

GI SPECIAL 2#B17

REAL BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Fallujah (AFP/Cris Bouroncle)

“They Cannot Be Militarily Defeated”-- Bush Lies About Resistance Ridiculed By U.S. Insurgency Experts; 20,000 Strong, And It’s About Nationalism, Not “Jihad”

Jul 9 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer, BAGHDAD, Iraq

Contrary to U.S. government claims, the insurgency in Iraq is led by well-armed Sunnis angry about losing power, not foreign fighters, and is far larger than previously thought, American military officials say.

The officials told The Associated Press the guerrillas can call on loyalists to boost their forces to as high as 20,000 and have enough popular support among nationalist Iraqis angered by the presence of U.S. troops *that they cannot be militarily defeated.*

Although U.S. military analysts disagree over the exact size, the insurgency is believed to include dozens of regional cells.

The developing intelligence picture of the insurgency contrasts with the commonly stated view in the Bush administration that the fighting is fueled by foreign warriors intent on creating an Islamic state.

"We're not at the forefront of a jihadist war here," said a U.S. military official in Baghdad, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I generally like a lot of these guys," he said.

"We know who the key people are in all the different cities, and generally how they operate. The problem is getting actionable information so you can either attack them, arrest them or engage them."

Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the figure of 5,000 insurgents "was never more than a wag and is now clearly ridiculous."

"Part-timers are difficult to count, but almost all insurgent movements depend on cadres that are part-time and that can blend back into the population," he said.

Most of the insurgents are fighting for a bigger role in a secular society, not a Taliban-like Islamic state, the military official said. Almost all the guerrillas are Iraqis, even those launching some of the devastating car bombings normally blamed on foreigners — usually al-Zarqawi.

Many in the U.S. intelligence community have been making similar points, but have encountered political opposition from the Bush administration, a State Department official in Washington said, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Civilian analysts generally agreed, saying U.S. and Iraqi officials have long overemphasized the roles of foreign fighters and Muslim extremists.

Such positions support the Bush administration's view that the insurgency is linked to the war on terror.

A closer examination paints most insurgents as secular Iraqis angry at the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops. "Too much U.S. analysis is fixated on terms like 'jihadist,' just as it almost mindlessly tries to tie everything to (Osama) bin Laden," Cordesman said. "Every public opinion poll in Iraq ... supports the nationalist character of what is happening."

Many guerrillas are motivated by Islam in the same way religion motivates American soldiers, who also tend to pray more when they're at war, the U.S. military official said.

He said he met Tuesday with four tribal sheiks from Ramadi who "made very clear" that they had no desire for an Islamic state, even though mosques are used as insurgent sanctuaries and funding centers.

"We're not a bunch of Talibans," he paraphrased the sheiks as saying.

At the orders of Gen. John Abizaid, the U.S. commander of Mideast operations, Army analysts looked closely for evidence that Iraq's insurgency was adopting extreme Islamist goals, the official said.

Analysts learned that ridding Iraq of U.S. troops was the motivator for most insurgents, not the formation of an Islamic state. (Duh!)

The officer said Iraq's insurgents have a big advantage over guerrillas elsewhere: plenty of arms, money, and training. Iraq's lack of a national identity card system — and guerrillas' refusal to plan attacks by easily intercepted telephone calls — makes them difficult to track.

"They have learned a great deal over the last year, and with far more continuity than the rotating U.S. forces and Iraqi security forces," Cordesman said of the guerrillas. "They have learned to react very quickly and in ways our sensors and standard tactics cannot easily deal with."

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Mortar Attack In Samarra Kills 5 U.S. Soldiers And Iraqi Guardsman; Twenty GIs Wounded, Headquarters Destroyed

July 8, 2004 BAGHDAD (AP) & Reuters

Insurgents bombarded and destroyed a headquarters used by U.S. troops and Iraqi forces with mortar rounds in the city of Samarra on Thursday, killing five U.S. soldiers and one Iraqi guardsman, the U.S. military said.

Soldiers responded to the attack 25 minutes later, after 1st Infantry Division radar determined where it had originated. Soldiers counter-fired four 120 mm mortars in response.

The attack, part of a day of violence and street battles in the city, wounded 20 U.S. soldiers and four Iraqi guardsmen, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, the spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division.

One of the helicopters landed after being struck by small arms fire to check how much damage it had sustained. It then continued with its mission.

The violence also killed three civilians, medical officials said, and U.S. helicopters killed four Iraqi attackers, O'Brien said.

Iraqi insurgents began a massive attack on forces there about 10:30 a.m., when they launched 38 mortars at the military headquarters, collapsing the building, O'Brien said.

Gunshots and tank shell explosions could still be heard late into the afternoon. Three U.S. tanks blocked a bridge that linked the base with the city.

Earlier in the day, a U.S. military convoy in Samarra was targeted by a roadside bomb that wounded one U.S. soldier, O'Brien said.

Two Ohio National Guard Members Killed

July 8, 2004 The Associated Press

Family members of one of two Ohio National Guard members killed in Iraq this week said the soldier went out of his way to keep them from worrying.

Julie and Harold Barkey, learned Wednesday about the death of their son, Sgt. Michael Barkey, 22, of Canal Fulton. Julie Barkey said she was told her son was killed Wednesday when his vehicle flipped over.

He was a member of the 1484th Transportation Company based in Akron and had been in the service for nearly four years.

Col. Al Faber, director of personnel for the Army/Air Force National Guard, said another guardsman from northeast Ohio was killed in a separate incident Wednesday in Iraq. He said the man's name would be released Thursday.

Friends and relatives identified the second soldier as Samuel Bowen, 38, of Cleveland. They say they were told Wednesday that he had been killed in combat.

He left behind three children and two step-children.

"I can't believe that he was under attack twice in three weeks," said Ron Eaton, who was rescued by Bowen on June 16 north of Baghdad. "I just wish that I would have been there for him like he was there for me."

Eaton said he learned from friends that Bowen had been killed. He and Bowen served in the guard's 112th Engineer Battalion out of Brook Park. Bowen was serving with Brook Park's 216th Engineer Battalion when he was killed.

In June, while on a supply run, Eaton was struck by a rocket that knocked him off his feet, blasting shrapnel through his body. Eaton said Bowen dragged him out of danger. Eaton suffered injuries to his arm, abdomen and liver.

"He took care of me before he took care of himself," Eaton said. "As soon as I got out of surgery, he called me. He told me that he needed to talk with me because I was his battle buddy, and he needed to hear my voice. I can't believe how hard this is."

Julie Barkey said she was told she would learn more details Thursday of how her son died and when his body would be sent home.

Michael Barkey played football and basketball at Canal Fulton Northwest High School and earned an associate's degree in fire technology from the University of Akron.

His sister, Therese Barkey, said he wanted to become a firefighter because he enjoyed helping others.

"He liked to hang out with his friends, he liked to party, like all boys his age," she said. "Michael was just waiting to come home, like everyone else over there."

FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION SOLDIER DIES

July 9, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release
Number: 04-07-10C

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A 1st Cavalry Division Soldier died in a non-battle related incident around 5:30 p.m. July 8.

The cause of death is under investigation.

U.S. Soldier Dies After Baghdad Insurgent Attack

Jul 9 BAGHDAD, Iraq

A U.S. soldier has died from wounds sustained in an insurgent attack on his patrol, the U.S. military command said Friday.

The soldier was wounded in the Thursday night attack in Baghdad and evacuated to a combat hospital, where he later died, the military said in a statement.

Marine Wounded 2nd Time

July 9, 2004 The Billings Gazette

A Missoula Marine earned a ride stateside after being wounded a second time in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Brandon Lund was injured by mortar fire last Friday while on a foot patrol in Ramadi, a city west of Baghdad, his mother April Fraser said Thursday. Lund took five pieces of shrapnel in his left elbow. He and another Marine were taking shelter in a bunker when the mortar round exploded about 6 feet away, Fraser said.

He was flown to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on Wednesday and was expected to be transferred to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. After that, Fraser said, he would probably return to his base at Camp Pendleton, Calif. **It was uncertain if he would return to active duty.**

Soldier From Anderson Killed

July 9, 2004 Associated Press

ANDERSON, Ind. -- A soldier from Anderson was killed in fighting in Iraq, family members told The Herald Bulletin.

Army officials notified Lt. Robert Colvill's family of his death on Thursday, said his sister Angela Seward.

Colvill, 31, had served in Iraq for four months and had been in the Army for two years, family members said. He previously had served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Colvill was not listed among the latest casualties on the Defense Department's Web site early today.

"My father said he was killed when he was fighting with the troops on the border -- in hand-to-hand combat basically," said Seward. "They were attacked. There were four people that were killed and he was one of them."

Colvill graduated in 1991 from Madison Heights High School in the city about 35 miles northeast of Indianapolis. His sister said he had wanted to serve in the military since ninth grade.

He joined the Marines after graduation and left as a sergeant in 1999, family members said. After a couple years as a civilian, he enlisted in the Army.

"He came home and he didn't like civilian life," said Colvill's stepfather, Daniel Walker.

Colvill's wife, Chris, and two of his children live in Germany, where he served before he was deployed to Iraq in March. His other son lives in California.

"He was a leader. He was always eager to try new challenges," said another sister Melanie L. Smith, 34. "Mom says he was a good kid. He always tried to please everybody."

Truck Drivers Die In Attack

09jul04 From correspondents in Samarra, Iraq, Advertiser Newspapers Pty Limited

TWO truck drivers, believed to be Turkish, were killed today when their convoy was attacked by unknown gunmen near the insurgent bastion of Samarra, north of Baghdad.

The bodies of the drivers were wrapped in white sheets and blankets, and loaded up in an Iraqi police pick-up truck, an AFP photographer on the scene said.

"They are Turkish and they came into Iraq today through the north," said Major Nasser al-Samarrai as he showed what appeared to be Turkish passports.

The red fuel tanker, part of an eight-truck convoy that the slain drivers were in, appeared to have skidded off the highway connecting the north with Baghdad, crashing into an open field nearby.

One of the other drivers in the convoy, giving his name as Ayub, said he saw armed men in a black car spray the fuel tanker with bullets.

U.S. Troops "Forced To Withdraw" Immediately

2004-07-07 BAGHDAD, July 7 (Xinhuanet)

Street clashes broke out in central Baghdad on Wednesday as insurgents opened fire with their assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at US troops and Iraqi security forces, witnesses said.

US troops rushed to the scene to back the Iraqi forces, but they were forced to withdraw immediately after being fired by insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades.

(Comment:

How about withdrawing immediately all the way back home and fuck any politician who disagrees? Each and every politician who thinks you should stay there one day longer needs to get his or her worthless ass over there to Iraq instead of mouthing pious bullshit in front of the TV cameras from a position of utter safety back here in the USA.

Guess how many Americans thought you should have come home July 30? Only 42%. And guess how many members of Congress want you to come home *now* and live, instead of staying there and risking death in Bush's war for oil and empire? *At last count, none.*

How about the leading Presidential candidates? Any of them want you to come home now?

"Stay The Course" Bush? No. "Forty-Thousand More Soldiers To Iraq" Kerry? No. "Bring Them Home Sometime But Not Yet" Nader? No.

They have own priorities, but your life and the lives of your battle buddies is obviously not one of them. No rocket science involved in figuring that out. T)

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.

"I Never Say I'm Not Going To Make It, But A Lot Of Guys Do Say That"

July 9, 2004 By Alex Rodriguez Chicago Tribune

BAGHDAD — Ringed by dozens of shouting Iraqis in the forsaken slum known as Sadr City, Sgt. Bobby Lisek groped for ways to kindle a flicker of empathy.

Pools of raw sewage in the streets would vanish if the workers that his battalion put in place could lay pipe without being shot at, he yelled through an interpreter. The coalition tried to give the slum's residents more than eight hours of electricity a day, but sabotage made the job harder, Lisek said.

All the while, frenzied Iraqis punched and prodded the back of Lisek's bulletproof vest. The Iraqi soldiers accompanying Lisek ignored his pleas to keep the crowd in check. As he left, young Iraqi boys pelted him with rocks.

"This is like the slum of all slums," said Lisek, a no-nonsense 25-year-old from Springfield, Mo., while on patrol last weekend. "We got rid of Saddam and they were happy about that, but now they just want to be mean to us."

"We came here for a humanitarian mission, but it seems like every time we head out there, someone is shooting at us," said Sgt. Reginald Butler, 30, of McAlester, Okla. "I never say that I'm not going to make it, but a lot of guys do say that."

After the U.S.-led coalition toppled Saddam in April 2003, Sadr City residents eagerly awaited wholesale changes — safer streets, reliable electricity, clean drinking water and proper sewage treatment. The neighborhood expected coalition officials to live up to their promises. When they didn't, the coalition's credibility plummeted.

"People have been waiting a full year, hearing, 'It's going to happen, it's going to happen,' " said Lt. Col. Gary Volesky, commander of the 2nd Battalion. "My patience probably would have run out too."

On one patrol late last month, Butler's convoy found itself caught in a hail of rocket-propelled grenade fire. "They shot 40 or 50 RPGs at us," he said. On another patrol, an RPG attack was timed to precede an attack on Butler's convoy with a series of bombs.

Thirteen soldiers in Butler's platoon were wounded in attacks and have returned home. Two were killed during the last two months of violence. **"I don't think it can get any worse than this," Butler said. "They say Sadr City is the hottest spot right now."**

Evacuations Vietnam Style: Keep The Engines Running

07-08-2004 By BILL JONES/Staff Writer, East Tennessee Network

During a Wednesday morning telephone conversation with a reporter, Airman Taylor, somewhat reluctantly, agreed to be interviewed. Rachel, who left San Antonio, Texas, on March 11 and returned there from the war zone on June 19, recounted what it was like living and flying in war zones for three months.

The one-week visit with her family and friends is Airman Taylor's first since returning to the United States in June after 95 days of temporary duty with the 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron that took her to Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and other points in the Persian Gulf region, her mother said.

Although many aircraft landing at or departing from Baghdad, Iraq, often were fired on by insurgents, it was the shorter flights between points within Afghanistan and, especially, around Iraq that were the most perilous.

Many of the medical evacuation flights between outlying bases in Iraq and Baghdad, she said, were flown in turbo-prop C-130 transport planes capable of operating from bases with shorter runways.

"I loved the C-130s," she said. "But a lot of time their pilots had to make 'tactical maneuvers' to avoid ground fire."

Rachel said the C-130s were equipped with "flare dispensers" that dropped flaming flares designed to draw ground-to-air missiles away from the aircraft.

At one base in particular, she said, it was often necessary for C-130s to leave their engines running while injured soldiers were placed aboard so the airplanes could move quickly in the event of mortar attacks.

On one occasion, she said, an airplane she was aboard had to take off without all the patients it had come to pick up because the airfield came under mortar attack.

"They came back in a few hours and picked up the rest of the patients," she said. At one point shortly after arriving in Iraq, she said, she and the other members of her team worked for 36 consecutive hours flying medical evacuation missions.

Notes From A Lost War: Uneasy Allies On Patrol in Baghdad; Tensions Flare When Iraqis Assert Their Independence

July 6, 2004 By Scott Wilson, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, July 5 -- After rumbling through Sadr City for much of the morning, a column of six U.S. military vehicles and a flatbed truck carrying Iraqi National Guard soldiers stopped in traffic next to an outdoor market. A child emerged from the roadside stalls, carrying a cardboard poster of Moqtada Sadr, the Shiite cleric whose strident criticism of the U.S. presence in Iraq has whipped up a large following.

On tiptoes, the child handed the poster to the Iraqi soldier manning a machine gun, as U.S. soldiers watched in dismay. The Iraqi soldier, part of a nascent security force trained and funded by the United States, held Sadr's picture aloft for a gathering, cheering mob. The convoy began moving through smoke rising from piles of burning trash on the streets of the Baghdad slum.

"If we took it from them now, this whole place would explode," said Sgt. Adam Brantley, 24, of Gulf Shores, Ala., watching from behind the wheel of a Humvee.

Unable to shoulder Iraq's security responsibilities on their own, the Iraqi forces are nonetheless testing the limits of their new relationship with U.S. troops, including openly expressing sympathies for the most resolute enemies of the United States.

The Iraqi National Guardsmen who displayed the Sadr poster said they did so under threat of attack, and as a group they provided a useful security perimeter for the U.S. soldiers.

The soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division are based on an Army post at the edge of Sadr City.

As the crowd thickened along the narrow market street, chanting and clapping at the encouragement of the Iraqi soldiers, a shower of rocks rained on Brantley's Humvee in a staccato clatter. The convoy sped away from the market, stopping beyond the crowd's view at the edge of a dump. Sgt. 1st Class Craig Allen, 34, called down the sweating Iraqi squad leader and demanded that he hand over the poster. Finally, after an angry toe-to-toe exchange, Allen had Sadr's picture in hand.

"We wonder how these guys would react in a firefight," Brantley said, shaking his head. "Most likely drop their weapons and run away."

Since the handover, U.S. commanders with responsibility for Sadr City have required that all patrols include members of the Iraqi National Guard, a paramilitary force envisioned as an auxiliary to the Iraqi police. Only recovery missions and escort operations can be carried out without Iraqi soldiers present.

Capt. Douglas Chapman, commander of Bravo Company attached to the division's 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, moved out Monday morning with four Humvees and two Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Sandwiched among them was a flatbed truck, boarded after a delay for breakfast by 15 of the newest Iraqi National Guard recruits on the post.

The convoy weaved among traffic-choked streets before parking on a wide concrete median strewn with garbage. Car repair shops lined one side of the busy road, and on the other a ditch the size of a football field opened up where a street once ran. A U.S.-funded water project began there two weeks ago, but there was not a single worker at the site.

An Iraqi interpreter, wearing sunglasses and a bandanna to conceal his identity, told Chapman that the workers had abandoned the project three days earlier. The disappearance served as a warning sign to U.S. commanders trying to fathom a murky urban war. **In addition, the neighborhood children refused soldiers' offers of candy, dispensed from cargo pockets. One of them accepted a Blow Pop, only to hurl it at an Iraqi soldier.**

Then the children, who swarmed around the convoy, began chanting "Yes, yes, Sadr" as the troops headed toward the Humvees.

"They usually say this when we go," said Lt. Zach Swanson, 24, of Chicago. "They think it's some kind of victory."

Chapman, a 29-year-old from Great Valley, N.Y., said he was determined to resolve the electricity problem -- it was a "crucial quality of life" issue, he said, as summer temperatures push toward 120 degrees.

The convoy pulled up in front of a power station on the edge of Sadr City a half-hour later. Chapman, Swanson and the masked interpreter headed toward the entrance, where an Iraqi police officer in a pressed uniform manned the gate.

"Do you have permission to be here?" the officer asked Chapman, who if surprised did not show it. He replied yes, and a minute later the group walked toward the main building.

The three men inside the control room appeared unhappy to see Chapman, who greeted them politely before asking to see their handwritten logbook charting the amount of electricity going to each neighborhood. The antique dials and switches on the control panels gave the room the feeling of a vintage James Bond movie.

To encourage a greater sense of independence, Chapman scheduled a stop at the Habibiya police station to deliver a gift to the chief, Maj. Awad Fatlawi. It was an Iraqi flag, and Fatlawi unfolded it like a child unwrapping a Christmas present, then ordered a "Pepsi party" in his air-conditioned office while his officers jury-rigged a flag pole.

Chapman, Swanson and the interpreter, who kept the bandanna firmly on his face, sipped the cold sodas on couches lining the walls. A few floors above, several Iraqi police officers kissed the red, white and black flag before fixing it to a long stick and wiring it to the railing.

"No one gives us any weapons," Fatlawi complained to Chapman. "It is the same in every police station. We all need weapons."

Further questioning revealed that Fatlawi had a number of AK-47 assault rifles, but that there are no bullets for the 9mm pistols tucked in his officers' waistbands. Fatlawi made clear, however, that he wanted rocket-propelled grenade launchers and heavy machine guns to be able to hold off an attack. Chapman grimaced, but indicated those supplies would now come, if they come at all, through Iraq's Interior Ministry.

"Have there been any civilians helping at the checkpoints?" Chapman asked.

"No, we don't need any help," Fatlawi said, brushing away the suggestion. "Maybe they were only helping direct traffic."

Chapman made his rounds like a cop working a beat, taking the good with the bad. Then the convoy passed through the market in the center of the neighborhood, and the Iraqi soldiers gleefully waved Sadr's poster. U.S. soldiers, furious at the display, believed the demonstration incited the crowd against them.

"They've got to at least put it down," yelled Pfc. Austin Twombly, 20, of Deerfield, N.H., from the Humvee's gunner's nest as people pressed closer to the convoy. He yelled at them to do so, but they did not.

Later, defending himself in the face of several angry U.S. soldiers, the Iraqi squad leader said the child warned him to take the poster or the convoy would be attacked. "Weak leader," Allen, the sergeant, screamed at him. Chapman stepped between the men.

Back at the camp, Chapman described the challenge he faces in placing limits on Iraqi troops in a country not his own.

"They can move forward however they want," Chapman said. "We just asked them to stop displaying the picture. They can support whoever they want on their personal time."

The poster, folded in half, remained in the back of Brantley's Humvee.

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT 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/>

TROOP NEWS

Marine Kenton Shatzer of Hagerstown Wounded; "He Said It Was Hell"

July 8, 2004 by SCOTT BUTKI, The Herald-Mail Company

HAGERSTOWN - A U.S. Marine from Hagerstown who was injured in Iraq on July 1 was listed in critical condition at a San Antonio hospital burn unit late Wednesday afternoon, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Shatzer has burns over 19 percent of his body, she said.

Information about how he was injured has not been made public and his family hasn't been told, his father, Vaughn Shatzer, said.

Vaughn Shatzer said he received a phone call on July 3 informing him that his son had second-degree burns on his hands, lower back and both legs. His goggles and helmet protected his eyes and head from being burned, Vaughn Shatzer said.

West Virginia Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Brad Runkles, 22, of Hedgesville, W.Va., is at the same hospital, being treated for burns sustained in a June 28 explosion in Iraq, his mother, Audrey Runkles, said Wednesday.

Brad Runkles expects to return to Hedgesville in five or six days, Audrey Runkles said. Guerra said Runkles was listed in satisfactory condition.

While his son will need weeks of therapy, he is not expected to need skin grafts, Vaughn Shatzer said.

The family has been doing a great deal of crying and praying over the past few days, his wife, Peggy Shatzer, said.

Shatzer graduated from Heritage Academy in June 2003. A member of the Heritage basketball team, he holds the record for the most points scored in a season - 655, Vaughn Shatzer said.

"He was a very hard-working player," Kidd said. "He was not really tall but he played really strong and hard and accomplished a lot. He always had a good attitude about the game and the other players."

Before he was sent to Iraq in March 2004, his son had eight months of training, including urban warfare training, Vaughn Shatzer said.

Kenton Shatzer was stationed in Ramadi, Iraq, about 20 miles west of Fallujah. He told his dad that some violence like that in Fallujah also was taking place in Ramadi, Vaughn Shatzer said.

"He said it was hell," Vaughn Shatzer said.

His son was scheduled to be promoted later this month to the rank of lance corporal, Vaughn Shatzer said.

**Fucked Over Bigtime;
After A Few Months Home Thousands Of
Ft. Carson Soldiers Going Back;
“This Is Ridiculous”**

Jul 8, 2004 FORT CARSON, Colo. (AP)

About 7,000 Fort Carson soldiers will return to the Middle East starting in October -- **just months after some of them returned home.**

Those who will be deployed include members of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the first unit from the post near Colorado Springs that was sent to Iraq last year, spokeswoman Kim Tisor said Wednesday. The last members of the unit, which lost 32 soldiers in Iraq, returned home in May.

"It kind of makes me upset because I'll be having a baby here in a couple weeks, but it's my job," Spc. Allen Garnes said. **"It's kind of a pain in the butt to do it, but if they need us back like tomorrow, then I'll go, because I have no other choice but to go."**

Carmen Smith, whose husband, Sgt. Larry Smith, is in the cavalry regiment, said she faces another year of caring for their four sons without him.

"We were told, 'Hope for the best but prepare for the worst,' but this is ridiculous," she said. "I can't do another year."

British Forces Face Frequent Mortar Attacks In 'Quiet' Basra

Independent, 06 July 2004 By Terri Judd in Basra

British forces in the southern Iraqi city of Basra have been under frequent mortar bombardment in the past three months despite assurances from the Army that the situation is "quiet".

In the latest incident a local businessman was killed and several other Iraqis seriously injured, including a two-year-old boy, when at least six mortar bombs were fired at an army base. **The attack shortly before midnight on Sunday was the second on the base in 24 hours.**

Earlier on Sunday two bombs were aimed at an area occupied by two Cheshire Regiment companies, slightly injuring an Iraqi civilian worker. **In the past three months the Cheshire Regiment battle group has suffered 93 separate threats of one form or another, whether rocket, mortar, rocket-propelled grenade or gunfire.**

Hussain Abid, 35, whose two-year-old son was seriously injured in Sunday's attack, called yesterday for the Army to relocate. The civil servant, whose wife and seven-year-old son were also slightly hurt when the mortar bomb hit his house, near the British base, said: "I am angry the British came here, near civilian homes."

"They know very well we are being targeted all the time. I want the government to ask the British to move out of the city. We are in danger here. We have been hit 10 or 11 times in one month but this is the first person to die."

While senior figures describe the situation in Basra as "quiet", attacks are still frequent. In the past five days, in addition to Sunday night's attack, rockets were fired at three military camps in and around the city and a soldier was slightly injured by a device that went off under a vehicle.

A combination of luck and vigilance has kept casualties low.

But many believe the attacks are becoming more expert and potentially more lethal.

Four From Lejeune Die; "Youmans Had Joined Up To Pay The Bills"

Jul 9, 2004 By JENNIFER BREVORKA, Staff Writer, The News & Observer Publishing Company

Down on his luck, Pvt. Rodericka Antwan Youmans, 22, of Allendale, S.C., gave up the job hunt last year and joined the Marines.

Cpl. Jeffrey D. Lawrence, 22, of Tucson, Ariz., was on his second Middle East tour.

Lance Cpl. Scott Eugene Dougherty, 20, of Bradenton, Fla., had returned for a second Iraq tour three months ago.

All three were based at Camp Lejeune, and all died in Iraq this week. They were members of the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, a mobile infantry unit under the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force.

Youmans had joined up to pay the bills.

"We had been in Aiken [S.C.] for a while looking for jobs," said his friend and distant relative, Naemon Youmans. "He had kids to take care of, and his thing was he had to take care of his kids."

Rodericka Youmans left behind a pregnant fiance, Stephanie Cuthbertson, who is expecting the couple's second child next month. He also leaves two siblings, parents and two children, Amiyah, 4, and Mekhi, 1, in Allendale, S.C.

"I loved everything about him," Cuthbertson told The Associated Press. "His sense of humor and the way he treated me. He was very sweet and very giving." They were going to marry in September when he was scheduled to return to Camp Lejeune.

Youmans graduated from Allendale-Fairfax High School, where he played football. He entertained himself by hanging out with friends, playing cards, listening to Tupac Shakur and going cruising at night, said Naemon Youmans.

"He had a 1993 Ford Tempo," his friend said. "Its bumper was hanging off. But as long as he had a CD in the CD player, he'd go riding."

Lawrence was a former high school football star and decorated Marine who most recently called Pima, Ariz., home. He joined the Marines on July 17, 2000. He received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for his anti-terrorism work in the region.

Lawrence died just before his wife was due to give birth.

"What a tragedy," family friend Valerie Matthews told The AP. "We never thought it would be him who died."

His daughter was due to be born July 4 and was two days overdue when Celeste Lawrence learned of her husband's death, family members said. She was waiting for grandparents and other Tucson relatives late Wednesday to fly to North Carolina and planned to have labor induced.

Lawrence is survived by his wife, parents, three brothers, a stepbrother and a stepsister.

Dougherty enlisted in the Marines in 2002 after graduating from high school. He was just two days out of combat training when he was deployed to Iraq for five months.

"He was on a mission, and his vehicle ran over a tank mine, flipped over a ravine and exploded," his father, Keith, told The AP. "They told me it was quick, that he didn't suffer."

Philippines Withdraws Iraq Contract Workers

July 9, 2004 abs-cbnNews.com & July 8, 2004 BAGHDAD (AP)

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) allowed Thursday 120 Filipinos bound for Iraq to leave.

President Arroyo earlier banned the deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to Iraq after a Filipino identified as Angelo de la Cruz was abducted by militants there.

The POEA told the departing OFWs to remain in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, *while the crisis in Iraq is being resolved.* (That should take a bit of time.)

The Arroyo administration has yet to decide if it will withdraw the troops and civilian volunteers.

The Philippines, with only 51 troops here, makes up a tiny fraction of the Multinational Force. **But more than 4,000 Filipino civilians work as contractors here for the U.S.**

military, serving food, cleaning toilets and forming the backbone of the support staff for U.S. troops here.

Arroyo "ordered an immediate stop to the deployment of new workers going to Iraq," her spokesman, Ignacio Bunye, told The Associated Press.

The president also offered government help for any workers who wanted to come home.

In addition, many Filipinos with specialized training provide security at important facilities, construct buildings and furniture and maintain roads. **The U.S. military, which has diverted as many soldiers to combat duty as possible, would be hard pressed to operate in Iraq without the extra manpower the Filipinos provide.**

Officers Who Ordered Iraq Hostage-Taking Guilty Of Violation Of Law Of Land Warfare; Arrest Them, Send Them To Prison

(According to "Instruction on the Law of Land Warfare, which is required reading in all of the Army's Initial Entry Training, including Basic Combat Training and the Officer Basic Course, 'certain acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever.'")

These include: "Taking of hostages.")

June 30, 2004 Ghali Hassan, Green Left Weekly.

According to a March 31 Amnesty International report **Iraqi women were being arrested "solely because authorities seek their relatives or husbands"**.

The May 26 edition of *Newsday* reported: **"The US military is holding dozens of Iraqis as bargaining chips to put pressure on their wanted relatives to surrender. These detainees are not accused of any crimes,** and experts say their detention violates the Geneva Conventions and other international laws. The practice also risks associating the United States with the tactics of countries it has long criticized for arbitrary arrests."

The wife and daughter of the former vice-chairperson of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council were arrested in November last year. The occupation authority has acknowledged that they are detained, but has refused to reveal why they are

detained, or what their current legal status is, despite protests from Amnesty International and other human rights organisations.

US officials have acknowledged detaining women in the hope of convincing male relatives to provide information. "The issue is the system", Nada Doumani of the International Committee of the Red Cross told Luke Harding of the *Guardian*, in an interview published on May 12. "The system is not fair, precise or properly defined."

Amal Swadi, a lawyer representing Iraqi women detainees in Abu Ghraib prison, has detailed systematic abuse and torture (including rape) perpetrated by US soldiers against Iraqi women held in detention. **Swadi told the June 6 British *Guardian* that the women have been detained not because of anything they have done, but because of who they married. US soldiers raiding a house in their usual violent manner, she explained, will often take wives and daughters of suspects if the suspects are not there.**

N.Y. Guardsman Home From Iraq; Chazy Lake Man Lost Most Of His Eyesight

July 6, 2004 The Champlain Channel.com, CHAZY LAKE, N.Y.

A National Guardsman Chris Paiser woke up back home in Chazy Lake Tuesday morning after being injured in Iraq.

His homecoming was bittersweet because Paiser was blinded in one eye and nearly lost all his sight in the other eye when his Guard unit -- the 108th Infantry, out of Morisonville --came under attack in June.

"I heard shattering glass. When I tried to look around I couldn't open my eyes. After that, my guys took care of me," Paiser said.

He had said goodbye to his family about four months ago and they are thrilled to have him home. Three-year-old Dillin is happy to be back in his dad's arms, and his brother and two sisters are also jumping for joy. His wife, Mary Paiser, said that he is a real hero in their eyes.

"(There) aren't words to describe how incredible he is," Mary Paiser said.

"(It) felt great to finally see her -- well, to hear her voice, anyways," Chris Paiser said.

He has lost all vision in his right eye and can only see shadows out of the left. Despite the injury, Chris Paiser has always remained optimistic.

"Hopefully, out of the left, shrapnel is still on the optical nerve," Paiser said.

His only concern is about his family: "Just being able to look at them."

Mary Paiser said that having him home is all that matters.

"(He) may be different -- he doesn't have same vision -- but that's not going to change anything for us," she said.

Albany Sailors Deploy For Iraq

(This one wins the absurd fantasy award for 2004 so far. The reporter says they won't "be on the front lines." Every inch of Iraq is the front lines. The reporters says their job will be keeping troops "strong and healthy," as if they'll be working in a health spa. Their job will be trying to save the wounded and maimed, and wrapping up the dead. To top it off, if the reporter is accurate, some of the troops themselves think it's all better over their now.)

July 6, 2004 WorldNow and WALB

Albany - Every day, we hear about the U.S. troops injured in Iraq, but you don't often hear about the men and women who take care of the wounded. Tuesday, five sailors from the Albany Marine Base deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the darkness of the early morning, five sailors arrived to the Marine Corps Logistics Base one by one to leave on a six-month deployment to Iraq. **"It was surprising. We weren't expecting it,"** said Hospitalman First Class Bobby Pilgrim. **The sailors found just 12 days ago they were leaving.**

"I have a friend that's over there already," said Tracy Johnson, US Navy. "He's assured me that the job I'll be doing is in a pretty safe positions. So if all goes well, I should be safe."

There were no tearful good-byes - just a kiss. "Before I came here I was on board a ship, so they were kind of used to it. We said our good-byes last night," said Pilgrim.

Most of the men spent the holiday weekend with their families and said good-bye. "A little nervous, but I'm all right," said Hospitalman Ozia Wallace. Wallace already knows what to expect in Iraq. **This is his second tour. "It was total chaos, people running in the streets and gunfire over your head." But, he thinks this time it will be safer. "But I think it will be better this time, the Marines have been over there a while now. They have good checkpoints, so the area is more secure." (!)**

For the next six months, these sailors will take care of sick and injured troops with the 4th Marine Air Wing. They're laboratory, X-ray, and pharmaceutical technicians, as well as grunt corpsman and preventive medicine personnel. **They won't be on the front lines, but their duty is just as important - keeping those fighting terror strong and healthy.**

Goshen Soldier's Condition Improving



Herberto Lara

June 9, 2004 By Staff reports, Visalia Times-Delta

The Goshen soldier who was wounded in Iraq during a rocket attack has been taken to a hospital in Washington, D.C., family said.

Renee Rutledge, Lara's former mother-in-law, said the man's condition is improving slowly; he's able to open and close his eyes, move the fingers in his left hand and move his feet.

"He's not out of the woods by any stretch of the imagination," said Rutledge, who traveled to Germany to be by Lara's side after he was injured. "It's going to take months and months of rehabilitation."

Lara, a graduate of Mt. Whitney High School, was injured on June 18 when a rocket-propelled grenade struck the Humvee he was riding in.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Collaborator Has Eye Gouged Out

July 09, 2004 The Australian, From correspondents in Mosul, Iraq

AN Iraqi man who owns a laundry and a restaurant on a US military base in this northern Iraqi city was found with his hands cut off and an eye gouged out, the police said today.

Accused of "collaborating" with the US forces, Yunes Mohamed Ali, 58, was kidnapped while driving in his car on June 29.

The kidnappers demanded a \$US20,000 ransom from his family, who handed over the money, said police commander Rael Faez Nafal.

The victim was found dumped by the roadside yesterday in the region of Kukeji, east of Mosul, 370 kilometres north of Baghdad.

After examining the amputations, Mosul hospital Doctor Walid Jassem said the kidnapers had "some knowledge of surgery".

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Got That Right

7.9.04 Wall St. Journal

A Panetta Institute For Public Policy poll finds just 35% of "youth" believe that voting can "bring a lot of change in society," down from 47% in 2001.

Slip Slidin' Away

An outstanding characteristic of all progressive movements is the gradual bartering away of principles for respectability and votes.

Paul M. Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development, Monthly Review Press, New York, 1970. p. 352.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THE CHURCH OF ANYBODY BUT BUSH

June 13, 2004 Edwin Krales, New York City,

A "miracle" is about to be performed. It's a miracle dear to the hearts of American neo-cons. It's a miracle they pray for but that Bush can't deliver. The miracle is that a large part of the anti-war movement will vote for the continuation of the war and the occupation of Iraq in the presidential election next November! Supporters

of the anti-war movement will also vote for the continuation of the war in Afghanistan, the ongoing murder of the Palestinian people, and the torture of prisoners everywhere.

The correctness of the US policy of global Manifest Destiny will remain unchallenged, along with its program of destabilizing or destroying “uncooperative nations,” and our liberties at home will continue to be stripped away piece by piece. Americans are told that because of the cost of this policy, there won’t be enough money to pay for the luxuries of housing, health care, the fight against HIV/AIDS, education and other social programs such as environmental cleanup.

Who is the creator of this miracle?

None other than John Kerry, the richest senator in the land.

He is the messiah of the Church of the ABB (Anybody But Bush). This must be a religious movement since any rational examination of Kerry’s positions will see a reflection of the neo-con’s leader, George Bush. The “polite left” insists that Kerry is different, more progressive, and better than Bush. But alas, there isn’t any evidence. In spite of Kerry’s votes for Scalia, the Patriot Act and our latest war, the polite left continues to present Kerry as our savior.

Unfortunately for Kerry and the polite left, I and many other anti-war activists are non-believers. I leave the Church of the ABB in the same dark place as any other irrational ideology that can’t hold up to scrutiny in the light of reason.

The appropriate response to the chant “Anybody But Bush” is “Bush Or Kerry Can’t.” We must educate people in the anti-war movement.

Beyond that, changing the names of the warriors will not change the reasons they go to war. It will not stop the destruction of the flower of working class youth. It will not make us safer here at home. And it will not solve our domestic problems.

We must do the hard work necessary to build a political movement independent of the Democrat-Republican dictatorship. We must teach that Kerry is merely Bush’s skull and bones in a different wrapper.

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