

GI SPECIAL 2#B12

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME



Visitors view the coffin of 22-year-old U.S. Marine Juna Lopez, killed in Iraq, in his hometown of San Luis de la Paz in Mexico July 3. Lopez emigrated to the United States as a teenager. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Stop-Loss Merits Overtime Pay

July 05, 2004 Army Times

Al Weed, a Virginia Democrat running for the U.S. congressional seat held by Republican Rep. Virgil Goode in the 5th District, thinks enlisted people prevented from leaving the military as scheduled because of stop-loss orders should be eligible for overtime pay, *equal to 50 percent of their regular pay*. Weed, a retired Army command sergeant major, said civilians get time-and-a-half when forced to work overtime. "Surely, soldiers at war deserve no less," he said.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Marine Dies Of Wounds

July 3, 2004 AP

Saturday, the U.S. command said a Marine died of wounds suffered Friday in western Iraq.

He was wounded in Anbar province.

The province includes the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

Cooling It: Search And Evade Preserves Life



US soldiers keep themselves cool in the shade of a bridge in Baghdad. (AFP/Roslan Rahman)

IED Hits British Troops In Basra

Jul. 03, 2004 DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

In the southern city of Basra, one British soldier was wounded and two military vehicles damaged when a roadside bomb exploded Saturday, a British military spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

Najaf: U.S. Troops Surrounded, Under Siege By Madhi Resistance Army

July 05, 2004 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times staff writer

NAJAF, Iraq — The top cop in this embattled Shiite holy city had his hands full recruiting and retaining young men he can trust to fill the police department's ranks.

While he's doing that, U.S. soldiers have turned the police headquarters into a fortress, taking fire while defending it against insurgents.

For the soldiers of 1st Platoon, defending a police station has from the start meant coming under fire.

"The first day they sprinkled us with a couple of mortars, but that was nothing," said Spc. Jimmy Martinez, 21, the battery's medic. On May 21, he found himself treating a soldier on a pile of unpacked duffel bags that had just been unloaded from a humvee.

The soldiers had been there less than four hours.

Insurgents launched 140 mortar attacks in the first eight days the battery was living at the police station, 30 in one day alone.
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"You can hear the 'thud' when the mortar rounds are launched. We learned to stay inside," said Martinez of Weslaco, Texas.

The next day, the mortars started at 8 a.m. and didn't stop for eight hours. The 1st Armored Division artillerymen hunkered down and bolstered their fortress with sandbags and concertina wire.

"When the [battalion commander] told us we'd be at the tip of the spear, we are at the tip of the spear. He wasn't lying about that. We're in a hot zone," said Sgt. Alberto De La Garza, 25, of Freer, Texas.

"When the streets get quiet, you know something's coming, because the Mehdi army has checkpoints, and they try to protect locals by keeping them out" when they know there's going to be shooting, said Staff Sgt. Jason Bump, 33, of Columbus, Ohio. Bump received shrapnel in his arm and foot in the May 21 mortar attack.

From the police station rooftop, evidence of the mortar attacks dots the landscape around the building, and the power is out in a large swath of the city after an attack knocked out a transformer.

There are plans to move the police station to a safer part of town.

Resistance In Baqubah Wins Praise For Warfighting Skills; Insurgents Coordinated Attacks

July 05, 2004 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times staff writer

BAQUBAH, Iraq — An uneasy peace ended here at dawn, six days before the June 30 hand-over of power to the Iraqi government, when about 150 heavily armed insurgents commandeered five buildings and launched coordinated surprise attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Coalition forces quickly regained control of the city, which was transformed from a bustling commercial hub into a desolate and forbidding war zone. Citizens were not seen on the streets until evening, picking over the remains of three buildings destroyed in U.S. airstrikes.

There was no insurgent activity overnight and calm prevailed for most of the next day, but soldiers in the troubled province expect more violence.

“There could be activity today after prayer. There may be nothing,” Maj. Fred Nutter, executive officer of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, said June 25. **His comments came the day after the most intense fighting in the Diyala province since April 9, when enemy fighters engaged U.S. and coalition forces with simultaneous attacks and ambushes over a 20-hour period.**

“We know the losses we inflicted last night. It has to have hurt them.”

In the most recent fighting, which lasted about eight hours, two U.S. soldiers and at least 20 Iraqi policemen were killed and the home of the provincial chief of police was assaulted with grenades and small-arms fire.

Nine Bradley fighting vehicles were rendered temporarily inoperable after getting hit with rocket-propelled grenades.

Also attacked, but unscathed, were the civil military operations center, the provincial police station and the government center building, known as the Blue Dome — all heavily reinforced with concrete barriers, sandbags and lookout posts.

About 30 insurgents fired from hiding places in a large date palm grove along a main supply route and dozens of others fought from traffic circles and other approaches to the city where coalition forces have been engaged multiple times.

Others, most of them dressed in black masks, stormed and commandeered two police substations and stole weapons, ammunition and Iraqi police uniforms. Insurgents also took over a civic center and gymnasium, a vocational college and an abandoned building.

“The enemy was a lot more accurate than it’s ever been,” said Capt. Travis VanHecke, commander of Bravo company, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment.

TROOP NEWS

Air Force Troops Let Loose At Bush

July 2, 2004 | Page 4 http://www.socialistworker.org/2004-2/505/505_04_OtherLetters.shtml

Dear *Socialist Worker*,

Recently, in a bar in Great Falls, Mont., I got into a conversation with a veteran of the U.S. Navy and three military construction workers stationed nearby at Malmstrom Air Force Base. **When the topic of the war came up, they all said immediately that it was about oil and profit.**

Only one seemed to think it was even remotely possible that weapons of mass destruction would be found in Iraq, and when he added that Bush was a liar anyway, everyone sitting at our table burst out with enthusiastic agreement.

The fact that John Kerry’s Web site says he wants to deploy 40,000 more troops was news to these soldiers, however, and they did seem to retain some faith in the idea of voting against Bush. “It’s all about electing the right liar,” one of them explained.

Tom Barton, editor of *GI Special*, has said that among Marines returning from combat, such disgust with the war would hardly even be newsworthy, but that among Air Force personnel in a place so far away from Iraq, it hints that antiwar sentiment in the armed forces is reaching new heights.

Alan Wallis, New York City

How It Was;

How It Can Be Again

(from 1,001 Ways to Beat the Draft, by Tuli Kupferburg).

An American soldier in a hospital explained how he was wounded: He said, "I was told that the way to tell a hostile Vietnamese from a friendly Vietnamese was to shout 'To hell with Ho Chi Minh!' If he shoots, he's unfriendly.

So I saw this dude and yelled 'To hell with Ho Chi Minh!' and he yelled back, 'To hell with President Johnson!'

We were shaking hands when a truck hit us."

Lying Recruiter Gets Caught

July 05, 2004 Army Times

A recent high school graduate is accusing a recruiter of tricking him into enlisting once he changed his mind about joining the Army.

Ryan Winter, 18, says the recruiter repeatedly assured him before he reported to duty in June in Davenport, Iowa, that he would simply have to head to Fort Jackson, S.C., for a brief out-processing procedure.

The office of Rep. Jim Nussle, R-Iowa, told the family June 18 that the Army has decided to give Winter a Chapter 11 general discharge and send him home in two to three weeks.

Winter's family claims he was told if he did not sign final enlistment papers, he would be considered absent without leave, fined \$50,000, face prison time and never find a decent job again.

The Army will launch an internal investigation, and a congressional inquiry is underway, said Toni Harn, a spokeswoman for the Army's Recruiting Battalion in Des Moines.

Government Lied To Troops About Risk Of Anthrax Shots

Spring 2004, From John H. Moore, "Race, Ethnicity And The "Gene Bombs," CovertAction Quarterly (www.covertactionquarterly.org: Check it out.)

As has recently been illustrated in public discussions of plans to immunize soldiers and medical workers against smallpox and anthrax, especially, not everyone can be successfully inoculated.

Most people get their shots for a particular bacterium or virus and become immune but some cannot acquire immunity, no matter how often they repeat the inoculations. **And some people die or become permanently disabled, a result labeled adverse outcomes” in Newspeak.**

So far, the U.S. government has not been candid in describing the extent of adverse outcomes in either the civilian population or *the military*, especially with anthrax.

In its report to the congressional committee investigating the refusal of some military personnel to submit to anthrax vaccinations, the government underreported the rate of adverse outcome by using a statistical trick.

For example, if the number of deaths and disabilities was 30 soldiers out of a thousand, with each soldier receiving a series of six shots, the rate of adverse outcomes was reported as 30/6,000 or 0.5 percent rather than 30/1,000 or 3 percent, if we count the number of persons instead of the number of shots.

So the actual percent of adverse outcomes was six times the reported rate. The definition of adverse outcome” has also been juggled to keep the number down.

But there is no denying that the anthrax series is dangerous, much more so than smallpox or measles, especially to a civilian population which is not as healthy as a group of young, medically screened soldiers.

GET SOME TRUTH; CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. 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/>

Bush Wants To Use Income Tax Records To Hunt Down IRR Members; (Already Using Private Credit Reports)

July 01, 2004 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

The Pentagon's announcement that it is mobilizing up to 6,500 soldiers from the Individual Ready Reserve for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan has prompted renewed interest in a Bush administration proposal to use Internal Revenue Service records to locate missing reservists, **a request made in March to use IRS records to locate IRR members who have failed to supply the Defense Department with their current addresses.**

Congress has not approved the March 12 request for a change in law allowing the use of taxpayer records to find missing soldiers. But the fact that the Bush administration asked for help in locating IRR members earlier this year has raised suspicions that Pentagon officials knew months ago that they lacked enough people to deploy to Iraq without taking extraordinary steps.

In the letter to Rumsfeld, lawmakers question not only why the Defense Department wants to tap into taxpayer records — currently barred by law — **but also why it has used credit reporting agencies and other means to find people who have completed their active-duty service and whose only remaining obligation is in the non-drilling reserves.**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

New Iraqi “Government” Says Resistance Fighters Were Right To Go To War Against U.S. Troops

7.1.04 By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press Writer & 7.3.03 By JIM KRANE,
Associated Press Writer

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's new government is considering offering amnesty to Iraqi insurgents who fought the U.S.-led occupation, perhaps even pardoning those who killed Americans.

A spokesman for Allawi said fighting with U.S. troops was "justified" as resistance to occupation.

"If he (a guerrilla) was in opposition against the Americans, that will be justified because it was an occupation force," spokesman Georges Sada said. "We will give them freedom."

One former army officer who described himself as a "helper to the resistance" in Fallujah said Allawi's plan would find little traction because his government is seen as illegitimate.

"I do not want to return to the new Iraqi army and be put in a situation where I have to open fire on my countrymen in order to defend the Americans," said Mohammed al-Janabi, a former colonel in the disbanded Iraqi army.

"The goal of this offer is to divide the resistance. They want to isolate the honest patriots from the Islamic Mujahedeen — in other words divide and rule — and this is not going to happen," al-Janabi said. "As for Allawi and (President Ghazi) al-Yawer, they are taking orders from the new American ambassador after the departure of their former master, Bremer. They are helping the Americans steal our oil and they will be punished."

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

Madhi Army Leader Says "Sovereignty" Is Bullshit: War Against Occupation To Go On

7.1.04 By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press Writer

Resistance Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has urged his followers to continue attacks on foreign forces, saying they continue to occupy Iraq.

"I plead to the Iraqi people to continue to reject occupation and demand independence," he said in a sermon — read on his behalf Friday by his supporter Jaber Khafaji — in the town of Kufa.

Also Friday, American forces also clashed with insurgents in the northern city of Beji on Friday, killing two and wounding a third.

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

Who Would Believe It?

Resistance Blows Up Oil Pipeline For 348,928th Time

3 July, 2004 By Alistair Lyon, BAGHDAD (Reuters)

Guerrillas have set a southern oil pipeline ablaze, halving Iraq's vital crude exports.

An oil official said one of two pipelines feeding Iraq's Gulf terminals was on fire in the Faw Peninsula and a shipping agent said this had cut exports to 960,000 barrels per day.

Oil exports, Iraq's main economic artery, had recovered to about two million bpd after being choked off completely by last month's attacks on both southern pipelines.

Insurgents Kill 7 Iraqi Collaborator Troops At Mahmudiyah Checkpoint

Jul. 03, 2004 DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Insurgents attacked an Iraqi checkpoint south of the capital on Saturday, killing seven national guard soldiers and wounding two more, hospital officials said.

The national guard soldiers were killed and wounded at a checkpoint in Mahmudiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, said Dawoud Hussein, a local hospital director.

Resistance Infiltrated Abu Ghraib

7.1.04 By Donna Leinwand, USA TODAY

U.S. authorities in Iraq hired Iraqi prison guards to help staff Abu Ghraib and other prisons in Iraq, but the guards turned out to be almost as much trouble as the prisoners themselves, interviews and documents obtained by USA TODAY show.

In several instances, Iraqi guards abruptly walked off the job when prisoners began to riot, leaving U.S. soldiers to quell disturbances.

Iraqi guards, recruited off the streets of Baghdad, received two weeks of training. **The new guards joined old regime guards already working at the prisons.**

A military officer who assessed conditions at Abu Ghraib after a riot and shooting in November 2003 reported that he spent nine days there and saw representatives from the CPA at the prison only three times, according to documents included in a report on the prison by Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba.

In the absence of civilian wardens, Army MPs supervised the Iraqi guards, who "have a questionable work ethic," the officer's report said. Many of the guards "are very corrupt and are known former intelligence officers and Fedayeen members," the officer wrote.

The officer's investigation of the Nov. 24 shooting at Abu Ghraib implicated four Iraqi guards, one with ties to the Fedayeen. **According to an account of the incident in the officer's report, the guards hid a gun and two bayonet-like knives in the inner tube of a car tire and smuggled them into the prison compound. One guard wrapped the weapons in bed sheets and threw them through the window of a cell occupied by a detainee thought to have intelligence on the growing insurgency in the country.**

When U.S. soldiers were tipped off to the weapons and attempted to retrieve them, the prisoner shot a guard in the chest. The guard, uninjured thanks to his body armor, fired back at the detainee using rubber bullets. The detainee fired more shots at the soldiers, who eventually immobilized him by firing buckshot at his legs.

Incident reports and military investigations included in the Taguba report describe other security lapses attributed to Iraqi guards:

- Two prisoners used their bunk bed to knock a concrete window grating from a cell at Abu Ghraib without arousing the notice of Iraqi guards, the investigation noted.
- Inmates at another prison in Baghdad pried the bars out of a new but poorly constructed cell. At least 10 prisoners escaped, although all were recaptured by the Army. Again, Iraqi guards ignored the noise.
- **In another incident at Abu Ghraib, an Iraqi guard signed a prisoner out for work detail and both disappeared. Soldiers found the prisoner's orange prison jumpsuit in a portable toilet.**

Iraqi Cop Killed In Mosul Attack

July 3, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release
Number: 04-07-07

MOSUL, IRAQ –A Mosul police officer died yesterday near Al Qadissiya Bridge after the police traffic control point came under small arms fire by anti-Iraqi forces. Iraqi police returned fire and attempted to pursue the suspect vehicle but were unable to find the subjects. No other officers were injured during the attack.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Resistance Campaign

July 1, 2004 Seumas Milne, The Guardian (UK)

What is not in doubt is that the resistance has decisively changed the balance of power in Iraq and beyond.

The anti-occupation guerrillas are routinely damned as terrorists, Ba'athist remnants, Islamist fanatics or mindless insurgents without a political programme. In a recantation of his support for the war this week, the liberal writer Michael Ignatieff called them "hateful".

But it has become ever clearer that they are in fact a classic resistance movement with widespread support waging an increasingly successful guerrilla war against the occupying armies.

Their tactics are overwhelmingly in line with those of resistance campaigns throughout modern history, targeting both the occupiers themselves and the local police and military working for them. Where that has not been the case - for example, in atrocities against civilians, such as the Karbala bombing in March - the attacks have been associated with the al-Qaida-linked group around the Jordanian Zarqawi, whose real role is the subject of much speculation among Iraqis.

The popularity of the mainstream resistance can be gauged by recent polling on the Shia rebel leader Moqtada al-Sadr, who was said to have minimal support before his Mahdi army took up arms in April and now has the backing of 67% of Iraqis.

In the past year, the Iraqi resistance has succeeded in preventing the imposition of a Pax Americana on Iraq and forced the occupation troops out of Falluja, Najaf and other Iraqi cities.

By tying down the most powerful military force in the world, it has revealed the limits of American power and drastically reduced the threat of a US invasion of another state.

The resistance war can of course be cruel, but the innocent deaths it has been responsible for pale next to the toll inflicted by the occupiers. Its political strength lies precisely in the fact that it has no programme except the expulsion of the occupying forces. Jack Straw said this week that the resistance was "opposed to a free Iraq" - but its campaign is in fact Iraq's real war of liberation.

The Trial Of Saddam

July 1, 2004 George Galloway. George Galloway is Respect MP for Glasgow Kelvin

Today is the start of a show trial. It's intended to deflect attention from the absolute failure of the occupation to either get the electricity and water back on, still less to subdue the Iraqi resistance - which is giving them a bloody good hiding all over the country. I think it will fail in that regard, just as the capture of Saddam Hussein last December failed.

The resistance is fighting the foreign occupier. They're not fighting for Saddam, so it follows that they have no interest one way or another in what happens to him. What they're interested in doing is driving foreign armies out of their country, and ending the process by which their country has been turned into a giant salami and sliced up by George Bush's corporate friends in direct proportion to the donations they make to his re-election campaign. That's what they are doing, and if anything that will intensify.

The dog that did not bark is the Iraqi invasion of Iran, with which - lo and behold - Saddam is not to be charged.

Why? Because he invaded Iran at the behest of the US and Britain. He fought the Iranian army and attacked the Iranian cities - and the civilians within them - with weapons given to him by Britain and America and with maps supplied personally by Donald Rumsfeld.

The trial could scarcely cover the invasion of a foreign country by Iraq in which a million people died when we would have to be indicted as co-conspirators.

“Judge” In Hussein Trial In Bed With U.S. Pro-Israel Law Firm

7.3.03 by Ibrahim Ebeid

The newly appointed Prime Minister Iyad Allawi admitted that his group practiced terrorism in Iraq that caused innocent Iraqis to be killed or maimed. Iyad Allawi shamelessly admitted that he worked for the US, British and other foreign intelligence and probably for the Zionist intelligence as well.

Allawi and all members of his "cabinet" cannot venture outside the "Green Zone" and less in Baghdad or the other areas of Iraq. He knows very well that he cannot move without his armored car and without the protection of American soldiers.

His token prize for the betrayal of his country was a title in an unsafe "republic" in the Green Zone where the generals of the invaders are hiding.

The head of the kangaroo court that was set up by the Occupation is not legitimate. He is the nephew of Ahmad Chalabi that was used by the Bush

Administration and the Pentagon to mislead the US Congress and the American people for the invasion and destruction of Iraq.

According to Counterpunch columnist Dave Lindorff, the problem with Salem's heading the Hussein tribunal isn't "just that his uncle is Ahmed Chalabi. Salem himself is linked directly to the Bush administration. His business partner [Mark Zell](#) runs a law firm in partnership with U.S. Undersecretary of Defense and long-time neo-conservative Iraqi War hawk [Douglas Jay Feith](#) - whose office oversees the graft and scandal-ridden reconstruction program in Iraq." Mark Zell is a fervent Zionist who has an office in Jerusalem.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Escape From the Green Zone: Bush Orders Immediate Withdrawal Of Paul Bremer, Troops Fucked

July 1, 2004 By MAUREEN DOWD, NYTimes

You'd think that President Bush would have learned by now to keep those snappy aphorisms to himself.

Gonna get Osama dead or alive.
Or neither.

Gonna smoke Osama out of his cave.
When exactly?

Bring 'em on.
Please don't.

Mission Accomplished.
Not.

Let freedom reign.
Couldn't Karl Rove and his minions at least get that "ad-lib" right about freedom ringing?

Not gonna cut and run.
We can't cut, but we certainly ran.

Paul Bremer scuttled out of Baghdad so fast, he didn't even wait for the new ambassador, John Negroponte, to arrive so he could pass along some safety tips.

The administration went from Shock and Awe to Sneak and Shirk. Gotta run, guys — keep chins up and heads down. The Bush crowd pretended the country was free and able to stand on its own, even as the odd manner in which Mr. Bremer scooted away showed that it wasn't. The president acted as if Iraq was in control, but our forces can't come home because Iraq's still out of control.

As Paul Bremer was sneaking out, Ahmad Chalabi, the swindler who has bilked America out of millions, was sneaking in. He was smiling from ear to ear at the swearing-in ceremony for the new prime minister, Iyad Allawi (a ceremony so secretive that coalition officials confiscated reporters' cellphones to enforce an embargo on the news for security reasons).

If Americans needed any more confirmation that they're viewed as loathed occupiers, not beloved liberators, it came with the sad little spectacle of a hasty, heavily guarded hand-over that no Iraqi John Trumbull will memorialize in an oil painting of the Declaration of Iraqi Independence.

Dick Cheney and the neocons had once hoped for a grand Independence Day celebration, no doubt, where Saddam's toppled statue once loomed, dreaming of a parade of Iraqi high school pep squads and the Iraqi Olympic bobsled team; sky boxes for Halliburton executives; grateful Iraqis, cheering and crying; President Bush making a surprise drop-in from the NATO summit meeting in nearby Turkey, with "Mission Accomplished" pen sets for the new government; Katie, Matt and Diane beaming it back to proud Americans.

Instead, there was no real transfer of power because there was no power to transfer. It was a virtual transfer, just the way the rationale for war was virtual and the shift of Saddam's custody to Iraq is virtual. The Bush team is not going to trust Iraqi security to hang onto Saddam because it doesn't even know yet whether Iraqi security can hang onto the country. With rumblings in Iraq that a strongman may be needed to tamp down the anarchy, what if the old Baathist crowd rushed to crown Saddam, instead of his foes storming the prison to "hack him to pieces," as Mr. Bremer speculated on the "Today" show?

Mr. Bremer's escape from the Green Zone was uncomfortably reminiscent of the last days of Saigon. No one was hanging onto the skids of helicopters, but the mood was furtive, not festive. American troops are still trapped in Iraq and being killed there, and 5,600 ex-soldiers are being involuntarily recalled in America's undeclared draft.

The White House pretended that the sovereignty was real. The administration that is loath to share information and presidential papers — even to help the 9/11 investigation find ways to make the country more secure — quickly turned over a photo of Mr. Bush's handwritten "Let freedom reign!" comment on Condi Rice's note to him announcing the transfer.

Still, Mr. Bremer put the best foot forward. Noting that the ex-proconsul was standing on the White House lawn still in the boots he wore with suits in Iraq, Charlie Gibson of ABC asked the escapee how he felt.

"Well, it's like having a rather large weight lifted off my shoulders," he said. "I'm delighted to be back."

If only our soldiers could say the same.

Watch Out For Smelly and Sweaty Pregnant Suicide Bombers

7/1/2004 <http://kurtnimmo.com/blog/>

Saddam hit the nail on the head: "This is all a theater by Bush, the criminal," said the former CIA operative and recipient of WMD courtesy of the US government as he was presented for the opening of his show trial in Baghdad.

But the show is not confined to Baghdad.

In a bulletin entitled "Fourth of July Threat Environment," the FBI is once again mentions "people wearing loose-fitting clothes or jackets even in hot weather, exposed wires under clothing, strange chemical odors or sweating and mumbling of prayers. It said suicide bombers may try to disguise themselves in military or police uniforms or pose as pregnant women," reports the My Way web site.

So you better stay home. No going to the park. No cookouts. No sparklers. And if you encounter a smelly pregnant woman dangling electrical wires and praying, you better call the cops ... no wait a minute, you can't call the cops because they might be al-Qaeda bad guys. Damn terr'ists. I guess the only thing we can do is gut the Bill of Rights and get accustomed to perpetual wars in far away Muslim places where there's a whole lot of oil.

But it's not just al-kay-duh you have to worry about. On June 11, the FBI issued a bulletin warning of "eco-terrorism" from the likes of the Earth Liberation Front. "No specific targets have been identified," said the FBI, admitting they are basically attempting to scare you silly without providing specifics (this may endanger their agents provocateurs). Even so, you should be on the look out for stinky eco-terrorists in parkas who appear to be in the third trimester.

Let's face it. Bush and the FBI and John Ashcroft as Dracula want to wreck your holiday.

If it's not booby trapped beer coolers, it's inner tubes at Water World packed with explosives and ball bearings.

Point is you have to be scared. Point is if they do this enough—and if it pays off this summer of autumn as they keep telling us (Condi said the terr'ists would have to be crazy not to attack us now, right before the election Bush needs help winning or stealing), you can bet the farm Bush will demand a rally and flag-waving and a fresh influx of "detainees" (read: torture victims) in his ever-expanding Dante-like inferno of secret gulags.

Political Sell-Out Season In Full Swing:

#1

Greens Go For Kerry But Pretend Otherwise

Socialist Worker, July 2, 2004 | Page 5

ALAN MAASS reports from the Green Party's national convention in Milwaukee.

THE GREEN Party rejected the independent campaign of Ralph Nader at its convention last weekend. Instead, the Greens nominated a little-known attorney and activist from California, David Cobb, as their presidential candidate.

Cobb won the party's presidential nomination by a narrow majority of the nearly 800 delegates voting at the convention, heading off a further vote that could have led to an endorsement of Nader's independent campaign. Nader and his vice presidential running mate, Peter Camejo--a Green Party veteran who ran twice for governor of California, winning more votes in these elections than any Green candidate in the U.S. other than Nader--had asked for an endorsement of their independent presidential campaign, rather than the party's nomination.

As close as the outcome was, the contrast between Cobb and Nader-Camejo--and what these campaigns mean for the future of the Green Party--was stark.

The most important issue is that Cobb and his supporters represent a so-called "safe-states" strategy. The idea is that the Green Party presidential candidate should help defeat George Bush in the November election by not running an all-out campaign in "battleground states" where the Greens could do well enough to tip the balance to Bush--as Nader is accused of doing in the 2000 election.

An online columnist for a newspaper in nearby Racine, Wis., summed up the implications when he suggested that Kerry supporters should "put on a Cobb button" to show Greens coming to the Milwaukee convention "where you stand." **"If you want John Kerry to be president, you should hope David Cobb wins big in Milwaukee," wrote the columnist.**

Medea Benjamin, a leader of Global Exchange and the Green Party's U.S. Senate candidate in California in 2000, says explicitly that Greens are justified in supporting a vote for Kerry, even though he is opposed to most everything on the Green Party agenda. "In the swing states, where this election's going to be determined, [Greens should] recognize that we owe it to the global community to get rid of George Bush,"

Benjamin says. "And if people in those swing states support that strategy of getting rid of George Bush, then voting for Kerry might be the strategic vote for them."

Supporters of Nader and Camejo at the convention rejected this argument. "We're the Green Party," Gloria Mattera, co-chair of the New York state Green Party, told a Nader-Camejo rally. "It's not our job to elect a pro-war Democrat into the White House."

As Jason West, the Green Party mayor of New Paltz, N.Y., who came to national prominence by defying state law to marry gay and lesbian couples, put it: "I've been asking Democrats all over the country how the world would be a better place under President Kerry than President Bush, and no one's been able to give me a good answer. The problem with the 'safe states' strategy is it leaves unchallenged the illusion that John Kerry is a progressive who is going to do something very different from what Bush is doing now."

At a time when even mainstream commentators are recognizing that the differences between the Republican and the Democrat in the 2004 presidential election are tiny compared to the policies they share in common, Cobb's nomination represents a retreat by the Green Party from offering a clear and uncompromised left-wing alternative to two parties of the status quo.

#2

Conservatives in Arizona. Right-Wing Groups in Oregon. Pat Buchanan. Meet Some Of Ralph Nader's Constituents.

(Comment: The writer is trashing Nader because he's a Kerry partisan. He doesn't tell you that Kerry wants another 40,000 soldiers to go die in Iraq so, in Kerry's words, there can be a "battlefield victory."

To avoid any possible confusion, neither Bush, nor Kerry, nor Nader are for bringing the troops home now. They all love the Empire too much for that. That's why building a movement against this war, at home and in the armed services, is the only hope of ending it. Anything less is useless bullshit.)

By Michael Tomasky, Web Exclusive: 06.28.04

"It is in our interest," the politician said last week, "to bring the eight to 12 undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and become citizens of this great nation."

"We have to control our immigration," said the other politician. "We have to limit the number of people who come to this country illegally I don't like the idea of legalization because then the question is how do you prevent the next wave and the next?"

The first quote is from Republican Senator John McCain, speaking before La Raza, the Latino civil-rights group. Even as McCain spoke, conservatives in his home state are out gathering signatures to place a measure on the November ballot called "Protect Arizona Now," which, needless to say, envisions something rather different from naturalizing millions of people who sneaked into the country. McCain has a history of speaking against right-wing ballot initiatives in his state -- he opposed a conservative campaign-finance initiative a few years ago -- and we can presume that he knows his words are bound to carry a charge in the current Arizona context.

And the second quote? That was from Mr. Progressive himself, Ralph Nader, speaking to Pat Buchanan in an [interview](#) for Buchanan's magazine, *The American Conservative*.

The June 21 issue plasters Nader on the cover with the headline "Ralph Nader Makes a Play for the Right" -- and while editors, and not their subjects, package stories and write headlines, Nader has been around the game long enough to know pretty much exactly how an exclusive sit-down with America's leading paleocon would be packaged and headlined.

So while the largely conservative McCain was making a gesture against a right-wing ballot measure, the supposedly progressive Nader was getting palsy-walsy with someone who is about as far to the right as you can go in American politics and still get on television.

And while Nader did emphasize his disagreement with Buchanan on the level of public benefits that immigrants should receive, he conveyed, albeit in a convoluted way, that he and Pat were seeing very much eye to eye -- against amnesty for undocumented aliens, for example. This is the man who lectures the Democratic Party about its lack of principles?

Last week on this Web site, Max Blumenthal broke the [news](#) that Nader's ballot-qualification petitions in Arizona were being carried by two rather interesting groups of people: first, professional petitioners also gathering signatures for the aforementioned Protect Arizona Now; second, petitioners being paid by the right-wing former executive director of the Arizona state Republican Party. The result of these efforts, according to one estimate, was that of the 21,000 or so signatories to Nader's Arizona petitions, about two-thirds were Republicans, and fewer than one in five are Democrats.

Around the same time Blumenthal's report appeared, news came from Oregon that, in its ballot-qualification drive there, the Nader campaign had openly enlisted and worked with Republicans to attain ballot status. Two conservative groups, Citizens for a Sound Economy and the Oregon Family Council, worked the phones for a week to get their partisans to sign Nader petitions -- and they explained openly that they were helping Nader for the obvious reason that his presence on the ballot (Nader got 77,000 votes in 2000 in the state, which Al Gore carried by just 7,000) could help George W. Bush win the state.

"We aren't bashful about doing it," said Mike White, the family council's director. "We are a conservative, pro-family organization, and Bush is our guy on virtually every issue."

At this point, a hypothetical. Let us suppose that John Kerry either a) was found to have been in some way in cahoots, wittingly or not, with the forces pushing a right-wing, anti-immigrant ballot initiative; or b) in some way permitted his campaign to liaise with a right-wing "pro-family" group. (I might even add a "c," such as engaged in the simple act of granting an exclusive interview to Pat Buchanan.)

In any of these cases, how many seconds do we think it would have taken Nader's jejune and puerile (and increasingly marginal, if his Green Party nomination defeat is any indication) supporters, to say nothing of Nader himself, to denounce Kerry and the Democrats yet again as apostates, soul-sellers, sinners against history, ideological slatterns, and enemies of progress?

About four.

But it's all right for Ralph to do these things, right? Because he's fighting the power, baby. By any means necessary, as the power-fighters like to say.

I wonder what Nader would have to do or say for his troops to give him up.

If working with right-wing activists in two swing states and toadying up to Pat Buchanan -- probably the gold medallist of American xenophobia over the last two decades (with author Peter Brimelow taking the silver and, now, Samuel Huntington making a play for the bronze) -- on immigration issues aren't disqualifying, what could possibly be?

#3

Nader Campaign Warns It Might Turn Against Kerry (!)

July 02, 2004 The Associated Press

Nader and Kerry met in May, with the two offering compliments following the session. Whatever truce existed was clearly gone on Friday as Nader campaign spokesman Kevin Zeese warned Democrats about future ballot challenges.

"John Kerry may be making an enemy of Ralph Nader if he doesn't stop the harassment," Zeese said. "We've been focusing our criticism on Bush rather than Kerry, but Kerry has a pretty lousy record himself."

As For Bush: Remember The Lies

29 June 2004 William Rivers Pitt, t r u t h o u t | Perspective

In January 2003, less than 60 days before U.S. forces rained fire and steel upon Baghdad in the ' Shock and Awe' portion of this escapade, Mr. Bush stood before Congress and the American people to deliver his State of the Union address. In it, he solemnly informed us that Iraq was in possession of 26,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin, 500 tons (i.e. 1,000,000 pounds) of sarin, mustard and VX gas, 30,000 munitions to deliver these agents, mobile biological weapons labs, a program to procure uranium from Niger to use in nuclear bombs, and connections to al Qaeda.

None of this - not one bit of it - was true.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

OOPS: Embarrassment For US Military: Captured “Taliban Commanders” Turn Out To Be Afghan Government Officials

June 30, 2004 The News International, Pakistan

PESHAWAR: The US military in Afghanistan is confronted with an embarrassing situation following the realisation that the two men in its custody were Afghan government officials from Helmand province rather than top Taliban commanders as claimed by it earlier.

On Monday, the US military spokeswoman Master Sergeant Cindy Beam said American special forces captured top enemy commanders Hafiz Abdul Majeed and Mohammad Daud in southern Afghanistan in raids on their compounds pre-dawn Saturday. "We have evidence indicating that they were supplying arms to insurgents, conducting rocket attacks on the military, attacking non-governmental aid organisations helping Afghanistan build a national infrastructure, funding ambushes and trafficking opium," she said in a statement.

"During the mission, the enemy regional leaders surrendered as coalition SOF (Special Operations Forces) surprised the insurgents," she added.

However, the US military claim is turning out to be untrue. Officials in Afghanistan's interior ministry in Kabul were quoted as saying that the captured men weren't the top Taliban commanders sought by the US and Afghan governments. Government officials in Helmand explained that one of the

captured men, Hafiz Abdul Majeed, was the administrator for Naomesh district in the province, while the other man was his military bodyguard, Mohammad Daud. They said Majeed had been an anti-Taliban commander and three of his fighters were injured in a firefight with the Taliban fighters only 20 days ago.

The announcement of Majeed's capture by the US military had created lot of excitement in the American intelligence and media circles.

The fact that the US military announced Hafiz Abdul Majeed's capture without cross checking his identity isn't the first time that the Americans have committed such blunders in Afghanistan. Certain other arrests of anti-US Afghans were also cases of mistaken identity.

Earlier, they printed wrong pictures of Mulla Omar on leaflets announcing monetary reward for his capture. Warplanes have frequently bombed the wrong targets, including wedding parties, passenger buses, graveyards, and convoys of pro-government tribal elders. (See the next story about bad maps.)

Taliban spokesman, Abdul Latif Hakimi, whose claims about battleground successes are often ridiculed by Afghan and US government officials, was vindicated on Tuesday following reports that Hafiz Abdul Majeed had not been captured by the American military. On Monday, he had denied the capture of Hafiz Abdul Majeed while talking to The News from an undisclosed location. He thought the US military could have captured someone else. As it turned it, the US military had apprehended Hafiz Abdul Majeed's namesake.

As for the men in its custody, the US military would have to release them because warlords whether small or big are needed to fight the Taliban and other anti-US forces in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Maps Used By U.S. Troops Fucked Up

July 01, 2004 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer

Military mapmakers have found errors in the place names of tactical maps being used by U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The sheet maps are the 1:50,000-ratio charts commonly used by combat units, Defense Department officials said. **The errors involve place names in Afghanistan and possibly Pakistan in maps produced since 2002.**

In some cases, place names do not appear on the maps; in other cases, place names are imprecisely positioned.

The errors in place names could cause some local confusion.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT BRINGING THEM HOME NOW TOO



A US soldier in Zabul province. Insurgents fired rockets on an Afghan National Army post in southeastern Zabul province's Day Chopan district. (AFP/File/Sardar Ahmad)

Received:

PLEASE FORWARD, PUT ON WEBSITES, NEWS SERVERS ETC SOLIDARITY NEEDED!!!

Human Rights activists Ewa Jasiewicz (26) recently returned from 9 months solidarity work with trade unionists, families, refugees and women's groups in Iraq, and community film-maker Pennie Quinton (33) were charged with 'Aggravated Trespass' whilst protesting inside and against the Iraq Procurement Conference in London April 27th.

The pair will appear for trial in Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, 51 Holloway Road, London, N7 on July 9th at 10.30am.

A lively solidarity picket outside the court with banners, balloons, breakfast and a theatrical satirical street theatre performance (details tba) takes place from 9am onwards. All Welcome. Ahlan wa sahlan bikum.

Both Pennie and Ewa have been criminalised for attempting to prevent criminal activity from taking place, namely the preparation for, aiding and abetting of the looting of the Iraqi economy. Through the imposition of an economic model based on privatisation, the Occupation has determined the prospects, possibilities and futures of generations to come in Iraq.

The Iraq Procurement Conference was an event dedicated to the privatisation of Iraqi industries and services and operated with the final goal of British companies clinching contracts in the war torn country. Sponsors of the event include former Apartheid South Africa racist killer employing Erinys security firm, Nigerian tribal

human rights abusers Shell, environmental disaster perpetrators Exxon and major Arms dealers Raytheon.

The definition of Pennie and Ewa's charge states that they 'disrupted a lawful meeting'. The two, who unraveled banners and addressed the delegates, in Arabic and English, as collaborators and complicit in the daily massacres in Iraq will be arguing that the meeting was an unlawful event as it was facilitating acts of pillage - illegal under the Hague Regulations of 1907 which Britain and the US are both signatories to. Summed up - Iraq is not Britain or America's to sell. The Iraqi economy belongs to the people of Iraq.

In a leaked memo dated March 26th 2003, UK Attorney General Lord Peter advised Prime Minister Blair that in his view, 'the imposition of major structural economic reforms would not be authorised under international law'.

Pennie and Ewa have called the Attorney General to the stand to give evidence. It is not yet known whether he will attend.

Evidence of the refusal and denunciation of the Privatisation of the economy as illegal by Iraq Governing Council members will be heard at the trial.

If this case succeeds, it will set a legal precedent and in effect put the pillage of Iraq on trial, rightfully find it unlawful, and hopefully aid the people of Iraq in reclaiming their resources from foreign corporate monopoly and exploitation.

Jasiewicz says, 'It's as simple as this. Iraq is not America's to sell. It is up to the people of Iraq to decide, finally, theirs and their country's destiny - political, social and economic. Everything right now is being done to prevent that from happening. We, as people of consciousness and conscience in this country, have the responsibility to do whatever it takes to fight for that freedom.'

“Our liberation is connected to their liberation. The liberation of the people of Iraq. The forces which are oppressing us not just in Iraq but Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, West Papua, America, Poland, the world over, bear the same features, same dynamics, follow the same agenda and are fomenting a global crisis of poverty, panic, war and ecocide.”

“The support networks for this process are present in this country and manifest themselves in conferences and meetings of the powerful and remorseless, planning and legitimising the plundering of economies and the perpetuation of war, disempowerment, poverty and killing. They happen here. They are the Iraq Procurement Conference. We can stop them.”

Please email globalintifadas@yahoo.co.uk or call Ewa Jasiewicz on 07749 421 576 for more information, photographs or interview opportunities

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