troops "space invaders".

Shops on the street where the parade was held remained open, and none of the shoppers appeared intimidated or worried by the presence of the gunmen [translation: soldiers].

October 21, 2006 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Al-Qaida-linked gunmen staged military-like parades yesterday in a string of towns west of Baghdad, underlining the growing confidence of Sunni insurgents in a part of Iraq where U.S. and Iraqi forces maintain a heavy counterinsurgency presence.

Like the audacious show of force by up to 60 insurgents in the city of Ramadi on Wednesday, the latest parades, including two less than a mile from U.S. military bases - were staged in support of an announcement this week by a militant Sunni Arab group that it had created an Islamic state in six of Iraq's 18 provinces, including the capital, Baghdad.

The declaration was made Sunday by the Mujahedeen Shura Council in a video posted on the Internet.

Significantly, two of yesterday's four parades, involving dozens of gunmen [translation: soldiers] in the towns of Haditha and Haqlaniyah, took place less than a mile from U.S. military bases, according to witnesses. There were no reports of clashes.

Besides Haditha and Haqlaniyah, parades were also held in the towns of Bani Daher and Rwah, all of which are in Anbar, a vast and mostly desert province where the Sunni insurgency has been fiercest since Saddam Hussein's ouster in 2003. Ramadi is Anbar's provincial capital.

In Haditha, where anti-U.S. sentiment runs high since Marines allegedly killed 24 civilians to avenge the death of one of their own last fall, masked gunmen [translation: soldiers] riding in at least 20 sedans and pickup trucks paraded undisturbed in the heart of the town for about 30 minutes.

The town, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad, has not had a police force for much of the past three years, and the U.S. military at a nearby base did not intervene.

The masked gunmen, who shouted "God is great," wore white overalls - a color that indicates their readiness to die. They carried assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns.

The gunmen also distributed candy and new clothes to gathered children, a gesture to mark the Muslim feast of Eid al-Fitr, which is next week.

Shops on the street where the parade was held remained open, and none of the shoppers appeared intimidated or worried by the presence of the gunmen [translation: soldiers].

Assorted Resistance Action

21 Oct 2006 Reuters & By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer

A roadside bomb wounded two police officers and a woman in a market in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source said.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed and one wounded in Al Hawija, 60 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, when **gunmen** opened fire on their vehicle, police said.

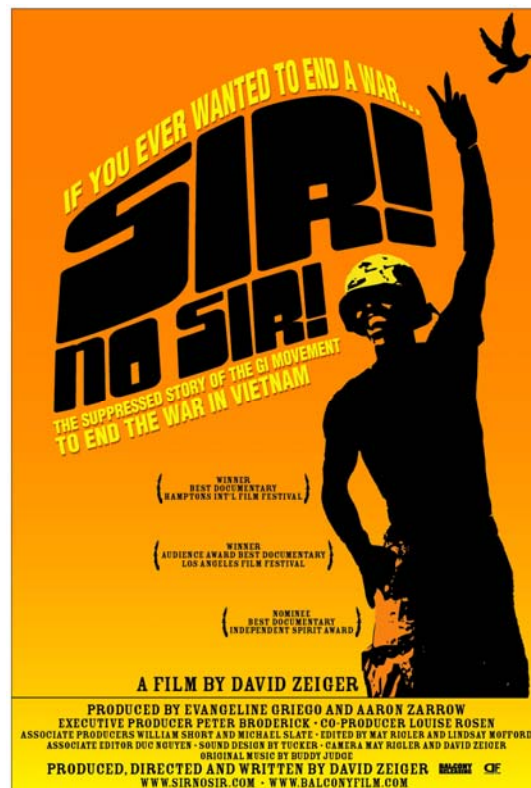
One policeman was killed in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, when gunmen opened fire on his vehicle, police said.

A bomb exploded near the offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a leading Shiite political party that sponsors the Badr Brigades militia [and supports the U.S. occupation].

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Vietnam Veterans Helped To Stop That War”



July 07, 2006 Thunder Coyote, Veterans Against War

So, I have decided to help soldiers start to resist illegal orders - to stop the war in Iraq.

None of the politicians fight, they really don't do shit. Think about it, none of them have stood up in war, none of them have volunteered their children, most have never even stood in boots and probably would not know how to break down an M-16 or any other crew served weapon.

My first suggestion to soldiers that are currently in: check out the film "Sir, No Sir." You can get a free copy from Iraq Veterans Against The War, or Veterans for Peace.

It is your right to have it, to see it, and for it make you think (DoD regs state that it can not be confiscated from you).

When you watch this, it will become very apparent that the Vietnam veterans helped to stop that war.

After all, we all know - this war is not based on weapons of mass destruction or anything else that could be 'found.' There is plenty of evidence out there my friends who are still in boots.

Your blood is being spilled, you are far from home, and don't think for one minute that George W. Bush or Dick Cheney give one fuck about you!

Rise up my brothers and Sisters: make your voices be heard, the time is now!!!

**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."



www.ivaw.net

Low-Tech Insurgents Defeating High-Tech Militaries

October 23, 2006 By Greg Grant, Army Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

For a brief moment in late 2001, as Taliban fighters fled Afghanistan for sanctuary in Pakistan in the face of an American aerial bombardment, advocates of a revolution in warfare believed that through its much-exalted precision-guided munitions, the U.S. had finally found the silver bullet: the ability to destroy an enemy with air power while limiting the “boots on the ground” that result in politically unacceptable deaths.

Fast-forward five years.

It would stretch reality to say that warfare, as it is being played out on the world stage, is anything remotely revolutionary.

In Iraq, American and allied troops are battling insurgents in constricted city streets and along dirt roads marked by burned-out vehicles and scattered military and civilian bodies caught in the deadly blasts of roadside bombs.

In Afghanistan, Taliban forces that had melted away have returned with thousands of new recruits, using tactics and weapons imported from Iraq.

In the past few months, NATO and U.S. troops have faced the heaviest fighting yet in Afghanistan, struggling to destroy guerrilla fighters who operate in large formations yet refuse to hold ground and make themselves targets for allied air power.

The latest fighting in Lebanon was a far cry from Israel's past wars, which featured massive battles between tank formations that swept across the desert. Instead, the Israel army became bogged down clearing Hezbollah fighters from trenches, bunkers and fortified villages. Israeli troops suffered heavy casualties from anti-tank missiles that destroyed Merkava tanks, among land warfare's most heavily armored weapons.

Today's wars feature few displays of a high-tech revolution of orbiting sensors guiding precision munitions launched from standoff platforms onto remote targets.

Instead, guerrilla fighters in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon lure their opponents into close-in firefights on prepared terrain that dispels advantages in technology and firepower.

The guerrilla's most lethal weapons are the rocket-propelled grenade, developed in the 1960s, and crudely constructed land mines called improvised explosive devices.

These low-tech arms are foiling high-tech militaries equipped with computers, airborne sensors and spy satellites.

Contemporary war is defined by a relentless urban sprawl that has left few parts of the planet unmarked by buildings. Modern fighters refuse to present themselves as targets to enable advanced militaries to rapidly close the “sensor-to-shooter” link.

In what was supposed to be a new approach to war fighting in the 21st century, when a revolution in military affairs was supposed to bring about the demise of the close battle, the reality of battlefield experience with a highly adaptable guerrilla foe appears, at least for now, to have introduced a dose of counterrevolutionary reality whose lessons are only just being absorbed.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



A man walks through rubble of a part of Ansar al-Zahra Shiite mosque in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday Oct. 20, 2006, after an overnight raid by the US troops in which they have blown up part of the mosque, arrested two guards and confiscated computers and money, according to witnesses. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country, destroying their churches, and slaughtering their citizens to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

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

While U.S. Troops Died For Bullshit: U.S. Occupation Officials Implicated In Theft Of Half Billion Dollars

"Too many people in positions of power and authority have been found with their hands inside the cookie jar."

Oct. 19, 2006 CBS

More than half a billion dollars earmarked to fight the insurgency in Iraq was stolen by people the U.S. had entrusted to run the country's Ministry of Defense before the 2005 elections, according to Iraqi investigators.

Iraq's former minister of finance says coalition members like the U.S. and Britain are doing little to help recover the money or catch suspects, most of whom fled the country. The 60 Minutes investigation also turned up audio recordings of a suspect who seems to be discussing the transfer of \$45 million to the account of a top political adviser to the interim defense minister.

"We have not been given any serious, official support from either the United States or the U.K. or any of the surrounding Arab countries," says Ali Allawi, who was confronted with the missing funds when he took over as Iraq's finance minister last year.

He thinks he knows why Iraqi investigators have gotten little help.

"The only explanation I can come up with is that too many people in positions of power and authority in the new Iraq have been, in one way or another, found with their hands inside the cookie jar," says Allawi, who left his post when a new Iraqi government was formed earlier this year.

"And if they are brought to trial, it will cast a very disparaging light on those people who had supported them and brought them to this position of power and authority," he tells Kroft.

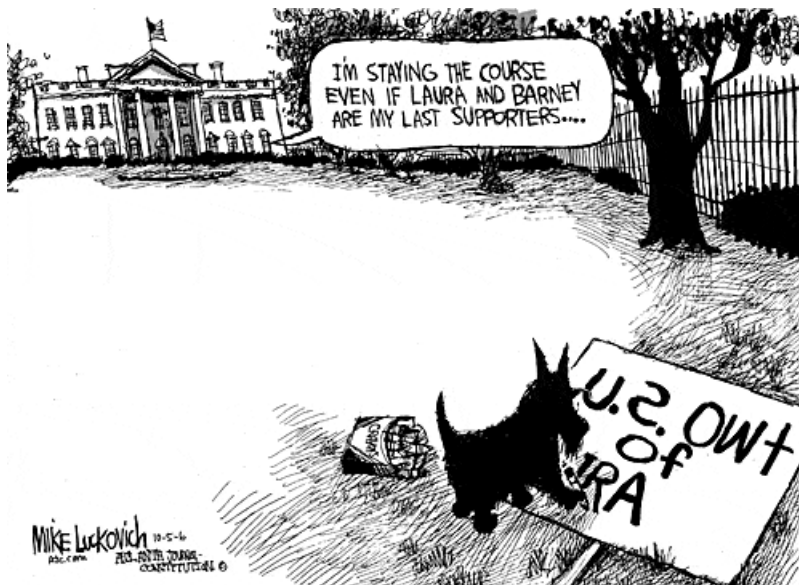
One of the people praised in former U.S. Ambassador L. Paul Bremer's memoirs is a major suspect in the case.

Ziad Cattan was in charge of military procurement at a time when the ministry of defense went on a \$1.2 billion buying spree. Allawi estimates that \$750 to \$800 million of that money was stolen. Judge Radhi al-Radhi, head of Iraq's Commission on Public Integrity, which investigates official corruption, tells Kroft that a lot of the money that wasn't stolen was spent on outdated, useless equipment.

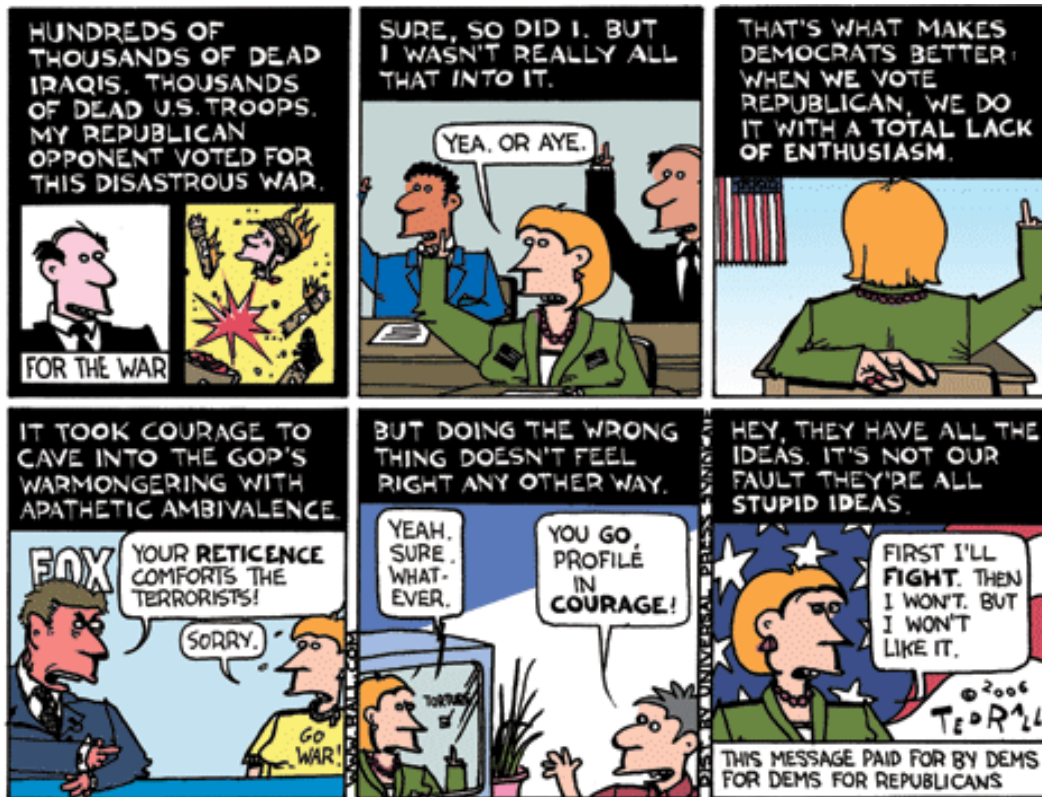
The case is one of 2,000 Iraqi government corruption cases the judge's commission is handling that, all told, involve \$7.5 billion.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. **Same to unsubscribe.**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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



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

“What Is To Stop Bush From Declaring You An Enemy Combatant And Stripping You Of Your Citizenship?”

10/18/06 By Juan Cole, Information Clearing House [Excerpts]

Bush and a supine, cowardly Congress shredded the US Constitution on Tuesday, abolishing the right of a court review (habeas corpus) for some classes of suspect.

Suspect, mind you, not proven criminal.

In other words, we have to be confident that George W. Bush is so competent, all-knowing, and inherently just that we can just trust him.

If he says someone is an enemy combatant, then he or she is. No need to check with a judge about why he or she is being held. And then Bush can have the

suspect tortured to make him confess, and can convict him on the basis of the coerced confession, all in secret.

This law creates two classes of persons inside the United States, citizens with rights and non-citizens (12 million persons? Equivalent to the entire state of Michigan!) without rights.

Basically, Bush can issue them what the French kings used to call lettres de cachet.:

“In French history, lettres de cachet were letters signed by the king of France, countersigned by one of his ministers, and closed with the royal seal, or cachet. They contained orders directly from the king, often to enforce arbitrary actions and judgements that could not be appealed. . .”

We Americans made a revolution against such arbitrary practices of the French and other Empires.

Article 1, Section 9 of the US Constitution says, "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it."

I look out my window. I don't see a general Rebellion or an invasion by a foreign power. The conditions, under which the right of the imprisoned to demand that a court establish whether there are genuine grounds to hold him is suspended, are absent.

The law is unconstitutional.

Of course we have had these periods of neo-Monarchy and temporary insanity before in our history. There was the Alien and Sedition Act, and the Red Scare after World War I, etc.

King George came on O'Reilly and said that it is "illogical" to disagree with his policies in Iraq and branded arguments that he is drifting along without a plan "propaganda."

So of course eventually Bush-think will lead to attempts to cure those of us who are critical of him of our illogicality, and to suppress our "propaganda."

We'll all be right-thinking non-propagandists after a little water-boarding.

You say we don't have to worry about that because we are citizens?

But what is to stop Bush from declaring you an enemy combatant and stripping you of your citizenship?

And then keeping you away from any civil court where those letters of cachet can be challenged?

MORE:

“Convene A Military Commission To Try, Not John Walker Lindh, But George Walker Bush”

18 October 2006 By Keith Olbermann, MSNBC [Excerpts]

This President now has his blank check.

He lied to get it.

He lied as he received it.

Is there any reason to even hope he has not lied about how he intends to use it nor who he intends to use it against?

“These military commissions will provide a fair trial,” you told us yesterday, Mr. Bush, “in which the accused are presumed innocent, have access to an attorney and can hear all the evidence against them.”

"Presumed innocent," Mr. Bush?

The very piece of paper you signed as you said that, allows for the detainees to be abused up to the point just before they sustain “serious mental and physical trauma” in the hope of getting them to incriminate themselves, and may no longer even invoke The Geneva Conventions in their own defense.

"Access to an attorney," Mr. Bush?

Lieutenant Commander Charles Swift said on this program, Sir, and to the Supreme Court, that he was only granted access to his detainee defendant on the promise that the detainee would plead guilty.

"Hearing all the evidence," Mr. Bush?

The Military Commissions Act specifically permits the introduction of classified evidence not made available to the defense.

Your words are lies, Sir.

They are lies that imperil us all.

“One of the terrorists believed to have planned the 9/11 attacks,” you told us yesterday, “said he hoped the attacks would be the beginning of the end of America.”

That terrorist, sir, could only hope.

Not his actions, nor the actions of a ceaseless line of terrorists (real or imagined), could measure up to what you have wrought.

Habeas corpus? Gone.

The Geneva Conventions? Optional.

And did it even occur to you once, sir; somewhere in amidst those eight separate, gruesome, intentional, terroristic invocations of the horrors of 9/11; that with only a little further shift in this world we now know; just a touch more repudiation of all of that for which our patriots died; did it ever occur to you once that in just 27 months and two days from now when you leave office, some irresponsible future president and a "competent tribunal" of lackeys would be entitled, by the actions of your own hand, to declare the status of "unlawful enemy combatant" for, and convene a Military Commission to try, not John Walker Lindh, but George Walker Bush?

For the most vital, the most urgent, the most inescapable of reasons.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

Rumsfeld Really Does Hate Our Freedom: More Info Released About DoD Spying On Citizens

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

October 13, 2006 By Eric Lichtblau, New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12: Internal military documents released Thursday provided new details about the Defense Department's collection of information on demonstrations nationwide last year by students, Quakers and others opposed to the Iraq war.

The documents, obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, show, for instance, that military officials labeled as "potential terrorist activity" events like a "Stop the War Now" rally in Akron, Ohio, in March 2005.

The Defense Department acknowledged last year that its analysts had maintained records on war protests in an internal database past the 90 days its guidelines allowed, and even after it was determined there was no threat.

An internal report produced in May 2005, for instance, discussed antiwar protests at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and was issued "to clarify why the Students for Peace and Justice represent a potential threat to D.O.D. personnel."

The memorandum noted that several hundred students had recently protested the presence of military recruiters at a career fair and demanded that they leave.

"The clear purpose of these civil disobedience actions was to disrupt the recruiting mission of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command by blocking the entrance to the recruiting station and causing the stations to shut down early," it said.

The documents indicated that intelligence reports and tips about antiwar protests, including mundane details like the schedule for weekly planning meetings, were widely shared among analysts from the military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security.

"There is simply no reason why the United States military should be monitoring the peaceful activities of American citizens who oppose U.S. war policies," said Ben Wizner, a lawyer for the A.C.L.U.

Joyce Miller, an official with the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker group that learned that information on some of its antiwar protests was in the military database, said she found the operation to be a "chilling" and troubling trend.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

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