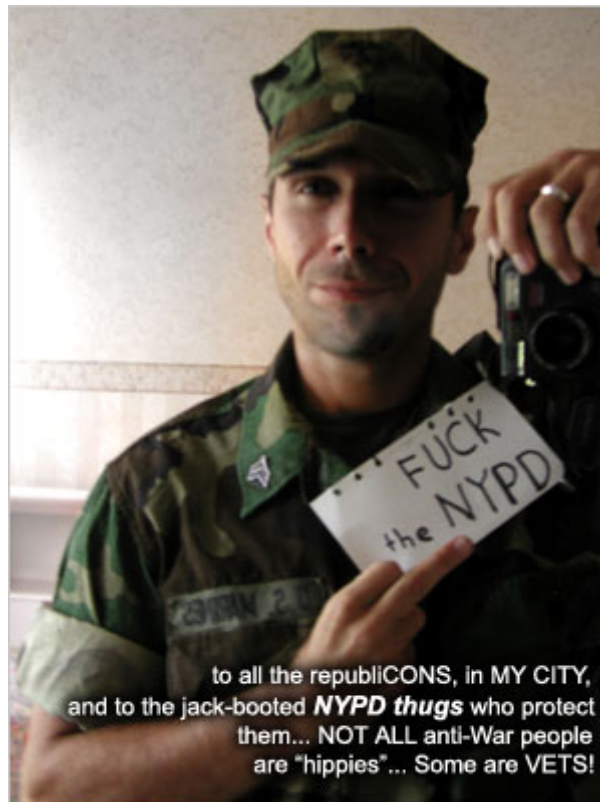


GI SPECIAL 2#B49



(Thanks to Kevin Ramirez)

Assholes In Command: 14 Year Veteran Gets Article 15 For Criticizing Bush

(Thanks to Vietnam Vet David H. for sending.)

31st August 2004 http://bellacio.org/en/article.php3?id_article=3117

As a military family with a combined total of 57 years of active service in the U. S. Army, myself, son, and daughter-in-law have accumulated over 80 combat medals, one or more of us have served in Vietnam, Cambodia, Grenada, Panama, El Salvador, Kosovo, Bosnia, and three of us served together during Desert Storm.

My son recently returned from the Iraq War, his third war, and, being fed up with Bush lies and back-to-back deployments, applied to be discharged from his "indefinite enlistment" status.

Six days later he was under investigation for making "disloyal comments" about George Bush...which amounted to saying in general conversation with other soldiers that "Bush should have never started the war" and "Bush is no military leader."

He was charged under Article-15 and was denied an attorney and could not cross-examine the case against him. His 14 years of military service up to this point was flawless, he was an excellent soldier, and in spite of numerous superiors who testified in his favor, he was demoted and sentenced to 45 days of extra duty.

His crime involved nothing more than expressing his personal political opinion as guaranteed under the Bill of Rights, the very document that he had risked his life defending.

Our government claims to be fighting for democracy; however those who risk their lives for democracy are being denied their basic rights of freedom of speech and opinion. My friends, the Bill of Rights and democracy are dead under the Bush Administration. This is only a sampling of what will happen if this administration is re-elected.

For generations we have been a loyal and faithful military family, however with this recent action taken against a member of our family, we will no longer encourage military service to our future generations. In other words, we are going to do the same thing that Bush, Cheney, Wolfowitz, and most members of congress do, WE AIN'T SERVING NO MORE!!

The Iraq War was based on lies and exaggerations, poor intelligence, a mass deception with no rhyme nor reason for invading Iraq.

For those who still have kids and loved ones in this illegal war, our blessings and best wishes go out to you. We pray for their safe return. It is refreshing to see an organization like Military Families Speak Out because our active service members are silenced by the system and need all the voices that can be mustered.

Charlie C. Carlson II
Command Sergeant-Major USA Ret.

Dot Diehl-Carlson
[Ex-Major USA Vietnam Vet]

(Name the officers responsible please, and where they can be found.)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

US Troops Come Under Attack

01 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net

A US military truck convoy has come under attack on a highway west of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, Aljazeera has learned.

One of the trucks was completely destroyed after a rocket-propelled grenade hit it.

An Iraqi civilian was killed and three others were injured when an explosive device detonated in Arkhita market in Karrada area in central Baghdad, medical sources told Aljazeera.

The explosion was targeted at a US military patrol as it passed through the area.

US casualties were not known at the time of publication.

U.S. Wounded Up 226 In One Week

Aug. 31, 2004 Associated Press

The Pentagon, which generally updates its casualty count each week, said the number of wounded stands at 6,916, up 226 from a week earlier.

Occupation Headquarters Targeted

01 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net & Aug. 31, 2004 Associated Press

In Baghdad, mortars and rockets were fired at a venue where the interim national assembly was holding its first session.

Five mortar bombs landed just outside the fortified Green Zone compound before the assembly's inaugural meeting.

Two rockets exploded nearby after the session started. At least one civilian was wounded, officials said.

The blasts startled members of the 100-seat assembly, but proceedings were not disrupted.

Several shells exploded near a checkpoint outside and an hour later, two rounds landed in the Green Zone itself, sending up a plume of gray smoke, said Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition's press information center.

“There were between three to five impacts around the checkpoint there causing one injury, an Iraqi citizen, and he is being treated,” Boylan said of the first attack.

In Mosul, gunmen shot and killed three Iraqi women who worked at a U.S. base in northern Iraq and a mortar barrage killed another civilian, police said.

The three women were killed late Tuesday as they were returning home from the base in Mosul, said police 1st Lt. Ziyad Mahmoud Danoun. It was not immediately known what jobs they held there. A fourth woman in the vehicle escaped unharmed, Danoun said.

War Reports: The Resistance Point Of View

Sunday, 29 August 2004.

US attempt to burst into al-Fallujah fails.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Sunday afternoon that some US aggressor troops attempted to storm into the industrial zone of al-Fallujah but that the Resistance repelled the American assault.

The attack took place at 5:20pm Baghdad time and lasted some 10 minutes. The Resistance fought back fiercely, sowing destruction among the Americans and forcing them to fall back to their concentration points outside the city.

Iraqi sharpshooter takes out US sniper in al-Qa'im.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Sunday evening that an Iraqi sharpshooter in the city of al-Qa'im had shot and wounded a US sniper who was in position atop a tall tower in the city. The correspondent wrote that the Resistance has made extensive and successful use of sharpshooters to pick off US snipers and other troops in recent battles. Al-Qa'im is located on the border with Syria.

Resistance shells US base at al-Muthanna in Baghdad Sunday morning raising panic among US military personnel.

Iraqi Resistance forces shelled the US base at al-Muthanna airport in Baghdad on Sunday morning, **lobbing some 30 mortar shells into the American occupation facility.** The correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the attack occurred at about 10:30am Sunday morning, Baghdad time, and following the barrage, thick black smoke could be seen rising from the camp, indicating some direct hits on US equipment. Warning sirens wailed inside the US camp continuously. Eyewitnesses who work in the base told the correspondent that two mortar rounds crashed into the parking lot for Humvees, destroying four of them, the rest of the rounds having landed in the midst of the camp area itself.

Panic reigned among the American troops in the prison within the al-Muthanna camp as the 24 mortar shells and Katyusha rockets rained down upon them. In a report posted by the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* at 12:50am Mecca time Monday morning, a former prisoner in the facility released later in the day on Sunday reported that as the barrage increased in intensity panic-stricken US

personnel, including the major who commands the prison, made a mad attempt to escape through a 1-meter wide door out of the prison area.

In the mad rush for the exit, one US woman soldier tried to hold a male soldier back to allow herself room to get out, but the male soldier was the stronger or more frightened of the two and threw her aside so that he could flee. Another male soldier grabbed a female soldier by her hair and pulled her aside so that he could get out the door first.

The prisoner said that all the soldiers guarding the prison disappeared until the sun broke through the smoke as the smell of gunpowder filled the facility.

Iraqi Resistance liquidates three American intelligence officers, retrieves their computers and documents in al-Yusufiyah, Sunday morning.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that Iraqi Resistance fighters killed three US intelligence officers as they were driving in a 2004 model GMC vehicle south of al-Yusufiyah on the highway to al-Basrah at about 7:30am Sunday morning.

Eyewitnesses in al-Yusufiyah reported that the three US intelligence officers were killed with light arms after they stopped their vehicle when one of their tires had a blow out.

The local residents who witnessed the incident reported that after the shooting, they saw three masked men board the vehicle and take three computers and three other bags. The men then got into a black car and drove off to the north.

The correspondent writes that it appears that the three Americans had been under surveillance by the Resistance as soon as they left their official place of work in Baghdad. The Resistance has succeeded in penetrating every US military operation in which Iraqis work or are employed by the Americans.

Resistance fires rockets into US “green zone” in Baghdad Sunday morning.

The Iraqi Resistance fired three rockets at the US occupation headquarters in the Republican Palace in Baghdad – the compound dubbed by the US invaders “the green zone.” The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the Resistance fired both Katyusha and powerful Grad rockets at the tightly guarded US installation at about 8:00am Sunday morning.

The correspondent reported that thick smoke could be seen rising from the “green zone” after the attack, some of the smoke being black – an indication that a direct hit had been scored on some inflammable substance or vehicle inside the aggressor compound. White smoke also was rising over the area immediately after the missile strikes, indicating that some buildings had been struck by the explosive rockets.

Resistance bombs blow up US Humvees, kill seven US troops Sunday morning.

Iraqi Resistance fighters ambushed an American aggressor patrol Sunday morning in northern Baghdad and killed seven US troops. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that Iraqi Resistance explosives blew up under a convoy of six Humvees at 7:30am Baghdad time south of the at-Taji area. The blasts totally destroyed two Humvees and killed seven US troops who were aboard them.

Two US troops killed in Resistance attack on Humvee near Military College Sunday afternoon.

At least two US troops were killed on Sunday when their Humvee was disabled by Resistance fire in the ar-Rusamiyah area of Baghdad. **The incident occurred on the highway near the Military College in ar-Rustamiyah at 2:30pm, Baghdad time, according to a report filed by the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam.**

Resistance pounds US base in Military College with rockets and mortars Sunday afternoon.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Sunday evening that the US base set up in the Iraqi Military College came under a fierce Iraqi Resistance barrage in which 120mm mortars and Katyusha rockets crashed into the installation.

Sirens wailed inside the US camp after the attack that began at about 4:30pm Baghdad time Sunday afternoon. The Iraqi Military College has now been renamed by the invaders the “College of the National Guard” but it houses some 4,000 US troops in addition to puppet “national guard” forces whom the Americans maintain in their service.

Resistance ambush leaves six US troops dead on Hayfa street in Baghdad Sunday morning.

Six US troops were killed and 13 others wounded in battles on Hayfa street in Baghdad on Sunday morning, according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. Iraqi Resistance forces used rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades, and Kalashnikov assault rifles to attack a US foot patrol of about 30 soldiers.

Jaysh al-Mahdi battles Americans in Madinat as-Sadr Sunday night.

Continuous fighting raged Sunday night in the Madinat as-Sadr area of eastern Baghdad as the Jaysh al-Mahdi battled US aggressor troops. The fighting began around 8:30pm Baghdad time and was still going on when the local *Mafkarat al-Islam* correspondent posted his report at 11:09 Baghdad time (10:09 Mecca time) that night.

The correspondent wrote that the intensity of the fighting varied from one area to another, but was most intense in the as-Saddah area located at the farthest part of Madinat as-Sadr. US troops were using 60mm cannon in their fighting as well as BKCs and rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons.

In a dispatch posted at 11:55pm Mecca time, the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that US forces had launched a vicious attack on the Madinat as-Sadr area of Baghdad using F-16 fighterbombers and Apache helicopters to bombard Jaysh al-Mahdi positions in the area.

The correspondent, located in a nearby neighborhood, reported that more than 32 US vehicles – including Abrams tanks and Bradley armored fighting vehicles were headed towards Madinat as-Sadr at about midnight, Baghdad time, where they were to join the fighting and reinforce the Americans already engaged since earlier Sunday night.

The Americans were using 1-meter long heat seeking missiles (with a 60mm diameter) to strike the positions from which the Jaysh al-Mahdi was firing Katyusha rockets and mortars at them. They can reportedly fire automatically from Humvees at the Jaysh al-Mahdi rocket launchers.

The US assault followed the breakdown of cease-fire talks between the Jaysh al-Mahdi and US forces which were an attempt to repeat the successes scored with the cease-fire in an-Najaf.

Badr Brigade collaborationist official assassinated in Baghdad Sunday evening.

A high-ranking official in the collaborationist Shi'i chauvinist Badr Brigades was assassinated in Baghdad Sunday according to a report filed by the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. The assassination took place in al-'Amil district of Baghdad at 11:15 Sunday evening and no further details were available at that time.

The Badr Brigades are the armed wing of the collaborationist party known as the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). The Badr Brigades invaded Iraq from Iran in tandem with US troops and its chief was appointed to the US "interim governing council" after the American occupation.

Jaysh al-Mahdi fighters move to Sunni Resistance areas to improve fighting techniques.

A correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Sunday that after the cease-fire agreement in an-Najaf, dozens of Jaysh al-Mahdi fighters loyal to Shi'i religious leader Muqtada as-Sadr, have moved on to areas in the predominantly Sunni province of al-Anbar in western part of Iraq (where al-Fallujah and ar-Ramadi are located) and to the area of Samarra' and other largely Sunni regions. The correspondent writes that the aim behind the move is for the fighters to study the fighting techniques and to train on various types of weapons being used by the predominantly Sunni Resistance fighters in those areas of the country.

Friday attack by Jaysh al-Mahdi leaves 14 British troops dead in al-'Amarah.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported Sunday that Jaysh al-Mahdi fighters had killed 14 British occupation troops in the southern city of al-'Amarah on 27 August at about 10:00pm. The militiamen ambushed the British invaders outside the entrance to the governorate building in the city on the International Highway to Baghdad. Eight British military vehicles were totally destroyed in the attack.

Jaysh al-Mahdi in an-Najaf retained 98 percent of weapons after cease-fire.

A Jaysh al-Mahdi commander in the city of an-Najaf told the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* that his militia forces had managed to retain 98 percent of their weapons after the conclusion of the truce in the city.

The commander, who wished to remain in the city, said that those weapons would yet be "more powerful and destructive in fighting the occupation than they were in the days of the siege of an-Najaf."

He said that the Jaysh al-Mahdi had deployed in most cities of southern Iraq where a real war of attrition was underway against the occupation forces.

Fighting rages between Jaysh al-Mahdi and British troops in al-Basrah.

A representative of the local Jaysh al-Mahdi told the al-Basrah correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* on Sunday that the cease-fire agreement reached in an-Najaf has nothing to do with the Jaysh al-Mahdi in al-Basrah.

As'ad al-Basri, the director of the as-Sadr office for al-Basrah governorate said that his office had nothing to do with the an-Najaf truce concluded on Thursday.

In keeping with that, fierce fighting broke out Sunday morning between British aggressor troops and the Jaysh al-Mahdi in the al-'Ashshar district of al-Basrah. The local *Mafkarat al-Islam* correspondent reported that the al-Faruq Brigades, a predominantly Sunni Resistance group, were continuing to shell several British positions in the districts of al-Barradi'iyah, as-Sa'i and ash-Sha'biyah. Plumes of black smoke could be seen rising from their target areas, indicating that they had scored direct hits on invader vehicles.

The Sunday fighting followed battles that raged on Saturday between Jaysh al-Mahdi fighters and the British in the district of al-Qurnah to the north of al-Basrah. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that that fighting left two British armored vehicles ablaze. Two persons were killed and six others wounded in the combat.

Two-day British siege of al-Hayyanayah area near al-Basrah ends.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Basrah on Sunday evening reported that a blockade that British aggressor troops had imposed on the area of al-Hayyanayah around al-Basrah had been broken, two days after British attacks. Al-Hayyanayah is regarded as a major center of Jaysh al-Mahdi activity in the area of al-Basrah.

Resistance mortar rounds targeted at British go astray in al-Basrah. Six mortar rounds were targeted at British forces in the as-Sa'i area of al-Basrah according to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* at 5:00pm Baghdad time Sunday afternoon. The mortar rounds missed their targets, however, and destroyed four civilian houses and wounding two women a one small child.

TROOP NEWS

150 Marines Killed, 1137 Wounded Since March; More On The Way

September 1, 2004 By Rick Rogers, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

About 300 Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton left yesterday for Iraq, where the unit is expected to serve seven months.

The number of area Marines in Iraq was 19,000 until 2,200 Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Force recently deployed from Camp Pendleton.

Most of the Marines are expected to be in place by next month, which is when the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment from Camp Pendleton should be back home.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton is the command group for the Marines in Iraq. The 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Lejeune, N.C., will take over the command role in March.

To date, nearly 150 Marines have died since early March, the majority killed in action in Al Anbar Province.

The number of wounded stood at 1,137 before the recent fighting in Najaf.

Nearly 100 of the Marines killed in Iraq were assigned to Camp Pendleton, according to the military.

Fresh Meat For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse; Alabama Guard Activates 200 Soldiers

9/1/2004 MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)

The Alabama National Guard has ordered 200 soldiers in two units to active duty to provide medical aid and security in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 128th Medical Company, based in Ashland, will leave for Iraq within two months, National Guard officials said Tuesday. The unit, which has 75 soldiers, provides ground ambulance services.

The 258th Chemical Company, from Springville and Gadsden, will shed its traditional duties as a decontamination unit to provide security at a military base in Germany.

With the activation of the 128th and 258th, more than 8,200 Alabama Guard members have been mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001. The Guard currently has 1,400 Alabama troops serving in Iraq and about 150 in Afghanistan.

MORE:

More N.J. Guard Troops Get Iraq Duty

September 01, 2004 By LARRY HANOVER, Staff Writer, The Times

250 additional members of the 3rd Battalion of the 112th Field Artillery, which has seen two Trenton-area soldiers seriously wounded, will be *asked* to put their lives at risk. ("Asked"? Not very likely, but an interesting idea. Why not say, "Go or stay home, your choice?")

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, commander of the New Jersey National Guard, said he received an official alert last week that the 500-man unit, which already has 150 soldiers in Iraq, will be **asked** to supply more troops. **(Where do they get this "asked" bullshit?)**

Activations are expected in a couple of weeks, **followed by training to convert the artillery specialists into military police, he said. (!)**

More than 4,000 of the state's 7,000 Army Guard members have been activated. That figure is expected to crest at close to 5,000, or roughly 70 percent, said Guard spokesman Ray Martyniuk.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Carl Oliver still is dealing with flashbacks to the horrifying day in June when a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) ambush in Baghdad destroyed his Humvee and killed the two other Guardsmen inside. Two of his fingers remain without use from a shrapnel wound.

Oliver's emotions are mixed about sending more comrades to Iraq.

"I know we need people over there," said Oliver from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. "These guys in the field artillery can handle the mission. They're going to train to be MPs. I'm sure they're flexible enough to adapt.

"(But) I don't want nobody going over there to get hurt. It's rough."

Call-ups are for at least 18 months, including 12 months in Iraq.

"I absolutely, firmly believe they were adequately trained and equipped," Rieth said. **"But when you have convoy security, it follows that any soldier is at risk. I know they were at risk but they were up against an RPG and an IED (improvised explosive device)."**

The Army is converting a number of National Guard armor and field artillery units because of a shortage of MPs. The 112th's soldiers originally were trained to operate self-propelled howitzers, which can fire as far as 18 miles.

Oregon Troops Tired Of Getting Shit On; Confront General

August 31, 2004 By ANDREW KRAMER, KATU TV

PORTLAND, Ore. - **The Oregon National Guard is pushing for changes in Army policy and state and federal law to address complaints raised by wounded soldiers in a meeting Monday with their commanding general.**

About a dozen soldiers met with Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, acting adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard, in a chapel at Madigan Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Wash.

The soldiers said they waited hours for doctors' appointments, felt abandoned by their units on a remote Army base, and had little chance to visit with their families through months of convalescence.

The problems show a lack of planning for the large number of wounded national guard and reserve soldiers returning from Iraq, even as the military is relying more heavily on these units to fight the war, Oregon National Guard officials said Tuesday.

Active duty soldiers who suffer serious injuries return to their home base to recuperate with their families. Wounded guard soldiers also recuperate at the base they deployed from - but that can be hundreds or thousands of miles from home, because the guard deploy to an active duty base for training before heading overseas.

Away from their families, some wounded Oregon Guard soldiers said they have little to do but languish in the barracks between doctor visits. *Some soldiers said they spent months, one more than a year, at the base.*

The guard announced Tuesday it will lobby the Oregon Legislature to provide unemployment benefits to disabled soldiers.

The guard is also pushing to streamline Department of Veterans Affairs procedures for approving disabled status for guard soldiers returning from Iraq, Guard spokesman Maj. Arnold Strong said.

The guard is also touch with Pentagon officials and commanders at Fort Lewis to advocate for the welfare of Oregon Guard soldiers, and provide for home-based care, Strong said.

At the meeting Monday, Sgt. Rick Harvey of Milton-Freewater said he had no duties on base, that he waited for hours to see doctors and that he would rather return home to heal.

These and other complaints prompted Gov. Ted Kulongoski's office on Tuesday to contact base commanders at Fort Lewis, asking for a welfare check on the Oregon soldiers, said spokeswoman Anna Richter Taylor.

"The governor feels we need to do what's best for the soldiers, and that they should get equitable and comprehensive care. The current situation does not meet that standard," she said.

"Why did we not know about this earlier? Why did we not know that our soldiers had been there for so long?"

Sgt. William Harris of Bend said a military honor commending all who serve overseas in the war on terrorism had been lost in Army red tape while he was at the hospital.

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.**

Number Of National Guard and Reserve Mobilized Up Again

September 1, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release

This week, the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while Coast Guard total remains unchanged. The net collective result is 1,672 more reservists mobilized than last week.

Communication Workers Of America Convention Calls for Return Of U.S. Troops Now!

9.1.04 U.S. Labor Against War (USLAW) www.uslaboragainstar.org

On Tuesday, August 31st, 1400 delegates to the Communications Workers of America annual convention in Anaheim, CA voted nearly unanimously in favor a resolution that calls upon George W. Bush to abandon his policy of preemptive war and to support U.S. troops by "bringing them home safely now."

CWA claims 700,000 members.

A resolution presented by the resolutions committee entitled "Making Our Country More Secure" condemned the Bush policy of unilateral military action and preemptive war. It was silent, however, on an end to the U.S. military occupation of Iraq and return of U.S. troops. It called upon the Bush administration to abandon its policy of preemptive war "absent a clear and present threat to the United States." It also called for the next administration to "vigorously pursue the war on terror in conjunction with (U.S.) allies, and for the president and Congress to "make federal funds available to staff and train first responders."

When that resolution was reported to the floor for consideration, **Bill Henning, Executive Vice President of Local 1180, took the microphone to propose an amendment which added the following "Resolve":**

"That CWA demands that the President abandon his failed policy (of preemptive war) which has made our nation *less - not more - secure, and support our troops and their families by *bringing our troops home safely now**, by providing adequate veterans' benefits and promoting domestic policies that prioritize the needs of working people who make up the build of the military"....

That amendment was sponsored by Louie Rocha, President of Local 9423 in San Jose, Arthur Cheliotis, President of Local 1180 in New York City, Velma Patton, President of Local 7708 in Colorado Springs, Don Trementozzi, President of Local 1400 in New Hampshire, and Jegler Kalmijn, President of Local 9119 in California.

As Bill Henning introduced the amendment, more than fifty delegates from locals across the country formed a line at the microphone designated for speakers in favor of the motion.

First to speak was Velma Patton, who introduced herself as the daughter of a military family with a long and proud tradition of serving the country.

She then informed delegates that her son, who is now in the Armed Services, was scheduled to be sent to Iraq next week. She strongly supported the call for an immediate return of all U.S. troops. She said she did not want one more son or daughter, husband or wife, or anyone else to be sacrificed for Bush's war. Her remarks were greeted by resounding applause.

No one rose to speak in opposition. When President Morty Bahr called for a vote by hand, there was no doubt as to the outcome. Only a handful among the 1400 delegates were raised their hands in opposition.

Following the vote on the amendment, Mike Milliman, Executive Board member and delegate from CWA Local 9510 in Orange County, CA, took the microphone to support the amended motion.

He introduced himself as a Vietnam Veteran and delivered a searing condemnation of the Bush administration's militaristic policies. He told the delegates that any continued military presence in Iraq would be a disaster. He proclaimed that not one more life should be lost in defense of an invasion based on Bush administration lies and deception.

Wounded Marine Coming Home

September 1, 2004 By John Charles Robbins, The Holland Sentinel

Marine Lance Cpl. Russel Bullock, shot in the back Aug. 13 while patrolling the streets of Ramadi, Iraq is heading home to Holland.

Bullock, a 2002 West Ottawa graduate, doesn't want anyone making a big fuss about his homecoming.

Bullock is expected in town by this weekend, and he will be staying with his sister and father at a home in Park Township for two to three weeks, before returning to a naval medical center in San Diego.



Marine Lance Cpl. Russel Bullock

"His orders are to rest and recoup," said his sister, Mandy Ruhl.

When he returns to San Diego after his visit home, Bullock will have another medical evaluation and further surgery is expected to be scheduled. Doctors want his wounds to heal first, before additional surgery is performed to straighten out the bones in his leg, and remove bone fragments.

"He'll be starting all over again," Ruhl said.

Bullock has a brace around his leg and foot, and is able to walk with crutches. He was up and around less than three days after the injury.

Asked if anyone was planning a big reception with balloons and banners, Ruhl said, "He told me, 'I hope no one makes a big deal about it.'"

He doesn't prefer the spotlight, and believes what happened to him is just a part of what being a marine is all about, according to Ruhl.

"It's hard for him ... everything he's seen while he's been gone ... it's just odd for him to get attention for this," she said.

Ruhl said Bullock is looking forward to coming home and is especially excited to be able to see his niece, Madeline.

"His big highlight will be seeing Madeline -- she'll be our (welcome home) banner," Ruhl said. "That's what he wants most. That's the highlight." "He just adores Madeline," Ruhl said.

"In boot camp, he had a picture of Madeline inside his hat that he wore every day -- he loves her," she said.

Family Of Wounded Delco Soldier Makes An Anxious Journey

08/31/2004 LINDA REILLY, Times Correspondent

UPPER DARBY -- The family of a soldier wounded in Iraq has been in turmoil since hearing word of their son's serious injuries in Tikrit.

Army Spc. Jeffrey King, 23, of Crestview Road, suffered injuries to the stomach, neck, arms and face 10:05 a.m. Aug. 26 from shrapnel after rocket-propelled grenades struck his 1st Infantry Division truck.

King's stepfather, Steve Clark, 48, was informed of the accident by phone the same day. He and his wife, Kathy King, 42, then shared the excruciating wait for more details of the incident.

Clark initially learned King's arms were broken and he was in serious condition in the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, scheduled for transfer to Ramstein Air Base Hospital in Germany.

The couple and their four sons -- Steve, 25, David, 22, Sean, 16, and Jake, 12 -- soon learned only two family members could travel to Germany. Kathy and Sean decided to make the trip, but faced an immediate hurdle: They had no passports.

"They told her you have to come because his condition is pretty serious," Clark said. "She never flew before and had to get a passport.

"Someone from the Pentagon called looking for her and I told him we were getting a runaround at the Custom's Office in Philadelphia where you get passports and asked what's going on. The next thing you know, they opened the (Philadelphia) office on Saturday.

"Then the (computer) systems were down. We finally got the passports. I drove them to the airport and she got more upset the closer we got to the airport."

Clark said when Kathy and Sean arrived in Germany, the transport team that picked her up began giving her a tour of the country.

"She was really upset and told them she didn't come to see Germany. She came to see him," Clark said.

The mother's reunion with her son was upsetting, as well.

King was in a medically induced coma when she arrived. He was still unconscious when he was awarded the Purple Heart in his hospital bed.

"I think they gave him the Purple Heart when they did because they weren't sure if he was going to make it," Clark said. "I wouldn't tell Kathy that. I just wish he wasn't unconscious when he received the Purple Heart and was awake for it. They also gave Jeff a medal to give to little Jake because he is really upset. Those two are really close."

Clark learned later that King's right arm would require multiple stages of reconstruction from the shoulder down. His right hand may have to be amputated.

"The bones are completely crushed and his right index finger is missing," Clark said.

Clark, who has been manning the home front while his wife and one of his sons are away, expressed his gratitude to his bosses at Sunoco Refinery in Marcus Hook, where he has been employed as a machinist for the last two years.

"They have been going out of their way for me," Clark said. "I went in today (Monday) and they sent me home. They have been more than understanding. They know I'm going to Washington and gave me a leave of absence. They have been really outstanding."

Pentagon Censors 'Right To Know' Video

(New York Times on the Web, September 1, 2004)

The Defense Department spent \$70,500 to produce a Humphrey Bogart-themed video called "The People's Right to Know" to teach employees to respond to citizen requests for information.

But when it came to showing the tape to the public, the Pentagon censored some of the footage. Officials said they blacked out parts of the training video with the message, "copyrighted material removed for public viewing," because they were worried the government did not have legal rights to some historical material that was included

Army Rejects C.O. Claim of Camilo Mejia, Wrongly Claiming It's Based Solely On Political Opposition To Iraq War

9.1.04: Contact: Citizen Soldier (212) 679-2250

Pvt. Camilo Mejia, the first Iraq war veteran to base his combat refusal on his conscience and international law, was informed by the Army's CO hearing officer on August 20, 2004 that his CO claim had been denied since it was "based solely on his view of the war in Iraq."

Captain Michael W. Johnson, the hearing officer, conducted a one day CO hearing at the Ft. Sill, OK stockade in late June. Mejia presented several witnesses who attested to his sincerity and integrity. **Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit and a CO counselor, Louis Randa of the Peace Abbey, Boston, both testified about the centrality of Mejia's religious beliefs and their centrality to his CO claim.**

Louis Font, of Brookline, MA., Mejia's civilian defense attorney stated; "This ruling flies in the face of both the facts and the law. Camilo is entitled to hold political views about the war in Iraq as long as he meets the CO legal standard of opposing participation in all war."

Tod Ensign, of Citizen Soldier, who has sponsored Mejia's defense, observed; "This nonsensical ruling may explain why the Army has been reporting that the number of CO applications is down during the Iraq war. If CO claims of other GIs are being handled in the same manner, it's no wonder that GIs would be discouraged from filing them."

Once the hearing officer's recommendation has been reviewed by Ft. Stewart Commanding General William Webster, it will be forwarded to the Army's Conscientious Objector Review Board in the Pentagon for the final decision. **It's likely that both will be happy to rubber stamp this recommendation**

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/>

Iraq-Bound Soldier AWOL In Glasgow

2 Sep 2004 CHRIS MCAULEY, The Scotsman

A BRITISH soldier who says he fears being sent to Iraq is hiding in Glasgow after going absent without leave from his base in Cyprus.

David McBride, 17, committed himself to four years in the army last April, after he completed his training with the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

But since returning to the Milton area of Glasgow on leave in July, the teenager has been diagnosed with depression and now refuses to rejoin his unit. He has allegedly told relatives he is not suited to an army career and wants to leave, and family members claim he is not in a fit mental state to return to the ranks.

Yesterday, the soldier's mother, Yvonne McBride, said that she intended to join the campaign being led by Rose Gentle, the mother of Gordon Gentle, 19, who was killed in June when his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in Basra.

Since the death of Fusilier Gentle, his mother has campaigned vociferously, including making a visit to Downing Street, in an effort to have British soldiers withdrawn from Iraq.

Mrs Gentle has also launched legal action against the Ministry of Defence for failing to supply her son's unit with adequate equipment, and is calling for a face-to-face meeting with Tony Blair, the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, Mrs McBride, a support worker at Yorkhill hospital, said: "My boy is in no fit state to go back. He has been told that as soon as he turns 18 in November, he will be sent to Iraq.

"He has worried himself sick and I am scared about his mental health. He's been bullied by his comrades because he has decided the army life is not for him.

"David was told in Cyprus that as soon as he's 18 in November he will be sent to Iraq with his platoon," said Mrs McBride. "He decided in July he wanted to quit the army and became very depressed.

"He was home on leave that month and was signed off duty for three weeks by his GP because he was suffering stress and depression."

Mrs McBride is now refusing to open her door when military personnel call at her home to inquire about her son, although she claims not to know of his whereabouts.

Defense Department Bosses Try Union Busting

(Washington Post, September 1, 2004, Pg. 17)

Talks between federal employee unions and the Bush administration over the development of a new personnel system for the Defense Department appeared to be on the verge of breaking down, two weeks after similar discussions stalled at the Department of Homeland Security. **Leaders of a coalition of three dozen unions said officials from the Pentagon and the Office of Personnel Management have refused to provide details of their plans or give serious consideration to ideas and questions from the unions.**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

50% Of Iraqi Collaborator Troops AWOL On A Good Day

September 1, 2004 Rohan Pearce, Green Left Weekly

An August 16 press release by US Central Command cited the fact that half of the Iraqi National Guards assigned to a US-led operation in Baghdad showed up for work, as a success.

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

One Dead, 18 Wounded In Attack On Government Building

MOSUL, Iraq, Sept 1 (AFP) & Aljazeera.Net

An Iraqi policeman was killed and 18 people wounded Wednesday in a mortar attack on a government building in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, police, the US military and medical sources said.

The police officer died and a second policeman and 17 civilians were wounded when insurgents lobbed mortars at Nineveh province's government building in central Mosul, the US military said.

"Four shells landed just outside the walls of the building and other inside the compound," Colonel Muzahem Abdullah Khalaf al-Shemari told AFP.

It was the first such attack to hit the compound since Niniveh governor Dureid Kashmula's predecessor was assassinated in July.

Another police officer was wounded in the attack in downtown Mosul shortly before noon, the US military said in a statement.

Sadr City Likes Sadr



Mahdi Army troops in al-Sadr city. (Thaier Al-Sudani/Reuters)

31 August 2004 By Erik Eckholm, New York Times

In Sadr City on Monday, armed fighters were seldom visible on the streets, but there was little doubt who was in control. When a stranger shows up, a neighborhood captain of the Sadr organization quickly offers a challenge. A signed note from a militia official or a local tribal leader is usually enough to pass muster. Posters everywhere depict Mr. Sadr.

In talks with a foreigner on Monday, several traditional tribal leaders in Sadr City - men whose influence may have been undercut by Mr. Sadr and his fighters - were reluctant to criticize him. **They expressed the wish above all that the Americans would clear out and let Iraqis solve their own problems.**

"The Americans come in here shooting, and it has made the people want revenge," said Sheik Jadoa Abdul al-Masary, a clan leader in the northeast corner of Sadr City.

"My basic advice to the Americans is to leave this area," he said, furiously fingering a string of plastic beads. "There's no oil, no gold, just poor families. What's the reason for coming in here and making trouble?"

Sheik Jowad Maawi al-Maham, the elderly tribal head of a nearby neighborhood, said: **"Our people were happy to see Saddam go. But after they entered Iraq, the Americans changed the deal."**

"They used excessive force and called the Iraqi people terrorists," he said. "We haven't seen security or democracy or reconstruction."

He fully understood, he said, why young men from his neighborhood rushed to Najaf in recent weeks to fight the invaders and defend Mr. Sadr.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Exactly Right

**“If any question why we died
Tell them, because our fathers lied.”**

Rudyard Kipling, after his son was killed in World War I

Baghdad: “We’re On A Precipice”

By Janet Reitman, Rolling Stone, 9.16.04

NO ONE IN BAGHDAD TALKS ABOUT WAR. They refer instead to the nightly mortar and rocket fire as “the situation.” It’s a term used by both Iraqis and foreigners to suggest a more subtle conflict — a sort- of war.

Previously when I was in Baghdad, in April and May, the situation — car bombings, kidnappings, beheadings, uprisings by Iraqi insurgents — was probably at its worst level since the end of the formal war. It was also somewhat remote—with the exception of the occasional car bomb, most of the chaos happened somewhere else.

During the past few weeks, the situation has come to Baghdad.

Everyone feels it, though it’s difficult to pinpoint exactly what has changed. ‘You get the eerie feeling that we’re on a precipice,’ says one American official in the International Zone, the four-square-mile, heavily fortified area of the city that’s home base to the American diplomatic presence. “It’s like, if a couple of crazy people went really nuts here, maybe a whole bunch of them would go nuts.”

The War on Terror is a Fraud

September 1, 2004 M. Junaid Alam, Left Hook

The chief of the US Army 3rd Corps Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz recently admitted, “As much as I would love the Iraqis to love me, and my doctrine tells me I want to win the hearts and minds, I know I’m not going to do that.”

One need not ask what he knows he *is* going to do.

Obviously, there is no peaceful way to convince 300 million Arabs and 1.2 billion Muslims to submit willingly to constant dehumanization, humiliation, torture, killing, bombing, bulldozing.

They will not simply yield, in Iraq for instance, all their oil, their assets, their riches, to private American firms and attendant mercenaries who are all too eager to collect the spoils of a war which they have not only failed to win but have quite clearly begun to lose.

Fatuous rhetoric about taking the fight to the enemy cannot mask the reality on the ground. The number of “terrorists” is not finite, their energies not split or splintered by armed American presence on multiple fronts.

Rather, it is clearly the American armed forces which are tired, demoralized, and stretched beyond their limits by their deployment, the very existence of which produces a groundswell of armed resistance among previously non-hostile populations.

In this endeavor, young Americans in their teenage years and twenties now die needlessly in foreign desert sands far away from their homes and families.

Spouses and children at home suffer from near poverty as soldiers are forced to remain in the field far beyond their contract and receive only a pittance for their patriotism, quite unlike the handsomely paid mercenaries assigned to secure sabotaged oil lines and unpopular political puppets.

Many soldiers who return home are driven to depression, anger, and even suicide. For those who do not return, the pain among grieving relatives can be overbearing, such as that of the father who recently set himself ablaze after learning his 20 year-old son was killed in Iraq. These are losses incurred not in the name of any clearly defined goals, but only the vaguest objectives whose rationale keeps morphing in accordance with the whims and schemes of this or that “expert” or government official. Is this then, the full, sorry scope of the war we are “winning”?

The “war on terror” is an absolute fraud.

It is a war designed specifically to mask the injustices and inequalities which afflict millions of Americans by aggravating and amplifying the injustices and inequalities inflicted upon millions of non-Americans.

Its very existence represents continuous and ever-expanding victory for only the most vicious, opportunistic, and hateful elements among humanity, who will impose upon us tragedy upon tragedy, and terror upon terror, until we break cleanly and completely from the rotted chains of mindless fealty to false national leaders and forge links with those abroad whose friendships we have forgone for far too long.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

“He Basically Wanted To Fuck The Movement”



Delegate at Madison Square Garden during the Republican National Convention in New York Aug. 30. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

9.6.04 By Any Sohn, New York Magazine

Another sex professional, 25-year-old Eve, says, “I don’t want to single out the Republicans, but they are majority male and a fairly wealthy group of people.”

The on-again-off-again prostitute with streaked pixieish hair looks less like a hooker than a bartender at Galapagos—which made her ideal for one politically charged client last year.

He’d asked her to show up at his apartment wearing a black hoodie with patches and no perfume or deodorant.

“I said, ‘Do you want me to dress like a protester?’, and he said ‘Yeah.’ He tied me down, spanked me, and wanted to yell at me a lot. He said, ‘You bad girl! You smashed the Starbucks!’ He was a very conservative Wall Street banker and he basically wanted to fuck the movement.”

Received:

TO: GI Special

Finally, Multimedia is available on www.GiFightBack.org

The first piece, a video, that just went up today is of Ivan Medina an Iraqi War Veteran, Ivan was in Iraq in the Army. His twin brother died in Iraq.

Ivan is a member of Military Families Speak Out and is a Co-Founder of IVAW (Iraq Veterans Against the War)

The video piece is Ivan's speech at the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice's, The World Says No To War, rally which took place on Aug 29th in conjunction with the HUGE demo in New York.

The video was produced by Jim Carter who has been making politically progressive video in San Diego since he moved here in 2000.

Peace Love and Class Struggle
Jim

CLASS WAR NEWS



An unidentified protester clenches his fist and chants during a Stop Bush rally organized by the Central Labor Council on the third day of the Republican National Convention in New York Sept. 1. (AP Photo/Jacqueline Larma)

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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/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>