

GI SPECIAL 2#B63

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT. BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW.



US soldiers on patrol in the Iraqi capital. (AFP/File/Patrick Baz)

40% Of IRR No Show For War Duty

Army Times 9.20.04

Only about 60 percent of reservists ordered to report to Fort Jackson, S.C., have reported so far, Army officials said.

As of Sept. 7, 186 of the 309 members of the Individual Ready Reserve ordered to report to the post had arrived, said Lt. Col. Burton L. Masters, spokesman for the Army's Human Resources Command.

"We're not surprised by those numbers at all," Masters said. (Fuck no, who would be? The idea of dying for George Bush's Imperial War is not exactly thrilling.)

"We are going to go the extra mile to work with people," he said. "But if they don't report, the Army will track them down."

Troops subject to the recall have been on active duty but have not completed their eight-year obligation to the Army. The Army said 5,600 individual reservists were being

recalled to active duty; 4,500 were to report to Fort Jackson. However, orders have been cut for only 3,667 of the soldiers to return to active duty, Masters said.

NEED 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/>

Another Heartbreaker

From: Monica
To: GI Special
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2004 5:18 PM
Subject: us troops

When are the troops comin back well some of them? i have a cousin over there in iraq he is supose to come back for two week? I am sick of hearin all of the stuff over there i just want it to be over with.

MONICA

REPLY:

I wish I could give you a day and a month all the troops would come home.

All the troops will come back when enough people here in the U.S.A. and in the armed forces build a strong enough protest movement to make the government bring them back, whether it wants to or not. That's what happened during the Vietnam War. The people got sick of it, and the troops got sick of it, and together they made the government stop it.

That takes a lot of work, but it can be done.

I hope your cousin comes home safe.

T

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. **And Join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Marine Killed In Anbar

9.15.04 By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS, Associated Press Writer

A Marine assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in Anbar province Tuesday, the military said. The Marine was not identified and no details were released.

Another Marine Killed In Action In Anbar

September 15, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-09-17C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force died of wounds sustained in action Sept. 15 in the Al Anbar Province.

Two Camp Lejeune Marines Killed In Accident

September 15, 2004 The Associated Press

Two Camp Lejeune Marines died this week in a non-combat vehicle accident in Iraq, the military said Wednesday.

Lance Cpl. Cesar F. Machado-Olmos, 20, of Spanish Fork, Utah, and Lance Cpl. Michael J. Halal, 22, of Glendale, Ariz., died Monday in Al Anbar Province, the Department of Defense said in separate news releases.

The two Marines, both assigned to the 2nd Marine Division based at Camp Lejeune, died in the same accident, said Gunnery Sgt. Marcus McAllister, a division spokesman.

Guy Stanley Hagy Jr. Killed

Sep 15 BY MIKE STILL, MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

TAZEWELL – Guy Stanley Hagy Jr. found a career after he left Tazewell High School as a cavalry trooper. That career ended Monday when he was killed in Iraq.

Hagy was a mortar crewman with the division's 12th Cavalry Regiment's headquarters unit.

Victoria Hagy said her family and neighbors still were trying to come to grips with her son's death.

"There's disbelief that it hit this close to home," she said Tuesday.

Hagy and his wife, Elysia, lived at Fort Hood, Texas, the 1st Cavalry Division's home base, and his mother said he talked regularly with his wife by telephone.

"He was doing fine," Victoria Hagy said. "He'd met a lot of people over there and made friends. He even met kids over there that he told his wife he'd love to bring home."

Hagy was in the states on leave in late July, his mother said, although he wasn't able to make it to Tazewell County.

Victoria Hagy spoke to her daughter-in-law not long after getting the news.

"We both got so emotional we couldn't talk much," Hagy said. "Another lady was with her, the wife of a colonel, and she's staying with them now. ..."

"It's unreal," she said. "I know we're not the only ones going through it, but it's so hard."

Hagy joined the Army at 23.

Hagy's father, Guy Hagy Sr., and relatives kept up with the news from Iraq to try to get some idea of how he was doing. Even when the father went into the hospital in August, he still watched the news whenever possible.

Guy Hagy Jr. left a daughter, Elizabeth, and a stepson, Robby.

Local Soldier Seriously Injured

9.15.04 Hampshire Review.com

YELLOW SPRING - A Yellow Spring native is among the latest casualties to come out of Iraq. Wesley William Spaid, 25, was seriously wounded in Iraq on Aug. 29 when the humvee he and his comrades were riding in was hit by enemy fire."

According to a spokesperson for the family, Staff Sgt. Spaid E4 suffered second and third degree burns over large portions of his body when the gas tank of the

vehicle exploded. Two other soldiers were seriously injured in the incident also, the spokesperson said.

Spaid is a member of the United States Army and has served in Afghanistan and Kosovo. All three soldiers are reported to be in a special burn unit in San Antonio, Texas.

"His (Spaid's) mother, wife and children have traveled to Texas to be with him," said the spokesperson.

Spaid has a 2-month-old son and a 2-year-old stepson. According to the spokesperson, Spaid was wounded just three days after his 25th birthday.



Thanks to EJ for photo

Trouble At Camp “Victory;” Time For A Name Change?

09/15/2004 BY ROBERT L. BAKER, Wyoming County Press Examiner

Camp Victory North was now in a Red Zone, and they have a lockdown so no one can get in or out. Water is also being rationed as a precautionary measure.

Insurgency Put At 100,000;

As Troops Die, “No Win Situation” Says U.S. Official; Hoping For “Continued Chaos”

Sep. 14, 2004 JONATHAN S. LANDAY AND WARREN P. STROBEL, Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON - The U.S. strategy to create a stable, democratic Iraq is in danger of failing, current and former U.S. officials say, and the anti-American insurgency is growing larger, more sophisticated and more violent.

Many experts on Iraq say the best that can be hoped for now is continued chaos that falls short of a civil war.

One senior administration official deeply engaged in Iraq policy said "We've finally got our act together, but it's probably too late." The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he's more pessimistic than the administration's official line on Iraq.

Jeffrey White, a former senior Defense Intelligence Agency analyst said his conservative estimate is that there are 100,000 Iraqis involved in the Sunni insurgency, including fighters, messengers and people who provide housing and other assistance. He discounted estimates by U.S. military commanders that the Sunni resistance numbers about 5,000 fighters.

Counterinsurgency specialists say the Bush administration appears to be caught in a trap that's afflicted many foreign occupiers in centuries past: Too little military force allows rebels to flourish, but too much causes a popular backlash and increases grass-roots support for the insurgents.

"We are in a no-win situation," said a former senior U.S. intelligence official who's spent time in Iraq but spoke on condition of anonymity.

White, the former defense intelligence official, said the spreading insurrections have forced the interim Iraqi regime and U.S.-led coalition onto the offensive before the fledgling Iraqi security forces were ready.

"They can patrol. They can arrest people," he said. "Can they conduct offensive operations against the insurgents? That's at least months away, if not years away."

Bush Occupation “Under Siege” In Baghdad;

Officers Running Away From Reporters

14/09/2004 Reporter: Peter Cave, Australian Broadcasting Corporation

TONY JONES: And the ABC's foreign affairs editor Peter Cave joins us now from Baghdad.

Peter, we'll come to the still unresolved question of whether there are or are not any Australian hostages in a moment, but first, we've just seen some extraordinary pictures, another of bloodiest days since the war, **is there a sense there that the security situation is simply deteriorating?**

PETER CAVE: It certainly is.

TONY JONES: Seeing pictures of that as you speak, Peter, but are you starting to get the sense when you speak to US military officers in Baghdad that they're beginning to despair of ever getting a handle on this?

PETER CAVE: Look, you don't speak to American military officers as much as you used to.

They're very fast when they move through town.

They don't speak to you.

The daily press briefings aren't happening.

You know, they have coming under daily attack.

I was out at a car bombing where a couple of soldiers were critically injured in a car bomb attack the other day.

The Americans are very much under siege.

“Worse Than Vietnam”

14 September 2004 By Patrick Sabatier, Libération

The situation in Iraq is "worse from a strategic and political point of view than Vietnam was." Of course, it's an advisor to Kerry, Bush's adversary, who makes the observation. But does he really exaggerate? An American general takes note of "the considerable growth in attacks" launched by the guerillas, right into the heart of Baghdad.

The "peace" is a lot more deadly than the war, for Iraqis as for coalition soldiers. The list of cities and regions "liberated" from the interim government's authority - Fallujah,

Ramadi, Samarra, Tall Afar - is long, without even mentioning the cities that have passed into Shi'ite militia control, like Najaf and Karbala.

Nothing suggests that the offensives the coalition has launched will allow them to reestablish order anywhere.

U.S. Command Orders Sniper Executions Of Hospital & Medical Personnel: Ramadi, Fallujah Care-Givers Targeted

September 14th, 2004 Aljazeera

US snipers have killed at least 11 people in the Iraqi city of Ramadi.

Dr Khamis al-Saad, general director of Ramadi hospital, told Aljazeera that 11 people, including a woman and children, were killed and another 18 wounded under US fire on Monday.

Ambulances and medical teams were targeted by US snipers in different areas of Ramadi, particularly near hospitals for women and children, al-Saad said. Two ambulance drivers and members of medical teams on board the vehicles were also killed, he said.

Medical staff and patients inside the hospitals were targeted and a number of them were shot in the head, the general director said.

Earlier in the day, US forces launched air strikes on Falluja, killing up to 18 people, including women, children and an ambulance driver.

Seven people, including the driver of an ambulance, were killed when US aircraft fired a missile at the vehicle while it was transporting casualties near the northern gate of the city.

"Every time we send out an ambulance, it gets targeted," Dr Rafia al-Isawi, director of Falluja hospital, told Aljazeera.

"How are we going to transfer casualties? This is unreasonable. The US army has no ethics. "Shame on our government that cannot protect the people," he added.

Elsewhere, one person was killed and three others wounded in a US helicopter strike on a Baghdad commercial district, not far from the scene of heavy fighting between US troops and armed fighters a day earlier, witnesses said.

A US helicopter fired a missile on the area early on Monday afternoon, destroying a boarded-up clothes shop, said Ahmad Karim, who was wounded in the neck.

A dead man was sprawled in the street, his stomach ripped to shreds by shrapnel, while a child was wounded in the leg and an Egyptian worker hit in the face.

(This is the "liberation" Bush brings to Iraq. Whoever ordered snipers to kill medical personnel have earned what will hopefully be a very early, very slow, and extremely painful death, with no medical attention or painkillers whatsoever available to them.)

U.S. Withdraws From Tal Afar After Turks Threaten U.S.

September 15, 2004 The Associated Press TAL AFAR & BBC News

U.S. and Iraqi forces allowed civilians to return to Tal Afar on Tuesday, signaling an end to a siege of the northern city that killed dozens of people and angered Turkey, a close U.S. ally.

The lifting of the blockade came a day after Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul of Turkey warned American officials that Ankara would stop cooperating in Iraq if U.S. forces continued to harm the Turkish minority in the country's north. Tal Afar is a center for Iraq's ethnic Turkmen.

No U.S. troops were visible in Tal Afar on Tuesday, and Barhaway said American forces had left Iraqis in charge of security.

"We have been working with the government of Turkey," Richard Boucher, an administration spokesman, said Tuesday. "We've been talking to the Iraqi interim government about the civilian population there about **how to conduct our operations in a way that doesn't cause trouble for the local civilian population.**" **(It's too late for that crap. The only way to make that happen is get the fuck out of Iraq.)**

Turkmen officials there said 58 people were killed during a 12-day assault by U.S. and Iraqi government forces. (Tell their families about not "causing trouble for the local civilian population.") The Turkmen are an ethnic Turkish minority in Iraq but make up the majority of Tal Afar's population.

Gul said Monday he spoke with Secretary of State Colin Powell "and told him that what is being done there is harming the civilian population, that it is wrong, and that if it continues, Turkey's cooperation on issues regarding Iraq will come to a total stop."

Residents who fled the fighting had pleaded with U.S. forces to return to dispose of bodies said to be left in the streets. Police said the corpses were picked up before civilians returned.

The BBC's Jonny Dymond in Ankara says an end to Turkish cooperation in Iraq could have a serious impact. As well as supplying logistical help for the US armed forces there, Turkey is a major trade and supply route into the country.

The Turkish airbase of Incirlik has been used by the US to rotate its troops in and out of Iraq.

Senator Says Iraq War Fucked

September 15, 2004 By DAVID STOUT, New York Times

Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska said the State Department request [to shift billions from Iraq "reconstruction" to war] was **"a clear acknowledgment that we are not holding ourselves hostage to some grand illusion that we're winning."**

The White House asserted that progress was being made in Iraq. "You know, every step of the way in Iraq there have been pessimists and hand-wringers who said it can't be done," Scott McClellan, the chief White House spokesman, said at a news briefing. "And every step of the way, the Iraqi leadership and the Iraqi people have proven them wrong because they are determined to have a free and peaceful future." **(For once, the White House spokesman is right. The Iraqi people are winning their fight for a free and peaceful future. It's called the resistance, and it is indeed winning.)**

Paper Says Iraq Defeat Is "Assured"

[London Daily Telegraph, September 15, 2004] **U.S. hopes for success in Iraq could depend whether Iraq's new National Guard will stand and fight side by side with American troops, which would make victory possible. Otherwise, defeat could be assured. (They won't and it is.)**

TROOP NEWS

Bush Regime Cutting Off Financial Help For Wounded Soldiers' Families



September 15th, 2004 New York Daily News

As politicians make grand speeches supporting our troops, families of our wounded soldiers are being told they soon will no longer receive the modest government stipend that helps them leave job and home to stay at their loved one's hospital bedside.

The majority of the 3,974 seriously wounded soldiers are young, and few earn more than \$1,600 a month, tops. Their families are often of limited means and have a hard enough time keeping up with their bills. **Family members forfeit wages and risk losing their jobs altogether as they help their soldier recover.**

"None of these kids left a Park Ave. townhouse to go fight," observed one Army combat officer.

With exactly that in mind, the stipend was established in April 2003, just as the war in Iraq commenced. It lapses Sept. 30.

"I think nobody expected the war to last that long," an Army medical official said.

Surprise, surprise. A provision making the stipend permanent, Section 632 of HR4200, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005, is languishing in Congress as if it were not a crime to compound the anxieties of wounded heroes.

A House Armed Services Committee spokesman said HR4200 was "in conference" and suggested any current benefits to wounded soldiers would only "technically" expire and "go on as has been." ***Those who disagree include the Department of Defense, which allowed, "it appears there will be a gap in payment of per diem."***

Meanwhile, a nation in a multibillion-dollar war will be saving the \$51 a day plus lodging expenses now accorded the mother of 23-year-old Spec. Ken Comstock of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Light Infantry, New York Army National Guard. He is at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, recovering from a head wound he suffered in Iraq. His most recent surgery involved an ear-to-ear incision and shifting tissue to stop drainage from his skull.

"He's now in a seven- to 10-day waiting period to make sure nothing else is leaking," said his mother, Bonnie Comstock of upstate New York.

The mother has been able to remain at his side thanks to a patient employer and the stipend. She has observed his reaction whenever she prepares to leave the room.

"He gives this bewildered look: 'What? Where are you going?'" the mother said.

Her son would then point to the wall clock above the sink on the other side of the room. She would have no trouble understanding the message.

"When are you coming back? How long are you going to be?" He would hold up one finger then another.

"One hour? Two Hours?"

She would step out only long enough to get something to eat or send an E-mail. Each time she returned, she would see anew what her presence means to him.

"He's my firstborn," she said yesterday. "It's that bond."

She was notified Aug. 23 that her son had been wounded. She flew to the hospital in Germany where he was first treated and accompanied him on the flight to Andrews Air Force base on Labor Day weekend. She has now been away from her job as a restaurant manager for three weeks.

"I don't want to lose my job, and I don't want to leave my son here alone," Comstock said.

She certainly could not afford to commute, and she had used the single trip the Army provides each parent of a wounded soldier. "They said, 'One trip. That's it,'" the mother said.

And as if all that were not enough, the hospital's family assistance office informed her she would soon be losing her stipend.

"I'm like, 'What do you mean?'" Comstock recalled.

The family assistance people, who seem as kind as anybody, suggested she call her congressman.

"I said, 'My son was seriously wounded in Iraq and now you're telling me I have to call somebody to ask for food and lodging?'" she recalled.

While the mother spent another day with her wounded firstborn, a columnist called the office of Rep. Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), the House Armed Services Committee's ranking minority member. A spokeswoman was unable to predict when the bill reinstating the stipend would become law.

"They've just started," she said. "Hopefully, before they adjourn in October, but your guess is as good as mine."

New Zealand Troops Getting Out Of Iraq “This Week”

16 September 2004 By HANK SCHOUTEN, The Dominion Post

New Zealand's troops are pulling out of Iraq under a cloak of secrecy as security deteriorates in the battle to control the war-torn country.

The New Zealand Defence Force is refusing to give any details of the withdrawal of the 60-strong Kiwi military engineering contingent, **which has been hunkered down in Basra for the past five weeks as violence escalates throughout Iraq.**

"We do not discuss troop movements in circumstances like this where security is a factor," Defence spokeswoman Sandy McKie said. **However, it is understood they are pulling out this week.**

The lightly armed engineers have helped restore water treatment plants and fix municipal infrastructure including schools, police stations and bridges. That work all but stopped early last month when fighting spread south from Najaf. **The New Zealanders were confined to Fortress Lines, the base they have shared for the past year with British forces.**

Former defence chief Air Marshal Carey Adamson said "everyone will be pleased to see our troops come home in one piece".

"As time has gone on the situation has become much more lethal and no one can guarantee their absolute safety."

Off To Bush's Killing Ground: 2,403 More National Guard and Reserve Mobilized

September 15, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 902-04

This week, the Army, Navy and Marine Corps announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Air Force and Coast Guard had a decrease. The net collective result is 2,403 more reservists mobilized than last week.

Enough Tedious Bullshit: It's Getting Home From Iraq That Matters

[New York Times, September 15, 2004] **Many military reservists aren't interested in what President Bush did or did not do while serving in the Air National Guard some 35 years ago. Neither do they care to hear any more about John Kerry's hero status in Vietnam. They are more concerned about getting their comrades home safely from Iraq and Afghanistan. (Since Bush and Kerry both want the war to go on, why should they discuss getting anybody home safely?)**

Mother Of Injured Guardsman Just Happy He's Alive

Sep. 15, 2004 Associated Press

MUKWONAGO, Wis. - Ellen Cook says that, when the telephone rang at 4 a.m. Sunday, she immediately knew that her son serving with the Wisconsin National Guard in Iraq was alive.

She said she figured that, if her son Chris Cook had been killed, someone would have been sent to her home in person.

Although doctors are struggling to save the 35-year-old Cook's badly damaged left leg injured Sunday in a car bombing at Baghdad, at least he is alive, she said Tuesday.

"That's all that really matters," she said. "We can deal with everything else."

Family members said Cook, an emergency room nurse at Waukesha Memorial Hospital, was one of the three most seriously hurt and being sent to a hospital in Germany.

Mrs. Cook said her son sustained multiple fractures to his left leg, a broken right ankle and bomb shrapnel in his face and elsewhere.

"A lot of parents aren't this lucky," she said. "We'll take the blessings and worry about the rest later."

Michelle Tenhagen of Elkhorn, Cook's fiancée, said she hopes that he will be back in Wisconsin soon and that the two of them can move ahead with a wedding that has been in the works for about two years.

Tenhagen, also a nurse, said Cook told her additional operations will be needed to repair his left leg.

"He can recover from this," she said. "I'm just trying to be strong about it, because I know when he gets home, he's going to need a lot of help."

TSA Tells Vietnam Vet He's A Security Threat; Assholes Take Away His Drivers' License And Cost Him His Job

9.15.04 By Wali Muhammad, The Atlanta Voice

Bilal Mahmud is "bewildered." He received a letter earlier this month that put his life on hold. Mahmud, an African American Muslim and a family man what happened to due process and why he was commanded to surrender his commercial driver's license -- in effect his livelihood.

Mahmud, a former Marine who saw combat in Vietnam was recently notified that he's "a security threat pursuant to Title 49 C.F.R. § 1572.107." Subsequent to this notification Mahmud was forced to surrender his commercial driver's license (CDL) without due, or any, process to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Basically it started with me being notified by TSA in a Certified Letter. I got this letter stating that according to their findings, I posed a national security threat." Mahmud said. "By posing a national security threat, the hazardous materials endorsement on my CDL was revoked. In that communiqué, I was instructed to immediately surrender my CDL to the state that I lived in. I had ten days to respond."

Title 49 C.F.R. § 1572.107 "precludes individuals from holding a hazardous materials endorsement on a CDL, if the TSA determines or suspects an individual of being to a threat to national security, to transportation security, or of terrorism."

"I'm just in a hold pattern, waiting to find out exactly what I've done," Mahmud explained. **"In my life, I've never been arrested, never been indicted, never been convicted of any crime. I make my living driving; I've held a commercial driving license for 27 years, and for the last 17 years I haven't had a traffic violation. I've been with the same company twenty years hauling hazardous materials and nobody ever told me I posed a threat or anything.**

Mahmud questions if this "is all this just because I am a Muslim? I fought for this country in Vietnam and now this same country is asking me to give up my only means of income and my only means to provide food & shelter for my family..."

"I served this country and risked my life to protect it. I did three years in the Marines – honorably discharged." Mahmud continued, "I've proven I can mesh with society, I pay my taxes, I vote, I do everything a good citizen is supposed to do, and this is how I am treated? I truly don't understand how they determine who is a threat and who is not. **Does my belief in God make you a threat to the United States?"**

In order to avoid further “undue harassment” Mahmud accompanied by Jabril Alexander of CAIR North Georgia reported to the DMV office to surrender his CDL on August 10 in Conyers, Ga. In addition, he responded to the initial notification and has not received any reply. **“I know from a certified return receipt that TSA received my reply on August 11. That much is documented. I have repeated called the office to no avail.”**

Mahmud is respected member of the Atlanta community, the descendant of former slaves – a multi-generational American -- born in Richmond, VA, raised in rural Roanoke Rapid, NC, with small town family values. His father served the United States in the Korean War, and was an inspiration to Mahmud to also serve and protect his country.

During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Mahmud became attracted to Islam by reading. “I didn’t smoke, drink or use drugs so I had time to read. At that time of growing social and political awareness in America, I started to study about African history. I learned that the majority of African People brought to this country were Muslim. I also discovered that Christianity was not our religion. It was a religion that was basically forced upon us as a result of being enslaved.”

Asked if he could think of any past associations that might make him subject of an investigation, Mahmud said although he has been blessed to travel around the world he has never knowingly associated with any groups that were anti-American. Asked about local association, he explained that he is not a member of any of the major Islamic associations like ICNA, ISNA, and so forth. **He added, “I associate with members of SCLC, but I’m not a member. I’m sure living in the south, I’ve had the opportunity to associate with people who are in the Klan or the Nazi party, but I’m not a member of either of those parties either.”**

To resolve this matter, Mahmud would like to be “totally cleared of any allegations and charges that have been lodged against me because they are totally unfounded. They’ve (TSA) ruined my reputation. I am unemployed. My employer stepped away from me based on the fact that I got this letter from TSA. I think in the future I may be unemployable by the fact that this stench is attached to my name.”

“How do you fix a man’s life after you mess it up?” Mahmud wonders. “That will be something we will definitely have to discuss and come up with some amiable answer.”

Britain’s Royal Air Force Floats New Idea In Gay Pride Parade

Army Times 9.20.04

Britain's Royal Air Force began actively recruiting gays and lesbians by entering a float in the recent annual Manchester Gay Pride parade, the largest such event in Great Britain.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that eight officers were on hand with the float to try to sign up recruits in what RAF officials said was an attempt to draw people from different backgrounds into the ranks so the military is more representative of society.

"It doesn't matter what religion, color, gender or sexual orientation you are — we are looking for the best person for the job," RAF officials said.

Since early 2003, military service by homosexuals has been legal throughout Europe after a Court of Human Rights ruled a ban based on sexual orientation was an improper invasion of a person's private life.

In the United States, the law still holds that homosexuality is incompatible with military service.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Hits Occupation Cops, Official

9.15.04 By ALEXANDRA ZAVIS, Associated Press Writer

A car bomb targeted a national guard checkpoint in Suwayrah, about 40 miles south of Baghdad, Abdul-Rahman said. **One guardsman was among the two dead**

A police patrol in Baqouba, northeast of the capital, was **hit Wednesday by an explosive device that wounded four policemen and a civilian**, said police Lt. Feras Ali.

Gunmen fired on Khamis Hussein, the head of the health directorate in Anbar province, he said. Hussein escaped unharmed, but one of his bodyguards was killed and his deputy was wounded in the attack, al-Amili said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

How The Troops Can Become Real Liberators

From a review of **Full Spectrum Disorder**, book by Stan Goff, by Jennifer Van Bergen

Stan Goff writes:

"The centerpiece of Boyd's theory is that one's adversary is always human. The counterposition of two set-piece strategies, especially in modern warfare, is a recipe for a bloodbath of attrition. To defeat the leadership (a perceiving human) is the goal, according to Boyd, and that is accomplished by maintaining the initiative through audacious, often uncoordinated, rapid actions until the adversary is overwhelmed by the "mismatches" between perception and reality. These mismatches are not the result of your "plan." They are an outcome of your agility--your superior ability to accept chaos and adapt rapidly to changing patterns. Improvisation."

"My vision is that the American armed forces, when they are harshly taught as the current conjuncture will teach them, will unite with the people, and that sections of it will break away and become the defenders of their families, and thereby a liberatory force. As America's political class becomes ever more lawless, ever more compelled to scrap bourgeois democracy and slouch toward fascism, we shall need them and they shall need us."

We must be able to rapidly adapt to the various changing patterns and we must, as Goff further points out, "stay inside the adversary's decision cycle." This means to establish "a tempo in decision making and execution that outpaces the ability of the foe to react effectively in time." We do not need to control events. We need only to keep exposing the mismatches and, within the Administration's reaction cycle, as each lie and deception unravels, we need only expose the next one.

Got That Right

"Revolution is bloody, revolution is hostile, revolution knows no compromise, revolution overturns and destroys everything that gets in its way. And you sitting around here like a knot on the wall, saying: 'I'm going to love these folks no matter how much they hate me.' No, you need a revolution."

Malik Shabaaz (Malcom X), Message to the Grass Roots

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

(And Now, For The Silliest Headline Of The Week:) “Baghdad Airport Handed Over”

Army Times 9.20.04

Bradley armored fighting vehicles rolled away from the gates on Aug. 25, **signifying a transition of control from coalition forces to the Iraqi government at Baghdad International Airport.**

The coalition is using small pieces of the facility **the Iraqis are allowing the coalition to use. (No, this is *not* satire. This is what some idiot actually wrote in Army Times.)**

“This turnover is the first step towards re-establishing an air international hub back into Iraq,” said Col. Chuck Betack, chief of maneuvers, Multi-National Force-Iraq.

A perimeter around the airport will still be maintained by coalition forces. (Oh.)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**KERRY PLANS 'DECEMBER
SURPRISE'**

Too Little, Too Late, Democrats Fear

September 14, 2004 The Borowitz Report

Amid fears that he is trailing further behind President George W. Bush in the polls, Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry is planning a "December Surprise" to win the election, aides confirmed today.

Kerry staffers, aware that their candidate has been criticized for being too cautious in his campaign, believe that word of Mr. Kerry's "December Surprise" will do much to alter that perception.

"Those who think that John Kerry isn't capable of taking bold action are going to be very, very surprised come December," one aide said.

But even as rumors of Mr. Kerry's "December Surprise" spread through Democratic circles, some Democrats expressed fears that Mr. Kerry's new strategy, while a positive sign for the campaign, might be too little, too late.

"I find it particularly troubling that John Kerry is planning a surprise, whatever it is, for after the election has already taken place," said Milton Crowe, a longtime Democratic Party activist in Pittsburgh. "Call me old fashioned, but the time for this sort of thing is October."

Not so, said the Kerry aide: "An October surprise is exactly what the Republicans are expecting us to do," adding, "Trust us, we know what we're doing."

In a sign that the campaign may be beginning to rebound, the aide pointed to a new poll showing that a majority of Americans would rather vote for Mr. Kerry than be poked in the eye with a sharp stick.

Elsewhere, the Bush campaign attempted to put to rest charges about the President's National Guard Service by releasing a photo of a former Alabama guardsman correctly picking Mr. Bush out of a police lineup.

Received:

I have created a page dedicated to those U.S. servicemen who have at one point refused orders to wage war on the people of Iraq. You may see it here: <http://www.tomjoad.org/WarHeroes.htm> .

I think it was the least I could do for those who so bravely refused illegal, immoral orders.

Thank you for all that you are doing.

I have attempted to list all who refused to serve in this war, and have listed 5 such individuals. If you know of any others who have publicly declared their refusal, please let me know. **I suspect this list will grow to be quite long, as Kerry or Bush attempt to escalate the war next year.**

In solidarity,
Jim Harris
<http://www.tomjoad.org>

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

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/gi-special/> ; www.gifightback.org ;
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>