

GI SPECIAL 2#B44

**BUSH'S SITTING DUCKS:
BRING YOURSELF HOME NOW!**



Sadr City (Middle East Online)

Resistance Spreading: Disaffection In The Ranks

AUG. 25 - SEPT. 2, 2004 By Vince Beiser, LA Weekly

“We hear from a lot of people who have already served in Afghanistan or Iraq, saying they’ll go to jail before they’ll go back,” says Galvin.

The first waves of Iraq War veterans have begun returning home — and some of them are deeply disillusioned.

Early this summer, Michael Hoffman, a 25-year-old former Marine, founded Iraq Veterans Against the War — a group of some two dozen service members whose name speaks for itself.

“We were given three reasons for this war: weapons of mass destruction, Saddam’s support of terror and Iraqi democracy,” says Hoffman, who fought with an artillery unit in the initial invasion. “All three have fallen through. **Eventually you start to put two and**

two together, and you realize that you're there for oil and companies like Halliburton. People are starting to figure it out. There will inevitably be more deserters. We're set on the same course as Vietnam if this continues."

Hoffman himself is still in the Individual Ready Reserve, meaning he could be called back to duty. What will he do if that happens? "I have my own free will" is all he's willing to say.

His caution is understandable: The Marine Corps announced in July that it has opened an investigation of Lance Corporal Abdul Henderson, the Marine reservist who appears in Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* declaring that he won't go to Iraq if his unit is called up. **The Army is already having enough trouble keeping its ranks filled. In August, it announced plans to put hundreds of new recruiters to work around the country, and jacked up the cash bonuses offered to those they sign up, in an effort to boost enlistment for the increasingly unattractive job of soldiering.**

According to the Army's own statistics, the number of soldiers applying for conscientious-objector status is running double its prewar levels.

Hinzman's lawyer, Jeffry House, says about 60 GIs have contacted him about the prospects of finding refuge in Canada as deserters. And the GI Rights Hotline, a volunteer network that counsels soldiers considering leaving the military, is currently logging nearly 3,000 calls a month, almost twice the number that were coming in before the war.

"It's been crazy," says Hotline spokesman Bill Galvin. Calls are pouring in both from reservists who are afraid they'll be called up and torn away from their families and jobs, and from active-duty servicemen and women.

"We hear from a lot of people who have already served in Afghanistan or Iraq, saying they'll go to jail before they'll go back," says Galvin.

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.**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

12 US Soldiers Wounded In Sequenced Baghdad Grenade Attacks

2004-08-27 Middle East Online

BAGHDAD - Twelve US soldiers were wounded in multiple grenade attacks in the streets of central Baghdad on Friday, the US military said.

Five soldiers were wounded at around 10:00 am (0600 GMT) when insurgents lobbed eight hand grenades at their patrol.

Another two hand-grenade attacks an hour later wounded five more soldiers, and a third attack 45 minutes after that left two more soldiers injured.

As the soldiers finished their patrol at around 1:00 pm, another two hand grenades were thrown, but no soldiers were wounded.

FALLUJAH VEHICLE ACCIDENT KILLS ONE, INJURES ANOTHER

August 27, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release Number: 04-08-36C

BALAD, Iraq – One soldier is dead, and another injured after the truck the two were driving in rolled off an embankment about 4:45 a.m. Aug. 27 near Fallujah.

The injured soldier was evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad and is scheduled to be evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

U.S. Convoy Hit In Mosul

2004-08-27 Middle East Online

A US soldier was wounded on Friday when a car bomb blew up in the path of a US military convoy in the main northern city of Mosul, medical sources said.

The car exploded at around 11:00 am (0700 GMT) in the central Yarmuk district of the city as US military vehicles passed. The US military said one American soldier was taken to hospital for treatment following the attack

Armed Truce: Iraq Rebels Leave Najaf Shrine

Aug 27, 2004 By Michael Georgy, NAJAF, Iraq (Reuters) & By Abdul Hussein Al-Obeidi, Associated Press & BAGHDAD, (IslamOnline.net)

Shi'ite fighters left the holiest shrine in the Iraqi city of Najaf Friday and began turning in their weapons, after tens of thousands of pilgrims celebrated a peace agreement that ended a bloody rebellion.

Al Arabiya television said Sadr's representatives had handed over the keys to the mosque, Iraq's holiest Shi'ite shrine.

Several Mehdi militants refused to give up their guns while some U.S. troops -- who are supposed to leave the southern city in line with the peace deal -- were seen nearby.

Police briefly exchanged fire with militants in one part of town Friday, and some U.S. troops were still receiving occasional sniper fire. Nevertheless, most of the city was calm.

Inside, the crowds mingled with Mahdi Army fighters and performed noon prayers. Afterwards, civilians and militiamen streamed out, chanting "Muqtada, Muqtada."

After the bitter fighting with U.S. marines, many Mehdi militants still breathed defiance Friday.

"We will support whatever Ayatollah Sistani and Sayyed Moqtada have agreed. But we will still slit the throats of the Americans," said one militiaman, Hussein Taama.

Another held an AK-47 rifle which he said was his personal weapon that he would not give up: "I will keep this warm and wait for Sayyed Moqtada's order."

Press reports claimed that dozens of militiamen piled Kalashnikov rifles in front of the offices of Sadr.

But thousands others were still believed to be armed in the city, though most were staying off the streets. In one narrow alley, some militiamen could be seen pushing carts full of machine-guns and rocket launchers.

So, observers say, the peace deal on Najaf was an attempt to save faces after the Iraqi government realized that storming the Imam Ali shrine is a step too risky to take as it was certain to draw a wide public protest. Sadr militiamen were also pressurized to accept a settlement, especially with US and Iraqi forces closing in on the holy site.

MORE:

The Five Points Of The Najaf Agreement

NAJAF, Iraq, Aug 27 (AFP)

Cleric Moqtada Sadr and his Mehdi Army were preparing to hand over the keys to the Imam Ali shrine on Friday after Sadr agreed a peace initiative by Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, to end fierce fighting in the holy city of Najaf.

The five points, set out in a document signed by Sadr and which AFP has obtained a copy of, are:

- 1 - The cities of Najaf and Kufa must be disarmed and all armed elements in these cities must leave and never return.
- 2 - The Iraqi police are responsible for restoring security and peace in the two cities.
- 3 - The US-led multinational force must withdraw.**
- 4 - The Iraqi government must pay compensation to those who have suffered during the crisis.
- 5 - All parties and political, social and ideological movements must join in a process leading to general elections and total sovereignty, and must create an environment favourable to this process.

U.S. 2004 Iraq Deaths Now Exceed 2003 Deaths

Aug 26th, 2004 Tom Schaller <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2004/8/26/163629/155>

It happened this week almost without notice: The number of Americans killed in Iraq during 2004 now exceeds the number killed in 2003.

More remarkably, the 488 killed thus far this year died in just 239 days (2.04 daily average), while the 482 killed last year died during fully 287 days (1.68 daily average), which means that not only has 2004 been bloodier than 2003 in absolute terms, but in relative terms as well.

Now, here's the question I really want to ask: How long will it take the media to report this indisputable fact? I mean, can they take even five minutes time from the latest, breathless Swift Boat twist to report the fact that more Americans have died in Iraq this year than last?

My watch shows it's about 4:36 EST. Let's keep an eye on the clock, shall we?

Panhandle Congressman's Delegation Doesn't Have Close Call

Aug. 27, 2004 Associated Press

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. - A congressional delegation led by U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller **got a close-up look at combat** in Iraq when **two mortar shells exploded about 500 yards from where the lawmakers were waiting to board a helicopter. (Not close enough.)**

Pocatellans Wounded

8.27.04 By Debbie Bryce - Journal Writer, Pocatello Idaho State Journal

U.S. Marine L. Cpl. Nicholas Carson sustained injuries to his left hand and right shoulder when the unit he was leading was hit by a rocket propelled grenade Aug. 11.

His wife, Sara Carson, said he returned to the unit and is currently serving as a radio operator.

Nicholas Carson underwent surgery for his shoulder wound, and shrapnel was removed. "He is still pulling shrapnel out of his hand," his wife said.

Sgt. Michael T.K. Norris is recovering at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, his wife, Brandie Norris said. On August 8, Michael Norris suffered second- and third-degree burns on the left side of his face, injuries to one eye and his left hand was crushed when a bomb exploded as he and his crew traveled on an Iraqi road.

He has undergone three operations to repair damage to his hand and two on his eye. Brandie Norris said her husband remains optimistic.

"He's in better spirits because he has his kids here with him," she said. "I am better now that I'm with him. The Army is taking really good care of us and I have my kids and Mike's (Michael Norris) mother here with me."

Sara Carson recently moved to San Diego, Calif. The couple will celebrate their first anniversary Aug. 30.

"It's hard being alone. Everything in our house reminds me of him," she said.

War Reports: Resistance Point Of View:

Comment:

(At first glance, these reports from resistance sources about U.S. losses in Iraq seem wildly exaggerated. Until you read what a Marine officer has to say. Check it out:)

Marine Officer Admits Covering Up "Actual Loss"

23 August 2004 By Ahmed Janabi, Aljazeera.Net

Aljazeera.net spoke to Lieutenant-Colonel TV Johnson, public affairs officer of the First Marines Expeditionary Force who said the amount of information given to the media was based on tactical necessities.

"It is something all armies do in war time. You do not want the enemy to know about your actual loss, and whether he was successful in the attack he carried out on your troops or not," he said.

Iraqi Resistance Report For Thursday, 19 August 2004 Through Sunday, 22 August 2004

Translated and/or compiled by Muhammad Abu Nasr, member editorial board The Free Arab Voice

Thursday, 19 August 2004

Heavy fighting in southern al-Fallujah as Resistance throws back US attack around midnight. Eight civilians wounded by US aggressor fire:

In a report posted at 11:46pm Mecca time Thursday night, the al-Fallujah correspondent for Mafkarat al-Islam reported that fierce fighting had been raging for 10 minutes between US aggressors and the Iraqi Resistance in the southern neighborhoods of al-Fallujah. The battle, which began at 11:30pm was still under way as he filed his report.

Fighting erupted when US aggressor troops mounted a violent attack on the southern parts of the city using mortars and rockets. US tanks also fired shells at the al-Mu'allimin neighborhood in the center of the city, and also at the "Cement Houses" - housing blocks in which workers at the local cement plant reside.

The Resistance had been able to stave off the US assaults, forcing the Americans back when they tried to advance in the direction of the south side of the city. The Resistance saw their approached and unleashed a heavy barrage on the Americans, forcing them to beat a retreat.

Eight Americans killed in Resistance ambush near al-Yusufiyah.

An American convoy of oil tank trucks and six Humvees to provide protection was attacked by the Iraqi Resistance as it passed along the highway between al-Yusufiyah and the western region on Thursday. The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that the rocket- propelled grenade attack left two Humvees completely destroyed and set one of the tank trucks ablaze, killing its driver, a US soldier. Seven Americans died in the Humvees and three others were wounded, the reporter wrote.

Resistance sets US base in Baghdad area ablaze with rocket attack.

At about 9:50pm Thursday night, the US base called the as-Suqur Camp (or "Camp of Falcons") on the al-Yusufiyah road in Baghdad came under rocket attack. Fires blazed up in the camp that were still burning half an hour later, according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam. **The correspondent wrote that the Resistance fired a powerful Grad missile at the US base.**

US suffers at least 18 killed in Wednesday attack in Baghdad:

US aggressor troops suffered serious losses in the ar-Ridwaniyah area of Baghdad on Wednesday, according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam who reported that at least 18 US troops were killed in an attack carried out at 11:00am.

Resistance fighters attacked an American foot patrol in the area, striking all of them with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). Most members of the patrol were killed and then the remainder were finished off with light arms.

Five minutes after the attack, the correspondent wrote, four Humvees arrived on the scene. But the Resistance was waiting for them and completely destroyed two of the Humvees. The other two US vehicles fled, firing indiscriminately at the houses in the area.

The number of Americans killed in the Humvees is unknown but the vehicles were turned into balls of flame and it is considered likely that all aboard were killed.

Resistance bomb kills two American troops in al-Ghazaliyah Thursday night:.

Two American aggressors were killed and three others wounded when an Iraqi Resistance bomb went off in al-Ghazaliyah. The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that at 9:00pm Thursday night, as the US patrol was passing along the highway in al- Ghazaliyah, a bomb exploded, striking the American column and inflicting the casualties.

Resistance pounds British bases in al-Basrah with rockets Thursday morning, afternoon:

The local correspondent for Mafkarat al-Islam reported on Thursday evening that the headquarters of the British aggressor forces in the as-Sa`i neighborhood of the al-`Ashshar district in the southern city of al-Basrah came under Resistance rocket attack for three hours on Thursday, beginning at 2:00pm and lasting until 5:00 in the afternoon. **Some 14 rockets struck the British headquarters intermittently during that period.**

The correspondent for Mafkarat al-Islam also reported that the Resistance subjected the British camp in the al-Barradi`i neighborhood in al-Basrah to a bombardment of 13 rockets Thursday morning. At 5:00am the Resistance fired 13 rockets at the British aggressor camp.

Friday, 20 August 2004.

Resistance strikes US column near Abu Ghurayb, killing at least six American troops.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a US military column with rockets at noon on Friday, killing at least six American troops, according to a report filed by a correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam.

The US column was made up of fuel tankers and escort vehicles and was attacked by Resistance fighters firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) as it drove along the expressway in the Abu Munaysir area near Abu Ghurayb in the Baghdad region at precisely 1:30pm.

The attack left two tank trucks ablaze and destroyed two Humvees. At least six US occupation troops were killed in the stinging Resistance assault.

Witnesses reported that the highway was still closed by US forces trying to clean up after the attack at 3:30pm Mecca time.

Resistance attacks US convoy near Baghdad Friday afternoon. A US convoy of troops and vehicles carrying large equipment for the US military came under Iraqi Resistance attack at 2:45pm Mecca time Friday afternoon as it passed under a bridge on its way to Baghdad from the US base complex at at-Taji, according to a report filed by the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam.

One troop carrier was destroyed in the attack.

Jaysh al-Mahdi battles US aggressors, destroys eight Humvees in as-Sadr neighborhood of Baghdad Friday night.

Resistance bombs destroyed eight US Humvees on Friday night in the as-Sadr neighborhood of the city near the an-Nahdah Bridge. The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that Resistance bombs were planted near the bridge and that their explosion left 11 dead and 23 others wounded.

Resistance mortars, Katyusha rockets pummel US-occupied al-Muthanna airfield in Baghdad Friday night.

Iraqi Resistance forces on Friday mounted a destructive attack on al-Muthanna airfield located in Baghdad and occupied by US invader troops. **The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that the Resistance fired mortars and Katyusha rockets at the airfield at exactly 9:00pm local time Friday night.**

Tongues of flame and thick clouds of smoke rose into the night sky as sirens wailed within the US camp.

Resistance fires heavy rocket barrage at Saddam International Airport Friday night.

The Iraqi Resistance mounted a new attack on Saddam International Airport near Baghdad on Friday shortly before midnight, Mecca time according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam. Resistance fighters fired four rockets in a row at the US airport. Although the type of rocket was not confirmed their flash and their explosive yield suggested that they were of the powerful Grad type.

Iraqi Resistance forces on Friday attacked a US command point on the International Highway in Baghdad with 120mm mortars, according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam. The extent of losses were not available.

Resistance mortar fire partly destroys US Intelligence headquarters inside "green zone."

Informed sources told the correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam that Iraqi Resistance forces succeeded in striking the headquarters of US intelligence in the so-called "green zone" compound - the heavily guarded area of the occupied Republican Palace that houses the US occupation command in Iraq and the stooge regime headquarters as well.

According to Mafkarat al-Islam, three mortar rounds crashed into the "green zone" at about 1:00pm Friday. In addition, employees who work inside the US compound reported that a part of the building that serves as the headquarters of US intelligence in Iraq was destroyed in an earlier, Friday morning mortar barrage.

At least six British troops killed in all-night fighting with Resistance in al-Basrah.

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam in al-Basrah reported Friday morning that fierce fighting broke out between the Iraqi Resistance and British aggressor troops on Sa`d Square in the city between midnight and dawn Friday. Three British Jeeps were destroyed and at least six British invader troops killed. Eyewitness accounts put British deaths at as many as 10, but these could not be confirmed.

In a dispatch posted at 11:09pm Mecca time, the al-Basrah correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that fighting continued in that city in different places and intermittently on Friday. **Battles were under way, he wrote, on the Safwan Road south of al-Basrah and also in the area of Tannumah, east of the city. A third battle zone was on the highway north of the city.** There were reports that gunfire was being exchanged between the Resistance and British aggressor forces on the road to al-Faw Peninsula as well.

The al-Basrah correspondent reported that the occupation forces had stormed three houses in al-Faw city using light and medium weapons and rocket-propelled grenades as well as 120mm and 82mm mortars and machine guns.

Saturday, 21 August 2004

Five US troops killed in Resistance attack on supply convoy near ar-Ramadi.

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Saturday night that Resistance forces attacked a US food supply convoy guarded by several Humvees near ar-Ramadi, west of Baghdad. Five US troops were killed in the attack, that took place at 9:30am Saturday in the area known as Kilometer 35. The Resistance fired rocket-propelled grenades at the orange LBL, destroying one truck and killing two US soldiers. Three other US troops were killed when an escorting Humvee was destroyed.

Heavy fighting around al-Habbaniyah on Friday reported:

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Saturday that fierce fighting had erupted between Iraqi Resistance fighters and US aggressor troops in the area of al-Habbaniyah on Friday. He reported that the Resistance inflicted heavy losses on the US invaders.

US troops evacuated all those in the vicinity of the fighting in which the Resistance used rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. The Resistance attacks caused the Americans to lose their balance and they began storming houses in the course of which they killed three civilians and wounded 20 others. **The Americans also arrested fuel station guards in the area on the pretext that they had been involved in the fighting with the Resistance in that operation.**

Resistance bomb kills three Americans in western Baghdad:

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Saturday evening that three US aggressor troops were killed in an Iraqi Resistance bombing west of Baghdad at about 7:30pm. The attack occurred in the ash-Shu'lah neighborhood and destroyed a Humvee as well as killing the men.

Resistance pounds US "green zone" headquarters in Baghdad.

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Saturday evening that **Iraqi Resistance fighters fired five Grad rockets at the US headquarters** that they call "the green zone" in the Republican Palace compound in Baghdad. The correspondent indicated that the attack took place at about 8pm Saturday evening and targeted the headquarters of a number of specialists or US troops.

Eyewitnesses told the correspondent that they saw nine vehicles transporting dead and wounded from the attack. **A Black Hawk helicopter with a red cross emblazoned on it also took off towards Saddam International Airport, a major US base.**

Iraqi Resistance blows up mail oil pipeline south of al-'Amarah:

The Iraqi Resistance blew up and set fire to the main oil pipeline south of al-'Amarah. Al-Jazeera satellite **TV reported that a Resistance group in the city has cut the road to truck traffic bringing goods from the port in al-Basrah province to the rest of Iraq.**

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Saturday that one male and one female British soldier were killed in the as-Sa'i neighborhood in al-Basrah at about 2:10pm Saturday, Mecca time. The correspondent reported that the two Britons were riding in a GMC vehicle - a type usually used by British intelligence officers - when the

Iraqi Resistance fired a rocket-propelled grenade at them, destroying their car and killing them instantly.

Sunday, 22 August 2004.

Resistance fires two Tariq rockets at Saddam International Airport.

According to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam, Iraqi Resistance fighters fired two powerful Tariq rockets at the US base in Saddam International Airport Sunday night. As usual, the Americans released no information on damage or casualties resulting from the attack.

Five Americans killed and six wounded in Baghdad fighting Sunday night.

In a dispatch posted at 10:35pm Mecca time Sunday night the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that the Iraqi Resistance and US aggressor troops had been battling in the al-Hurriyah district of Baghdad during the night.

The fighting broke out at 10:00pm Mecca time on the road from the al-Hurriyah area to the al-Kazimiyah area, also in Baghdad. The Resistance fighters destroyed two US Humvees with their rocket-propelled grenades.

Eyewitnesses reported that five Americans were killed in the attacks on the Humvees and six others wounded. The fighting was still raging as the correspondent filed his report

Puppet forces kill each other by mistake.

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Sunday that one Iraqi puppet security soldier was killed and another wounded by gunfire from the puppet so-called national guard in the southern city of an-Nasiriyah.

The two casualties were members of a force charged with guarding oil installations in southern an-Nasiriyah. During the night they were pursuing an unidentified car when they came near an outpost of the puppet "national guard". The puppet guardsmen, who did not know what was going on, opened fire on the puppet security car, killing the one security soldier and wounding the other.

Jaysh al-Mahdi slams Americans, puppet troops with 40 Katyusha rockets. The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Sunday night that the Jaysh al-Mahdi pounded a concentration center for US aggressor forces and the Iraqi puppet troops outside the city of an-Najaf with some 40 Katyusha rockets.

Jaysh al-Mahdi destroys six US tanks Sunday morning outside an-Najaf to let in humanitarian supplies blocked by the Americans.

Late Sunday night the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that the Jaysh al-Mahdi destroyed six American tanks on the highway between al-Kufah and an-Najaf Sunday morning. **The correspondent wrote that the six tanks had been blocking a supply line needed by the Jaysh al-Mahdi on the road to an-Najaf. After the American tanks were taken out, all the supplies were able to get in to the city's defenders and population safely, having been prevented from doing so by the US aggressors.**

Jaysh al-Mahdi forces completely control the city of al-Kufah, but US troops encircle an-Najaf completely and prevent any sort of humanitarian assistance from getting in to the city.

The correspondent reported that the situation in an-Najaf was still under the control of the Jaysh al-Mahdi after midnight Monday morning, with fighting limited at that point to old areas of the city. US ground troops call in air cover and mortar fire to protect them and to attack the positions of the Jaysh al-Mahdi making it look like the US forces were in control of the city, when the fact is to the contrary.

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/>

Occupation Accused Of Hiding Casualties & Faking War Reports

23 August 2004 By Ahmed Janabi, Aljazeera.Net

Umar Zaidan, an Iraqi journalist and editorial secretary of the Iraqi newspaper al-Basaer said there was a media blackout on armed operations against US-led occupation forces in Iraq.

"Apart from the fact that I am an editorial secretary of a newspaper, I am a citizen of al-Ramadi city known for constant attacks on US forces, and I have witnessed many attacks on US soldiers and installations.

"For example early in this month, I witnessed an attack on a US check point at al-Ramadi's eastern entry. There were at least 20 either killed or wounded, but the news reported only two casualties," Zaidan told Aljazeera.net.

He accused some media organisations of word manipulation to hide the truth.

"Usually we use the word 'casualties' at the beginning of an incident when the situation is not clear.

"But after we get enough information we say a number of dead and a number of wounded, and sometimes we should elaborate how serious the wounds are, but with US forces in Iraq it is always casualties and the number always less than the truth," he said.

The secretary general of al-Irshad and al-Fatwa Association in Iraq has accused world media of colluding with US-led occupation forces in imposing a media blackout on Iraqi resistance operations.

"I call on world media to stop twisting the news and portraying Iraqi resistance actions as the mere killing of Iraqi citizens," he told Aljazeera.net.

"If media provide one hour of honest coverage to what the Iraqi resistance are doing on a daily basis, I bet you the mothers and sisters of US soldiers in Iraq will pour into the streets of America screaming at Bush to pull the troops from Iraq," he said.

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

TROOP NEWS

Marine Suffers Double Loss

(Seattle Times, August 26, 2004)

Marine Cpl. Rosanna Powers will attend her brother's funeral today in Washington and then will fly back across the country to Florida to help bury her fiancé the next day. Both were U.S. Marines killed last week—one day apart—in Iraq.

Cut Our Pay?? Fuck You! We Got The Rifles!

Army Times August 30, 2004

In the West African country of Guinea-Bissau, a dispute over military pay is threatening to topple a government. According to World Markets Analysis, the African Party told troops it would provide the same big raises promised in 2003 by the now-ousted former president but reneged when it came time to propose a budget.

Now, the military's chief of staff — and the leader of the coup that toppled the last president — is warning the new administration that it might not be a good idea to mess with the army. The WMA report said the pay spat could be significant because the new government has had problems with its transition to power.

“Unless an agreement between the armed forces and the administration can be reached, there will be an ever-increasing risk of yet another military intervention in Guinea-Bissau,” the report says.

Pentagon Cover-Up Fails; Report Blaming Sanchez For Prison Torture Leaked To Press

27 August 2004 By Douglas Jehl and Eric Schmitt, The New York Times

Washington - **Classified parts of the report by three Army generals on the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison say Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, the former top commander in Iraq, approved the use in Iraq of some severe interrogation practices intended to be limited to captives held in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and Afghanistan.**

Moreover, the report contends, by issuing and revising the rules for interrogations in Iraq three times in 30 days, General Sanchez and his legal staff sowed such confusion that interrogators acted in ways that violated the Geneva Conventions, which they understood poorly anyway.

The techniques approved by General Sanchez exceeded those advocated in a standard Army field manual that provided the basic guidelines for interrogation procedures.

The passages involving General Sanchez's orders were among several deleted from the version of the report by Maj. Gen. George R. Fay that was made public by the Pentagon on Wednesday.

Classified parts of the 171-page report were provided to The New York Times by a senior Defense Department official who said fuller disclosure of the findings would help public understanding of the causes of the prisoner abuse scandal.

Army officials said Thursday that some sections of the report had been marked secret because they referred to policy memorandums that were still classified.

But the report's discussion of the September and October orders, while critical of General Sanchez and his staff, do not disclose many new details of the orders and do not appear to contain sensitive material about interrogations or other intelligence-gathering methods.

MORE:

Pentagon Tries To Keep Cover-Up Going; Opposes Independent Prison Abuse Probe

(Reuters.com, August 26, 2004

The Pentagon opposed calls for an independent investigation of prisoner abuse from human rights groups and a key congressional Democrat, Sen. Patrick Leahy of the Judiciary Committee, who said such a probe was the only way to get to the truth.

MORE:

Put A Leash On Miller

27 August 2004 By Steve Weissman, t r u t h o u t Perspective

"At Guantanamo Bay we learned that the prisoners have to earn every single thing that they have," Major General Geoffrey Miller told Brig. General Janis Karpinski, as she recalled on BBC's Radio 4.

"He said they are like dogs and if you allow them to believe at any point that they are more than a dog then you've lost control of them." (Actually, that describes dealing with assholes like Miller perfectly.)

MORE:

Abuse-Case Judge May Require Intel Chiefs To Testify; "Pay Me Now Or Pay Me Later"

August 24, 2004 By Robert H. Reid, Associated Press

MANNHEIM, Germany — The U.S. military judge hearing the Abu Ghraib abuse case suggested Tuesday he would compel top military intelligence commanders to testify unless the prosecution moves forward with criminal charges against them within the next month.

The judge gave the prosecution until Sept. 17 to convince him that they should not be compelled to testify. Pohl made it clear, however, that if the government does not intend to file major charges against the officers by then, he would probably grant them immunity to testify.

"This would appear to be critical information to the defendants ... that this was condoned by the higher-ups," Pohl told the prosecutors. "You know where this is going — it's either pay me now or pay me later."

Army Prosecutes Honest Sergeant:

He Said He's Not Ready For Command; They Give Him Court-Martial Instead

(This story is not a satire. This really happened. It says it all about what kind of blind, stupid soldier-killing assholes run the military.)

Army Times August 30, 2004

A soldier serving in Afghanistan was cleared of charges stemming from his request to be removed from leadership, an Army spokeswoman said.

Staff Sgt. William Pace, 35, faced a court-martial in Kandahar on charges of dereliction of duty and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline.

Pace was a squad leader responsible for nine soldiers, the Honolulu Star-Bulletin reported. **"He told his command he was not qualified to serve as an infantry squad leader,"** the spokeswoman said.

(And if he'd lied, like the senior officers routinely do, who can't command their feet on a clear day stone sober, he would have fit right into Rumsfeld's office back home.)

Thai Troops Withdraw From Iraq

August 27, 2004 BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Thailand's troops prepared to withdraw from Iraq on Friday after completing a yearlong humanitarian mission in the war-torn country, officials said.

Thailand withdrew about 80 soldiers and some equipment from Iraq earlier this month, and the rest of the contingent of 443 troops will join them at Camp Virginia in Kuwait, said Maj. Gen. Palangoon Kraharin.

The soldiers were expected to depart their base at Camp Lima, in the southern Iraqi city of Karbala, in a convoy of nine buses heavily guarded by coalition forces, Palangoon said.

They were expected to reach Kuwait by early evening.

The troops will fly back to Thailand from Sept. 5-7, he said. They were originally scheduled to return by Sept. 20.

"The Military Is Lying And Manipulating Its Troops," Police Chief Says;

Pentagon Says Don't Give Good Jobs To Reserve, Guard Members (!)

Army Times August 30, 2004

Des Moines, Iowa, Police Chief William McCarthy is waging a war of words with the Pentagon over the mobilization of some members of his force who are Iowa National Guardsmen.

"The military is lying and manipulating its troops," McCarthy is quoted as saying in an Associated Press report. "If we are going to have a draft, let's get it on. But let's not have a covert draft when you are dealing with people's lives." He is particularly incensed that people who have already served one tour in Iraq are being called up again.

Defense officials say if communities are concerned, they should ensure reserve and Guard members don't hold key civilian jobs if they have no backup plans when military duties call.

That answer hardly pleases McCarthy, who complained the Pentagon seems to be blaming private-sector employers for hiring reserve and Guard workers.

141,000 Hit By Stop-Loss

August 30, 2004 By Jane McHugh, Army Times staff writer

More than 9,000 active-component soldiers are barred from separating under stop-loss, personnel officials estimate. Detailed figures aren't available for the reserves. **However, all 132,000 mobilized reservists are under stop-loss restrictions.**

Capitalism At Work: Tricare Choking Military Medicine With Its Pass-The-Buck Bullshit

August 30, 2004 By David R. Welling: Army Times The writer is a retired colonel who was a surgeon in the Air Force for 30 years.

I just got a slick new brochure from Tricare. It's the Tricare Beneficiary Handbook, full of pictures of smiling people.

I suppose lots of other folks got one, too. **I note that the brochure has all sorts of platitudes. “Tricare: Making a Strong Program Even Better” sort of stands out. And then there is the sentence that reads, “Tricare’s vision is to provide a world-class health system that meets all wartime and peacetime health care needs.”**

And we are also told that every year, “improvements are made that make this strong program even better.”

One of the so-called improvements to Tricare has been the recent formation of three regions: North, West and South. The original Tricare plan had 10 regions.

Our family was out at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., when Tricare came into being, part of Region One. **The contractor originally chosen for the very first region set a low standard when it came to delivering health care.**

To call it “world-class” would be the biggest lie ever told. It was large. Bloated. Pathetic. We were embarrassed to be there, at the creation of Tricare, to see how poorly our patients were treated.

Over the years, other contractors competed for Region One, and some contractors were more helpful than others.

A few years ago, it was announced that the country did not have enough regions, and that we were to have 12, not 10. So even more contractors were involved.

Often, when contracts were granted to one contractor, the others were quick to file lawsuits, disputing the fairness of the process (This seemed to happen about once a year at Travis.) **And during all of this, there has been a tremendous turnover of physicians, who enrolled to be Tricare providers and then left in disgust at the way this program was administered.**

The final result of all these changes is simple: It becomes impossible to know who is responsible for our care.
--

Suppose you had an artificial knee operation five years ago, by a physician who is no longer working for Tricare, in a region that has long since been dissolved, administered by a contractor who several years ago lost the contract. And suppose that knee is starting to act up. Swelling. Pain. And you wish to get some answers about what is going wrong and what needs to be done. The best person to answer your questions would be your original surgeon. That very likely won’t happen. And every other option is not “world-class care.”

Despite my new brochure and its claims, all this moving and changing and reorganizing is a shell game. Such tactics are often used by organizations in trouble.

Our daughter just joined the Air Force family (again). Her husband is recently commissioned, and they are on their way to their first assignment at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He is doing three months of courses before they go over. **For several**

weeks, our daughter was here with us in Region North, and we took her in to get her signed up with Tricare.

But the folks here in Maryland are not interested in getting her enrolled, since she will be leaving soon. At the moment, she is visiting her brother in Jacksonville, Fla. If she needs medical care there, what obstacles will she face? Later, she will join her husband. What about care at that base?

The issue of portability of care is something that Tricare has never fixed, and yet we military folks are mobile. We move around all the time. **The contractors look for ways to avoid paying for care, and really do not deal with mobility. It is often used as an excuse not to get involved, and not to pay the bills.**

Finally, according to the new brochure, a primary objective of Tricare is to “optimize the delivery of health care services in military treatment facilities.” That is pure bunk. That is Beltway-speak for sending everything downtown.

The military medical world is gradually disappearing because of Tricare, which is choking training programs and threatening to close medical centers. It has had a huge negative effect on military medicine.

We need to get Tricare turned around and headed in the other direction. The inmates are running the asylum. In the meantime, I have to admit that the brochure is quite a nice one. If only the program lived up to its language.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Attacks More Southern Iraqi Pipelines

August 27, 2004 Business Report

Baghdad - Saboteurs attacked two pipelines linking Iraq's southern oilfields to export storage tanks on Friday, an Iraqi oil official said.

Oil exports from the southern terminals at Basra and Khor al-Amaya were running at about 1.5 million barrels per day, compared to 1.6 million bpd on Thursday and 2.0 million earlier in the week.

Saboteurs on Thursday attacked eight pipelines linking a southern oilfield to a pumping station near Basra.

One of the pipelines is 36 inches (91.44 cm) in diameter linking the South Rumaila oilfield to storage tanks at the Zubair One station near the city of Basra. The station pumps crude to Iraqi offshore Gulf terminals for exports.

The second 48-inch pipeline that was hit is also part of the export network, linking the North Rumaila field to storage tanks in the West Qorna oilfield.

Saboteurs on Friday also blew up a section of an oil pipeline in central Iraq that feeds the Dora refinery. Reuters Television footage showed a section on fire 30 km (19 miles) north of Baghdad.

Another set of pipelines from South Rumaila to Zubair One was attacked on Thursday and was still on fire on Friday, Reuters Television footage showed.

Amid the attacks, shipping brokers and oil traders said on Friday that oil trading house Vitol had booked the 135,000 tonne Sacramento to lift Kirkuk crude from the port of Ceyhan around August 30.

The booking, which brokers said was fully fixed, represented the first such sale from Iraq's Mediterranean outlet since May.

Kuwaiti Firm Pulls Out Of Iraq

DUBAI, Aug 27 (AFP)

The Kuwaiti firm which has seven truck drivers held hostage in Iraq has decided to halt operations in the troubled country.

"The Kuwait Gulf and Link (KGL) has decided to halt activities in Iraq completely," KGL spokeswoman Rana Abu Zaineh told the Dubai-based al-Arabiya television station.

"We do not have at the moment any presence in Iraq," she added.

Iraq Refuse To Wear Black Armbands In Bronze Medal Match

ATHENS, Aug 27 (AFP)

Iraq's footballers have refused to join their Olympic bronze medal opponents Italy in donning black armbands as a mark of respect for murdered Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni.

The reporter was executed by an Islamic group in Baghdad on Thursday.

Iraqi coach Adnan Hamd said "We regret the death of the Italian journalist but it's necessary also to think of the hundreds of Iraqis who have died each day during resistance to the occupation.

"It would be necessary to wear an armband every day. We sent a message to the kidnappers to free the journalist but sadly it was in vain."

OCCUPATION REPORT



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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Losing The War

August 27, 2004 HAROON SIDDIQUI via ISO Harlem

Moqtada al-Sadr is a better strategist than George W. Bush. That's one of the lessons of the second American siege of Najaf in four months. His ragtag army has held the world's greatest power at bay for three weeks.

This was a confrontation al-Sadr could not have lost and America could not possibly have won, and should never have got dragged into.

That it did, shows, yet again, its imperial arrogance as well as ignorance of the history and culture of a nation it's trying to subdue mostly with brute force.

The Imam Ali Mosque is the holiest shrine to the world's 120 million Shiites, being the burial place of Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and the first Shiite imam.

In treating the siege as another skirmish in an uneasy occupation, Washington and the media have missed the significance of what has transpired.

The siege angered even the majority Sunnis among the world's 1.2billion Muslims. Many issued anguished pleas for international intervention.

Iraqi Shiites and Sunnis closed ranks. Among the 10,000 people who came to Najaf bearing food and medicine or offering to join the battle, were Sunnis from Fallujah - themselves survivors of an ill- advised U.S. onslaught in spring.

It does not really matter that U.S. Marines avoided directly hitting the shrine. Or, that in case of a showdown, it would be Iraqi, not American, troops who would storm in. Or that Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, not Bush, has been calling the shots, even if that were believable.

The real news is that America thought nothing of violating the sanctity of a sacred Muslim site.

Gunfire punctured holes in the shrine's famous gold dome. Its serene marble courtyard, lately littered with shrapnel, has been echoing to the sounds of gunfire, not the Qu'ran.

American bombers, helicopter gunships, tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy machine guns have been pounding the adjoining historic old city, damaging pilgrim hotels and guesthouses.

The neighbourhood, alive for centuries with the visiting faithful, has been ordered emptied and turned into a ghost town. No one knows how many civilians have been killed or injured.

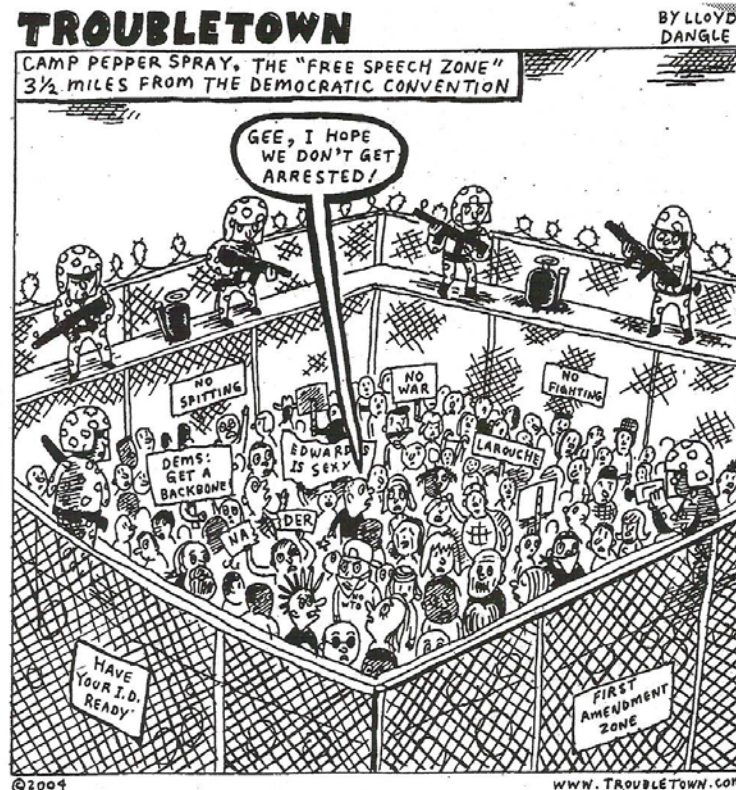
Americans have desecrated the adjacent Valley of Peace cemetery, which Shiites believe belonged to Abraham and his son Isaac. Soldiers have been stomping on graves, overturning tombstones and pictures of the dead atop the crypts - a travesty in any culture.

In dealing with the young al-Sadr, the Americans started off talking tough. They would "capture or kill him" and "disarm and eliminate his militia."

They did neither, settling instead for an uneasy truce, not unlike what they had done in Fallujah. When the current round began Aug. 5, al-Sadr was back in the Imam Ali shrine, a crusader battling the new Crusaders:

Regardless of how this battle ends, America has already lost the war.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Vote Early And Often

8.18.04 BY JOHN BELL, Socialist Worker (Canada)

When George W Bush talks about exporting democracy to the Middle East, he means democracy "Florida style".

The looming election in Afghanistan is already so plagued by voter fraud that it has become a laughing stock.

Acknowledging that many Afghans have obtained more than one voter registration Karzai told the press: "As a matter of fact it doesn't bother me if Afghans have two registration cards and if they like to vote twice, well welcome. This is an exercise in democracy and let them exercise it twice."

In fact Afghanistan has handed out about a million more registration cards than it has voters.

Rumsfeld called it “a very vivid demonstration” of the Afghan people’s determination to make democracy work.”

Reports cite individuals who have obtained up to 40 cards, with the intention to sell them to high-bidding candidates — including Karzai.

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Web Copies

For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/> ; www.qifightback.org ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>