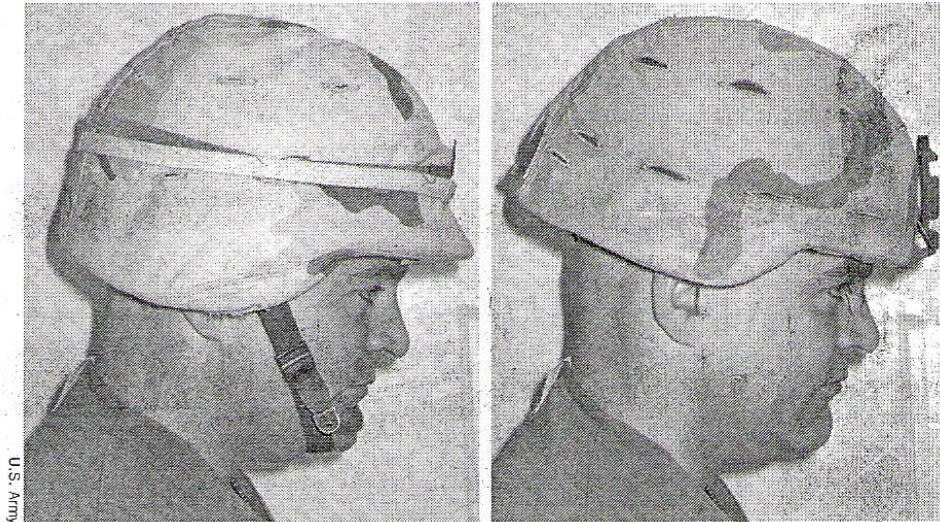


GI SPECIAL 2#B52



The old helmet, (left) provides more protection to the back and sides of the head than the new helmet (right). **(No shit.)**

New Army Helmet Kills 30% More Soldiers; Pentagon Traitors Know It, Do Nothing: Time For Firing Squads

Extrapolating from this, Col. Poffenbarger estimates the new helmet might result in a 30% increase in serious head traumas if distributed throughout the entire force in Iraq.

8.04, By GREG JAFFE, Wall St. Journal. Nicholas Zamisica contributed to this article.

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Earlier this year, with the insurgency in Iraq building and U.S. casualties mounting, Lt. Col. Jeff Poffenbarger, the Army's senior neurosurgeon here, became convinced the Army was making a mistake that could lead to American deaths.

The Army had begun issuing a new helmet, dubbed the Advanced Combat Helmet. Made of a new type of Kevlar, the helmet is stronger and lighter than its predecessor.

But the new helmet has a critical flaw, Col. Poffenbarger contends: It is about 8% smaller than the old helmet offering less protection on the back and side of the head.

In past wars, this might not have been a big problem. In infantry-style combat, soldiers typically are struck in the front of the head as they charge toward the enemy. **But in Iraq, where the deadliest threat is remote-detonated roadside bombs, many soldiers are getting blasted on the sides and back of the head, says Col. Poffenbarger. In other words, they are getting hit in areas where the new helmet offers less coverage.**

“I’ve become convinced that for this type of guerrilla fight, we are giving away coverage that we need to save lives,” says Col. Poffenbarger, a 42-year-old former Green Beret.

This summer, he briefed Gen. George Casey, the top American general in Iraq, as well as a senior Army official in the Pentagon about his concerns regarding the helmet. Gen. Casey declined to comment on the matter.

Col. Poffenbarger isn’t the only one with doubts about use of the new Army helmet. The Marines have developed their own new helmet, made of the same stronger Kevlar as the Army’s. **The Marines decided not to alter the shape, so their new helmet will continue to cover portions of the side and back of the head.**

The Marines say their helmet provides protection against mortars, remote-detonated roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades—three of the biggest killers of U.S. troops in Iraq. “We felt like the extra coverage was needed to protect against those indirect fire threats,” says Lt. Col. Gabe Patricio, the Marine Corps’ project manager for infantry equipment.

Col. Poffenbarger’s observations are by no means a comprehensive study. His research is based on about 160 head-trauma patients who have passed through the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, where he works. Because the hospital houses the only American neurosurgeons in Iraq, virtually every serious head-trauma patient is treated by him or his partner. “If you get shot in the head in Iraq, I see you,” he says.

He has gone through the records of all the hospital’s head-trauma patients, documenting the exact entry point at which the shrapnel or bullet entered the brain and the type of helmet the soldier or Marine was wearing.

Extrapolating from this, Col. Poffenbarger estimates the new helmet might result in a 30% increase in serious head traumas if distributed throughout the entire force in Iraq.

Because of his research, some senior commanders of new units arriving in Iraq have been given the choice of keeping their old helmets or using the new ones, one defense official says.

Tens of thousands of soldiers are already wearing the new helmet in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For now, the Army is committed to issuing the helmet to all 840,000 soldiers in the force by 2007, says Col. John Norwood, the Army's project manager for soldier equipment.

The new helmets—which cost \$300 each, compared with about \$100 for the old ones—are made to the Army's specifications by MSA Corp., based in Pittsburgh; Specialty Defense Systems of Dunmore, Pa.; and Gentex Corp., of Carbondale, Pa. Like the Army, the manufacturers say the new helmet allows soldiers to see and hear better than its predecessor. A spokesman for MSA says soldiers are likely to wear the new helmet longer because it is more comfortable.

(These assholes charge *more* for a *smaller* helmet, and one that kills the soldiers at that. But what the fuck, war profiteers aren't in business to keep troops alive. And neither are the generals who know about this little problem, and turn their backs. The enemy isn't in Iraq. The enemy is in Washington DC, and now you know where to find them. Start with General Casey, named above. How about a little Ramadi patrol duty for Gen. Casey, wearing the new helmet of course?)

The Marine Corps has bought about 40,000 of its new helmet, which is larger than the Army's and is also made by Gentex. The Marines plan to buy about 140,000 more over the next two years, at a cost of about \$200 each.

The Marines also plan on purchasing about 1,000 of the new Army helmets for Force Reconnaissance soldiers, who typically charge out in front of the larger Marine force and are less exposed to shrapnel from artillery and mortars.

Col. Poffenbarger, whose father was an Army physician in Vietnam and whose mother was a geneticist, says that for infantrymen charging into conventional battle, a smaller helmet makes sense. "The best way to be safe in combat is to be more lethal than the enemy," he says. The new helmet, which allows soldiers to see better while lying on their stomach shooting, should make them more effective in that situation, he says.

But for the majority of soldiers in Iraq, who aren't aiming at the enemy head-on, he contends the new helmet will lead to more injuries and deaths.

The doctor concedes his research has at least two shortcomings. If a soldier is shot or struck by fragment in the head—but is protected by the helmet and avoids serious injury—Col. Poffenbarger is unlikely to see him. "My conclusions could be slightly slanted to the negative because I don't see the success stories," he says.

He also hasn't been able to get data on soldiers who are struck in the head and die before reaching the hospital. Col. Poffenbarger estimates there have been 300 such cases since the war began. **He has asked the military morgue at Dover Air Force base in Delaware for copies of those autopsy reports but says that so far, officials there have denied his requests to e-mail him the data.**

The Evidence:

Upon his arrival in Iraq in January, Col. Poffenbarger began plotting on a spreadsheet the entry point at which shrapnel penetrated the skulls of his patients.

He noted whether they were wearing the old helmet or the new one. **After logging in the first 50 or so patients, he noticed a disturbing trend.**

Soldiers wearing the Army's new combat helmet were suffering repeated blows to exposed portions of the skull. In about a third of the cases, the shrapnel was penetrating the skull in areas that he figured would have been covered by the old helmet.

When struck on the side of the head, the soldiers often suffered serious injury requiring surgery, he says. When struck on the back of the head near the neck, a part of the skull that houses the cerebellum, patients frequently died. "Even moderate injury to the cerebellum causes swelling which crushes the brain stem," he says. The brain stem regulates breathing and heart rate.

Col. Poffenbarger's day usually begins with a 7:30 a.m. staff meeting, followed by two hours of hospital rounds and a three-mile jog in what has lately been up to 115-degree heat.

He and Maj. Gullick refer to the time between 3 p.m. and 3 a.m. as the "witching hours," when most of the head-trauma cases come into the hospital. In one 48-hour period last week, he and his partner did six back-to-back craniotomies, or surgical openings of the skull, before they had a chance for a few hours of sleep.

In his small office in Baghdad, Col. Poffenbarger keeps the helmets of a half a dozen soldiers he has operated on in the last year. So far, he has personally seen only one case in which a patient was struck by shrapnel in his Kevlar helmet and died--in that instance, a giant piece of shrapnel from a massive artillery shell placed by the side of the road that exploded.

The shrapnel didn't penetrate the Kevlar. But it hit the soldier's head with such force that it caused a massive concussion, which killed him. "This is the only documented failure I have seen in eight months in Iraq," he says. **"The message is that when struck, Kevlar helmets work."**

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 WAR REPORTS:

Baquba IED Wounds “A Number” Of U.S. Troops

9.4.04 Aljazeera.net

A US military Humvee was destroyed on Saturday morning in al-Hashimiya area west of the central city Baquba, Aljazeera has learnt.

The US vehicle was about to detonate a landmine when an explosive device planted on the main road blew up, wounding a number of US soldiers, sources told Aljazeera.

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME



Afghan IED Wounds Two U.S. Soldiers & 2 Mercenaries

September 4, 2004 The Associated Press

Major Nelson said that a UN official, a US soldier and two members of a private security firm were slightly injured in an explosion in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

Afghan officials initially said that the only victims were Afghans - the driver of a passing taxi, who was killed, and two injured passengers.

The officials said the blast was caused by a car bomb.

But Major Nelson said an initial investigation showed that it was caused by a homemade bomb by the roadside, possibly including a mortar shell.

"It was targeting a UN vehicle as it drove by," Major Nelson said. **(News story does not further ID who Major Nelson is.)**

12 Iraqi Occupation Cops Killed In Latifiyah Battle, So Far; 5 Occupation Guards Wounded

September 5, 2004 AFP & 9.4 (Xinhuanet)

Twelve policemen were killed and five national guardsmen were wounded on Saturday in a joint US-Iraqi offensive on Latifiyah.

Latifiyah is a haven for Sunni Muslim insurgents, an Iraqi national guard intelligence officer said.

The officer was speaking from Mahmudiya, 20 kilometres from the trouble spot.

The towns of Latifiyah and Mahmudiya have long been under de facto control of the insurgents.

Rebels have regularly killed police officers, raided stations and ambushed cars on the deadly stretch of road.

The flashpoint towns of Latifiya and Mahmudiya, 25 km south of Baghdad, are located on a main road that links Baghdad with the neighboring southern city of Hilla.

Police have shut down the road from Mahmudiya to Latifiya, which have long been under the control of insurgents who regularly attack police stations and ambush cars on the road.

Resistance Throws Back Attack On Tall Afar: U.S. Copter Shot Down; Stryker Taken Out

September 4 (IslamOnline.net & News Agencies) & Reuters & (AP) & AFP

Heavy fighting erupted near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul between U.S.-led forces and insurgents on Saturday.

A battalion from the US Army's 2nd Infantry Division and a small Iraqi national guard attachment poured into the city at 8:00 am to hunt down a "terrorist cell" and detained a wanted individual, the military said.

Columns of smoke filled the sky as insurgents lobbed mortar rounds and fired Kalashnikovs in response to fire from US armoured vehicles, warplanes and helicopter gunships, an AFP reporter said.

As fighting raged, a U.S. OH-58D Kiowa military helicopter was forced to land near the town of Tall Afar, and the two crew members aboard the helicopter were injured, the U.S. military said.

Explosions and exchange of fire were still raging in the city with US helicopters hovering over the scene of the clashes.

US troops pulled out at 2:00 pm, with insurgents still hunkered down behind cars and in buildings waiting for a fresh assault.

A Reuters witness at Tall Afar hospital said many of the wounded included women and children. U.S. helicopters flew overhead and columns of smoke rose into the air.

The U.S. military said the fighting began when soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 2nd U.S. Infantry Division, entered Tall Afar.

A U.S. Stryker Brigade vehicle securing the helicopter's site was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades, the military said. Multinational forces securing the disabled vehicle's site came under fire. They responded, killing two attackers.

The statement said two insurgents were killed and three Iraqi National Guard troops hurt in the fighting.

War Reports: The Resistance Point Of View

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

Wednesday, 1 September 2004.

Resistance attack causes panic in US column as tank truck runs over Humvee.

At least four Americans were killed when their Humvee fell under the wheels of an American oil tank truck after an Iraqi Resistance attack. A correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that A US fuel supply column came under Resistance ambush and that in their panic, the crew of a Humvee at the head of the column drove under one of the tankers which ran over the vehicle and killed its occupants.

After that the Resistance hit the fuel truck with rocket-propelled grenades. Afterward the Resistance fighters withdrew, leaving the Humvee and the oil truck ablaze.

The Mafkarat al-Islam correspondent reported that the incident occurred at 9:30pm Wednesday night Baghdad time on the highway north of al-Fallujah. At least one American soldier would have been aboard the truck and three in the Humvee.

Resistance fires US missiles back at Americans.

Iraqi Resistance fighters in al-Fallujah fired five US missiles back at US forces at their base in the agricultural area near the city. The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that US forces had earlier fired 17 rockets at al-Fallujah, but five of them failed to explode.

The Resistance, drawing on the expertise and skill of Iraqi weaponry experts, took the five unexploded rockets and reprogrammed and retargeted them and then fired them at the US camp in the agricultural area near the city at 5:00pm Wednesday afternoon Baghdad time. The US rockets produced obvious and copious amounts of shrapnel when they exploded in the American camp.

US kills 30 civilians, wounds at least 60 in midnight attack on residential area of al-Fallujah.

The al-Fallujah correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Wednesday night that at about midnight local time US forces had fired a rocket at a park in the an-Nazal neighborhood behind the flour mill in the south of al-Fallujah. **As a result of the attack, some 30 civilians were brutally martyred, all park and mill workers.**

In a report filed at 12:50am Mecca time (1:50am local time) the correspondent indicated that the total number of civilians killed in the US missile strike had risen to 30, **all of them park workers and flour mill employees.** The total number of park employees is 60. Those who were not killed in the vicious American raid have been severely wounded. The home of the correspondent is located a mere 2km from the scene of the blast, which was so massive that it shook his house violently.

After the attack, US aircraft dropped leaflets on al-Fallujah promising residents \$45 million in reconstruction aid if they support the Americans, a move that has further deepened the local people's contempt for the American aggressors.

Two Humvees destroyed, one Abrams tank knocked out, six Americans killed near as-Saqlawiyah.

Iraqi Resistance bombs exploded under a small US military column on the ath-Tharthar road between as-Saqlawiyah and Samarra' at 5:30 Baghdad time Wednesday afternoon, destroying two Humvees and knocking an American Abrams tank out of action, according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam. At least six Americans are likely to have been killed in the Humvees alone.

Resistance shoots down Chinook helicopter near as-Saqlawiyah.

The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported Wednesday that Iraqi Resistance forces shot down a huge American Chinook helicopter in the al-Mashhab area near as-Saqlawiyah in western Iraq. The correspondent wrote that an anti-aircraft rocket brought down the American craft at 9:00am Baghdad time Tuesday night.

The Chinook is one of the aircraft most vulnerable to Resistance anti-aircraft weaponry, as it is large and slow and easy to hit. For that reason the US aggressors try to avoid using Chinooks except in “secure” areas or in dire necessity.

Resistance bombs kill or wound dozens near Hit Wednesday evening.

Dozens of US troops were killed or wounded in the al-Baghdadi area near the city of Hit in western Iraq on Wednesday according to the local Mafkarat al-Islam correspondent. A series of Iraqi Resistance bombs exploded under three US troop transport vehicles full of soldiers after sunset Wednesday. The blasts turned the US vehicles into balls of flame and wreckage.

Resistance bombs kill four US troops west of Baghdad Wednesday night.

At least four US troops were killed and three others wounded on Wednesday west of Baghdad at 10:15pm local time when Resistance forces attacked a US column. According to the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*, the US column consisted of several air conditioned trucks carrying food supplies for US forces and guarded by two Humvees in front and four in the rear. The column was crossing the ar-Rudadiyah bridge that links the al-Ghazaliyah neighborhood with the al-Khadra' neighborhood west of Baghdad. The Resistance had planted bombs on the bridge in anticipation of the arrival of a supply column and the explosion destroyed one Humvee and knocked another out of action.

Resistance defends worshippers in Baghdad, kills five American troops.

Five Americans were killed and four others wounded late Tuesday night according to a report by a local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*. The incident occurred on Hayfa Street in the al-Karakh district of Baghdad after the local people had completed their night time prayers at the local Mosque of Musa behind the Imam Muhammad Wahibi. After the prayers as the worshippers were leaving the building, a US patrol consisting of five armored vehicles descended upon them and opened fire, driving the worshippers back into the mosque. Cars parked on the street and stores in the area were also hit by the wild American gunfire.

Salim Abu Hammudah, an eyewitness who had attended the prayers, reported that after the worshippers had retreated to the relative safety of the mosque, Imam al-Wahibi used the mosque loudspeakers to call on local residents for help. In less than three minutes Resistance fighters were on the scene, spraying the US troops with automatic weapons and light arms fire from behind their backs. Five of the US troops were killed and four others wounded when the Resistance fighters lobbed hand grenades into their midst.

Abu Hammudah recounted, “we heard the sound of grenades and automatic weapons and after 10 minutes we came out and saw five bodies of American soldiers lying across from the mosque. Four others had been loaded on one of the armored vehicles, and I

think they were wounded.” Abu Hammudah added, “we don’t know why they [the Americans] did that arrogant act, but it only makes us support the Resistance even more.”

Resistance kills seven US troops in northern Iraq Wednesday night.

Seven Americans were killed on Wednesday when Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a US column between the cities of Bayji and Mosul in northern Iraq. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that at 9:00pm Baghdad time Wednesday, the US column of escort vehicles and troop transports carrying supplies between Bayji and Mosul came under attack as it passed near the al-Baj hills. Two transports were totally destroyed and three troops killed. One Humvee was also destroyed totally and four troops aboard it were also killed. Eyewitnesses reported that the Resistance used rocket-propelled grenades in their attack and scored direct hits on the US vehicles.

Thursday, 2 September 2004

Thirty US troops killed in violent battles in ar-Ramadi Thursday.

At least 30 US troops were killed on Thursday in ar-Ramadi when Resistance forces attacked a US sniper outpost and then battled American forces in the area.

At 10:00am Thursday morning Resistance fighters armed with rocket-propelled grenades attacked a US Humvee parked outside the Garage building – a taxi stop for local travelers going to Baghdad. The attack totally destroyed the Humvee and killed the five American troops who had been aboard it.

The Resistance also attacked the Garage building itself with rocket-propelled grenades because a group of US snipers had stationed themselves inside. The third floor of the four-story building was set ablaze as a result of the Resistance fire and none of the Americans was seen leaving the building.

Fierce battles also broke out on Revolution-of-1920 Street. In the course of the violent fighting, 25 Americans were killed. The Resistance reported losing four men martyred and 10 others wounded. The battles raged in the area from 10:00am until afternoon.

Four US troops were killed when a Resistance bomb destroyed one Humvee and damaged a second that were taking part in a patrol in the ar-Rabtah area northwest of ar-Ramadi at about 10:00pm Thursday night Baghdad time.

Resistance car bomb explodes in US training base at Saddam International Airport Thursday morning, killing 40 US and puppet troops.

An Iraqi Resistance car bomb exploded inside the training center at Saddam International Airport near Baghdad on Thursday killing at least 40 US troops and Iraqi puppet forces, according to a report by the local correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam*.

Sources inside the training camp told the correspondent that the explosives-laden Kia minibus exploded inside the camp at about 9:30am local time. One witness said that he did not know exactly what happened, but that he heard a massive explosion and saw body parts flying everywhere. The witness reported others as having seen the minibus

storm into the camp, after the camp guards failed to hit the driver when they opened fire on the oncoming vehicle before the blast. The driver kept his head far down in the vehicle as he slammed through the main gate.

One American killed in Baghdad ambush.

A joint US-Iraqi puppet police patrol came under surprise attack by Resistance forces in the al-Karakh district of Baghdad on Thursday. Two vehicles were destroyed and one American soldier killed, according to a report by the local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam*.

The joint patrol consisted of four US Bradley armored vehicles and three puppet police vehicles. As it was passing along Hayfa street in the al-Karakh neighborhood, Resistance forces ambushed the patrol, launching a heavy barrage of rocket-propelled grenades against it at 10:00am local time. The attack destroyed one Nissan used by the puppet police and knocked another out of commission. **After the attack, the Resistance fighters took away the puppet policemen's weapons and then let them go.**

Five US troops killed in ambush east of Baghdad Thursday morning.

Five US troops were killed on Thursday when Resistance forces attacked an American troop column east of Baghdad. The attack took place 25km from the city in the direction of Ba'qubah, and left one US troop carrier destroyed. Such vehicles are used to supply the American forces. The driver of the vehicle and his assistant were both killed in the attack.

A number of drivers who passed the scene told the correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* that the attack took place at 10:15am local time and that it also left three other American troops dead after one of the Humvees that was escorting the column was destroyed.

Resistance ambush south of Baghdad leaves two Americans, four Iraqi puppet troops dead.

A joint patrol made up of US troops and the puppet so-called "national guard" was attacked Thursday morning south of Baghdad. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the attack took place in al-Latifayah and left two American troops and four members of the "national guard" dead. Residents of the north of al-Latifayah told the correspondent that the Resistance fighters used BKC's and that three "national guard" vehicles were destroyed in the ambush.

Resistance attacks US column near al-Yusufiyah early Thursday afternoon, destroys two armored transports. US headquarters also attacked.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a US column as it advanced along the highway to al-Yusufiyah, south of Baghdad at 2:30pm Thursday afternoon, Baghdad time.

The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Yusufiyah reported that the US column was made up of two US troop transport vehicles loaded with soldiers and supplies for the aggressor forces. The Resistance used rocket-propelled grenades in their surprise attack and destroyed both vehicles, killing at least two US troops.

The US headquarters in the area, set up in the former meat packing plant, in order to be able to receive supplies for the US troops, came under attack as well at about 2:00pm when Resistance fighters fired twelve 120mm mortar shells at the facility.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked US troops on the highway to al-Hadithah in the 'Ajlan area, which lies 8km west of al-Hadithah city. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that the Resistance sprung on the US troops at a moveable American command post using a variety of weapons, and wiping out all the US troops in the position.

The correspondent reports that a driver in the area who witnessed the scene reported that the Resistance fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at the US forces, killing 19 American troops. Some of the Americans were at first only wounded but then automatic weapons fire from the Resistance finished them off.

American troops raid home, shoot 16-year old girl to death.

US aggressor troops committed another crime in al-Khalidiyah, west of Baghdad, in the early hours of Thursday morning according to the local correspondent for *Mafkarat al-Islam* in al-Khalidiyah. At 2:00am, American invader troops stormed into the home of Jabbar Mahdi Salih a resident of the as-Sadiqiyah neighborhood. They were searching for persons suspected of taking part in Resistance activities.

Finding the man of the house out, the US troops tried to kidnap the young daughter of the family, Nur, a girl of 16. When she tried to defend herself, the US troops fired three bullets into her head, killing her instantly.

Then the American aggressors attempted to kidnap Fadilah Kassar Mahmud, 56, wife of the man of the house. She also fought back and the Americans shot her as well, seriously wounding her and then taking her into custody, despite her severe injuries. The invader troops then set fire to the home.

Not yet satisfied with the destruction they had caused, the US troops also opened fire at the Mosque of Ziyad al-Kharabit setting it ablaze as well.

Four US troops killed in ambush in al-Qa'im.

Iraqi Resistance forces at dawn on Thursday used rocket-propelled grenades to attack a US patrol near the post office in downtown al-Qa'im, a city on the Syrian-Iraqi border. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-Islam* reported that one Humvee was destroyed in the Resistance ambush that took place at about 4:00am Baghdad time. Four Americans were killed in the attack

Resistance forces also fired fifteen 120mm mortar shells into the US base located in the Customs post area of the city at about 8:45am Wednesday night.

Resistance attacks US patrol Thursday night near al-Qa'im.

Iraqi Resistance bombs knocked three US vehicles in a US patrol out of commission in a Resistance attack near the city of al-Qa'im. The local correspondent of *Mafkarat al-*

Islam reported that the attack took place west of the city as a US armored patrol was passing at 10:30pm Thursday night, Baghdad time.

After the attack, US Apache helicopters prowled the skies above the scene to provide cover for the disoriented survivors.

Bulgarian Suffers Wound in Iraq Attack

4 September 2004 Novinite Ltd

A Bulgarian soldier was lightly wounded after unknown assailants attacked troops on a daily patrol in the southern Iraqi town of Karbala late on Friday.

The troops from third infantry unit in Iraq has been attacked with an improvised explosive device. Trapped in an ambush, they came under light weapon fire.

After an exchange of fire, the assailants fled.

Petar Atanasov Kanazirev was lighted wounded in the head and received medical treatment at Kilo base, where the Bulgarian troops are deployed.

“Shit, that looks like about 2,000,000 pissed off Iraqis headed this way. Time to go home.”



IslamOnline photo

Green Zone Whacked For Umpteenth Time

September 4 (IslamOnline.net & News Agencies) & AFP

Three mortar rounds hit the heavily fortified central Baghdad compound housing the US embassy and Iraqi government as the interim parliament met, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

The loud explosions rattled the convention centre where the assembly was meeting and security guards ordered delegates away from the windows.

Morgantown Residents' Son Seriously Hurt By Mosul Explosion

September 4, 2004 BY GARY GRAY, The Dominion Post

While vacationing in Eastport, Maine, Bob and Cindy Graham returned to their hotel room and saw a red light flashing on the telephone.

Unfortunately, the news was not good.

The Morgantown residents learned Sunday that their son, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Helmick, had been seriously injured that day by an explosion while on patrol in Mosul, Iraq.

Helmick, 28, grew up in Morgantown and is a graduate of West Preston High School. He has been in the Air Force for 10 years and had been in Iraq for only two months.

"I just thank God that Michael's alive, and we're looking forward to giving him a kiss and telling him we love him," said Cindy Graham while traveling with her husband to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Michael's wife Melissa received the news at the couple's residence at Elmendorf Air Force Base near Anchorage and is already in Washington, D.C. waiting for her husband's arrival.

Helmick was riding in a Humvee with two other airmen when an IED, or Improvised Explosive Device, destroyed the vehicle, according to 1st Lt. Elizabeth Paul, a spokeswoman with Elmendorf's 3rd Wing.

Paul said Helmick is a gunner, meaning he's a trained marksman and was probably providing protection for the crew.

"He was injured Sunday by a device used by militants made from homemade ingredients," she said. (Like artillery shells, mortar rounds, land mines, all that shit you keep in the kitchen to whip up a treat in case unexpected guests drop by.)

Two others were involved. Airman 1st Class Carl Anderson was killed, and Airman 1st Class Jacob Sutton had minor injuries and returned to duty, she said.

"We're on our way right now," said Bob Graham from a cell phone. "It was so sad. I'm telling you -- I wish we could do something for the parents of the young boy that died."

The Grahams would say only that their son's condition had been upgraded from critical to serious and that he would be undergoing numerous surgeries.

"We've heard it's going to be a long road to recovery," Cindy Graham said.

White Sulphur Man's Son Wounded

9.4.04 By KATHLEEN A. SCHULTZ, Tribune Staff Writer

A 20-year-old Marine whose family lives in White Sulphur Springs faces extensive surgery in coming weeks after being severely wounded by a grenade in Najaf, Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Lenard Watson Jr., a special gunner with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and four others were leading an attack late last week when the rocket-propelled grenade exploded, riddling him with shrapnel, said Verle Rademacher, editor of the Meagher County News.

Watson, who was only about two feet away when the RPG blew, sustained severe facial injuries and other broken bones.

He was flown to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and underwent his first surgery Wednesday.

His dad, a nursing home activity aide at Mountain View Medical Center, joined him Thursday; he plans to stay at his son's side for at least the next few weeks.

Lenard's jawbone and teeth were shattered on the left side of his face, and there appears to be a lot of nerve damage, his dad said.

He has undergone some surgery and was able to walk for a few minutes Friday with some assistance. A tube in his trachea helps him breathe, and he can speak a little but can't eat or drink yet, his stepmother, Cat Dreaming Eagle Watson, said.

The Watsons' good friend and neighbor, Laura Ellington, plans to work with a local bank to set up a fund to help pay for medical and traveling expenses.

Lenard often visits his father, she said. "He loves to come to Montana to be with the horses. He's just a really nice boy."

TROOP NEWS

VIGIL FOR THE FALLEN

(Over 3000 copies of this statement were distributed around Union Square in NYC during the Vigil for the Fallen on 9/2/04.)

We are here to remember nearly 1000 US servicemen and women who have died in Iraq.

We are here to remember the many thousands of Iraqis--civilians and combatants, men and women, children the elderly--who have been killed.

We are here to remember that these deaths did not have to happen.

We know that the current administration has plunged us into this unjust and unjustifiable war, driven by greed for oil and lust for power and fueled by lie after lie.

We cannot remain silent.

We want an end to the occupation so the Iraqi people can determine their own destiny free from foreign interference and control.

We want our troops brought home now. Don't ask these men and women to continue to die for politicians' lies mistakes and lies.

And we want them treated right when they return. Give them the benefits there were promised and give them the help they will need to heal their bodies, their minds and their spirits.

We are here to remember, to honor and to mourn. We will not forget!

Iraq Veterans Against the War	www.ivaw.net
Veterans For Peace	www.veteransforpeace.org
Vietnam Veterans Against the War	www.vvaw.org
Military Families Speak Out	www.mfso.org
Veterans Against the Iraq War	www.vaiw.org
Bring Them Home Now	www.bringthemhomenow.org



Alex Ryabov, Iraq Veterans Against The War, speaking at the Vigil For The Fallen
(http://homepage.mac.com/union_county_labor/Veterans_for_Peace/PhotoAlbum89.html)

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.**

U.S. Press Puts Dead, Wounded Troops On Back Pages

Sept. 2 (UPI)

U.S. newspapers are moving stories of American troops dying in Iraq to the back pages, the Washington Monthly has reported.

The magazine noted in its September issue that on July 9, the Los Angeles Times put the story of five soldiers being killed on page 7 and the New York Times put it on page 8. On July 22, the magazine said, The Washington Times headlined a story "U.S. Troops Dying Two Per Day Since Turnover in Iraq," but only put it on page 10.

Also, "stories of the wounded, nearing 6,000 at last count," need to be told," Washington Monthly founding editor Charles Peters wrote. "Many Americans have no idea of the terrible injuries that have been suffered, and of the impact those injuries are having on the lives of the wounded as they return to the civilian world."

100% Disabled 57-Year-Old Sgt. Told To Report For Iraq Duty

Army Times 9.6.04

A 57-year-old veteran of the Vietnam and 1991 Persian Gulf wars with skin cancer, partial deafness, high blood pressure and a 100 percent veteran's disability is being told to report for active duty.

Army Sgt. Luis Jaime Treviño of McAllen, Texas, was told July 14 — for the third time — to mobilize for duty in Iraq. **He is a member of the Individual Ready Reserve.**

Julia Collins, a spokeswoman for the Human Resources Command in St. Louis, said a delay and exemption board will review Treviño's request and make a decision.

"If I have to go, I'll go. That's my job. I'm not a coward," he told The Monitor newspaper in Texas. "The only concern I have is my skin cancer and my age. I'm pushing 58."

No Free Phone Cards; Another Big Lie From Your Enemies In Washington DC

September 06, 2004 By Karen Jowers, Army Times staff writer

Even though Congress has authorized the Pentagon to provide \$40 worth of free phone calls each month to service members in Afghanistan and Iraq, don't expect to get free phone cards handed out like your daily quota of ammunition.

While the law *authorizes* the free phone calls, it does not *require* the Defense Department to provide the benefit — and it's not at all clear how many service members may be calling home for free.

After a senior defense official recently mentioned the benefit while commenting on a dispute between phone companies that could raise the cost of phone cards sold through military exchanges and other venues, a number of service members contacted Army Times to say they had never even heard of the phantom benefit.

The provision in the 2004 Defense Authorization Act “didn't place any requirements on anybody,” acknowledged a House staff member.

“In fact, it puts a limit” on the amount of free phone calls that can be provided, he said.

“Nobody places any requirement to establish a central office or to check on anybody. It requires nothing of anybody.”

While the provision started out as a requirement because of concern about service members' phone costs, lawmakers watered it down in negotiations.

The \$40 worth of phone calls per month is the maximum the Pentagon can pay for each service member, *which means anything from “zero to \$40” can be provided, the House staffer said.*

CRIMINALS CALLED “OFFICERS” HELP SALESMEN ROB GREEN SOLDIERS

August 2004 The Hightower Lowdown

It's been said that you don't know what hell is until you've had an insurance salesman in your living room, prattling on interminably about term- life annuities.

But I've recently learned about a deeper level of hell reserved for insurance-company hucksters who— get this—are ripping off America's young soldiers headed for the Iraqi war.

Companies such as American Amicable Life Insurance have weaseled their way onto our basic- training bases, where they pose as semi-official military agents. They gather boot-camp grunts into so-called classes for compulsory "briefing" on personal finances.

With superior officers in the room, the agents talk of "investments" and urge the troops to sign blind authorizations deducting money from their meager monthly paychecks.

The briefings don't mention that the 19- and 20- year-old soldiers are not really buying investments, but life insurance. Nor is it pointed out that term policies pay nothing unless you die—yet nearly every soldier is covered by a low- cost military policy that pays 10 times what these private scams do.

The Pentagon turns a blind eye to this sleazy scam, and so does Congress —the American Council of Life Insurers, which hands out fat campaign donations, has gotten lawmakers to block any effort to stop this corporate thievery.

These guys are practicing crass war profiteering, for which they deserve a special place in hell. (And the officers who make sure this happens deserve a special visit to Falluja by SUV.)

German Military OKs Sex

Army Times 9.6.04

The Germany military has issued new regulations allowing sexual relations between service members as long as it doesn't happen during work hours.

The rules allow homosexual or heterosexual sexual activity and make no distinction about the rank of the parties, according to the daily newspaper Bild.

Commanders are encouraged to help with billeting arrangements for couples involved in relationships.

The liberal policy, which applies at home and on deployments such as the missions in Afghanistan and the Balkans, is an effort by German military leaders to cut down on interference with the personal lives of troops.

The policy would never fly in the U.S. military, which bans homosexual activity and relationships between superiors and subordinates and would never allow unmarried couples — heterosexual or homosexual — to shack up together in the barracks.
(Bullshit. The policy would "fly" very well in the U.S. military. The roadblocks are thrown up by senior commanders, who would have to stop abusing, blackmailing

and raping their subordinates if sex were open and the secrecy stripped away.)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Sustained Attacks Wreck Oil Pipelines Again; Fires Out Of Control



Iraqi firemen attempt to control the fire on oil pipeline south of Baghdad blown up by resistance movement. (AFP/Marwan Ibrahim)

September 4, 2004 Business Report & AFP & Aljazeera.net

Baghdad - Saboteurs kept up relentless attacks on Iraq's oil production system on Saturday, hitting pipelines in the south that disrupted internal supply, oil officials said.

Flames could be seen rising from pipelines around 10 km south of the Nahr Umr oil field near the city of Basra. The field produces around 5,000 barrels per day.

"The sabotage damaged two parallel pipelines. The first pumps oil to the Harithah electrical plant and the second from the town of Nahr Omar to the Zubeir oil fields," South Oil Company chief executive officer Jabar Ali al-Luaibi told AFP.

"Exports will be affected but it's not immediately possible to quantify the losses," he said.

The Zubeir oil fields, together with Rumeilah North and South, have accounted for the vast majority of Iraq's post-war oil exports.

Firefighters struggled on Saturday to put out the blaze caused by the explosion near Hartha, 30km north of Basra, said police Major Colonel Nuri Muhammad.

A South Oil Company official said on condition of anonymity that technicians were forced to close the pipeline, which carries 15,000 barrels of crude a day from the Nahran Omar oilfields to an export storage tank called Zubayr-1 in the Faw peninsula.

The attack on the pipeline near the southern port city of Basra came less than two days after saboteurs blew up a section of the key pipeline to Turkey, halting all exports from Iraq's northern oil fields.

In the north, a huge fire blazed out of control on Iraq's vital northern pipeline to Turkey for a second day Friday, halting exports and forcing families to flee the area, said police and Iraqi oil officials.

"More than 30 families have fled the area to avoid the smoke. The fire is still not under control," said Police Colonel Farid Abdulla al-Obeidi.

"We're still unable to control the fire," Northern Oil Co. (NOC) security chief Ahmed Hassan Ghafif said.

Iraq only last week restored exports along the pipeline, the first deliveries from its northern fields since the end of May, raising hopes that Baghdad might be thwarting the saboteurs. (Dream on.)

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

Kirkuk Police Academy Blown Up; Collaborators Wiped Out

September 4 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) & AFP

An attacker detonated a car bomb Saturday outside the Iraqi police academy in the northern city of Kirkuk as hundreds of trainees and police employees were leaving for the day, killing at least 20 people and wounding 36, authorities said.

Fourteen of the dead were policemen.

Ambulances raced to the scene, where seven cars were on fire. Rescue personnel ferried the wounded away on stretchers. Some waited for attention while sprawled on the building's steps.

Gen. Torhan Abdul-Rahman Yousif, the director of Kirkuk police, put the death toll at 20, with 36 others wound.

The car bomb went off in front of the police academy in Al-Ihtifalat (Celebrations) Square in the southwest of the city at 3:45 pm, police said.

Insurgents Nail More Collaborators

TALL AFAR, Iraq, Sept 4 (AFP)

Insurgents pressed ahead with a campaign against officials working with the Americans, **kidnapping the postal and communications director for Al-Anbar province.**

Fawzi Jassem al-Dulaimi was snatched at gunpoint from his car at 8:30 am (0430 GMT) on his way to work by six armed men in two Opal cars, said Police Lieutenant Abdul Satar Dulaimi.

The abduction follows the kidnappings in the last week of Anbar province's directors for both oil, and water and sewage.

Insurgents also killed overnight the son of the Anbar police's management and logistic director, a police officer said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

THE PEOPLE MAY RECLAIM AMERICAN ARMY

By William Pfaff 7/22/04 Tribune Media Services

PARIS - Gen. Frederick Weyand, the last American commander in Vietnam, wrote that **``the American army really is a people's army in the sense that it belongs to the American people who take a jealous and proprietary interest in it....In the final analysis, the American army is not so much an arm of the executive branch as it is an arm of the American people."**

This relationship of people to army was ultimately responsible for the American withdrawal from Vietnam. The army was the people then, because it was a conscript army - although, unlike in World War II and Korea, it was a corrupt conscription. The poor served, and people like those leading the Bush administration today found that they had ``other priorities," as Vice President Dick Cheney once said.

The political class couldn't end the Vietnam war, even after its futility had become evident, because it was morally blackmailed by the war's supporters, who said withdrawal would show the United States "a pitiful helpless giant," and would inspire "totalitarianism and anarchy" throughout the world. I quote Richard Nixon.

The U.S. approaches a similar situation of political blockage today, with respect to Iraq.

A situation exists to which the administration's explanations, expectations and promises increasingly are manifestly irrelevant. Its supporters nonetheless say that a policy of disengagement would be "to cut and run." The Democratic opposition is forced to deny that it would ever cut and run. It is reduced to claiming that it would go on waging the war, but would do it better.

In the Vietnam, the political blockage was ended by what happened inside the army, which was paying the price of the political failure. It began to come apart.

Individual soldiers concluded that their moral contract with the government had been broken, and went home to oppose the war, as John Kerry did.

A mass of soldiers expressed their anger or despair by taking silent AWOL in drug-use, and sometimes by acts of mutiny--"fraggings" (murders of small-unit leaders who pushed their men to keep fighting) - or suicide -- a 1979 survey concluded that more Vietnam veterans died by their own hand than in combat.

Professionalizing the army after 1973 was meant to free it from the limits on its actions and discipline imposed by a constant turnover of civilian-soldiers and temporary officers. The people-army intimacy was to end.

But the new professional force was feasible only if a large volunteer reserve and National Guard was made available to back up a deployed professional army.

The planners of 1973 did not appreciate that this dependence on reserves would create a more intense relationship between army and civilian society, if a narrower one, than had the old draft.

They took for granted that future American wars would be short and victorious. The reserve forces would serve briefly while the professional army could fight two or three such wars simultaneously, winning all of them.

The United States now is in its second year of fighting two wars, neither of them victorious, both promising to go on for years to come. The reservists and National Guard members who originally contracted for duty one weekend a month, and two weeks in summer, find themselves locked into active duty that in many cases is already in its second year. Regular soldiers have had their terms of service extended.

The marriages these people left behind, their businesses or professional practices, are under enormous strain or have collapsed. Yet army planners are relying on the National Guard alone to supply 43 percent of the American troops needed in Iraq next year.

Once again there is a widening sense of exploitation and broken moral contracts, for a war of still-obscure motivations, interests, and purposes. Resentments and cracks in solidarity and discipline reappear.

Critics of the liberal movie-maker Michael Moore accuse him of "class warfare" because his "Fahrenheit 9-11" says that an American elite is exploiting patriotic volunteer soldiers, usually recruited from the poorest groups in American society, who signed up to learn skills, earn money for education, and escape long-term unemployment in dying towns.

These soldiers are disproportionately black (in roughly twice the proportion of African-Americans in the general population). To say this is not class warfare. It is to tell a truth the government neglects to its peril.

Vietnam was a war where those who were selected had to go. Iraq is an affair that now depends on people who originally volunteered but now are being forced to serve multiple 12-month duty tours, in what amounts to their de facto conscription.

As a result, army re-enlistments are dropping; new enlistments in fiscal 2005 (beginning in October) are expected to fall 10 percent short of the total needed. If the United States means to keep 140 thousand troops in Iraq for the next five years, there will be no alternative to reinstating conscription after the presidential inauguration in January.

With that, the American people - however many times they are warned of impending "totalitarianism and anarchy" - may again end the political paralysis and simply say no. They may reclaim the American army -- their army -- from its abuse by what they have concluded is a bankrupt political leadership.

(For more, see the book review of Full Spectrum Disorder, by Stan Goff: "Insights Of An Antiwar Army Ranger" by Pham Binh at www.isreview.org.)

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.

Get Your 8-Year-Old Ready; She's Going To Iraq

September 3, 2004 By BOB HERBERT, New York Times

When asked this week on CNN how long the U.S. military is likely to remain in Iraq, Senator John McCain replied "probably" 10 or 20 years. "That's not so bad," he said, adding, "We've been in Korea for 50 years. We've been in West Germany for 50 years."

Reporters have come to expect candor from Senator McCain, and in this case he didn't disappoint. But there weren't any speakers mounting the podium at the Republican National Convention to hammer home the message that G.I.'s would be in Iraq for a decade or two.

That's not the understanding most Americans had when this wretched war was sold to them, and it's not the view most Americans hold now.

If Senator McCain is correct, and the belief in official Washington is that he is, then boys and girls who are 5 or 10 years old now will get their chance in 2015 or 2020 to strap on the Kevlar and engage the Iraqi "insurgents" who, like the indigenous forces we fought in Vietnam, will never accept the occupation of their country by America.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Democracy Bush Style; Occupation Extends Al-Jazeera Ban

September 5, 2004 Bassem Mroue, AP

THE Iraqi Government shut down Al-Jazeera's Baghdad operations indefinitely today, extending a one-month closure order imposed after the pan-Arab channel was accused of inciting violence.

Iraq's Ministerial National Security Committee said it had decided to extend the suspension ordered on August 5 because Al-Jazeera had failed to offer an explanation of its editorial policies.



RECEIVED:

From: A
To: GI Special
Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2004

Awesome work with the GI Special. And especially how fast you got the Iraq Veterans Against The War pictures into it. Keep up the good work.

A. (IVAW)

Reply:

For something truly awesome, check out: <http://www.ivaw.net/> It will make your day, month and year. T.

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