

GI SPECIAL 2#B64



(See [Forward Observations](#) below for more on IVAW)

Fort Carson Soldiers Blackmailed Threatened With Iraq Duty If They Don't Re-Up: "Whole Platoon" Refuses To Sign

8/16/2004 COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)

"I don't want to go back to Iraq," the sergeant told the News. "I went through a lot of things for the Army that weren't necessary and were risky. Iraq has changed a lot of people."

Soldiers from a combat unit at Fort Carson say they have been told to re-enlist for three more years or be transferred to other units expected to deploy to Iraq, the Rocky Mountain News reported Thursday.

Hundreds of soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team were presented with that message and a re-enlistment form in a series of assemblies last week, two soldiers who spoke on condition of anonymity told the newspaper.

"They said if you refuse to re-enlist with the 3rd Brigade, we'll send you down to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which is going to Iraq for a year, and you can

stay with them, or we'll send you to Korea, or to Fort Riley (in Kansas) where they're going to Iraq," said one of the soldiers, a sergeant.

The second soldier, an enlisted man, echoed that view: "They told us if we don't re-enlist, then we'd have to be reassigned. And where we're most needed is in units that are going back to Iraq in the next couple of months. So if you think you're getting out, you're not."

The sergeant told the News the threat has outraged soldiers who are close to fulfilling their service obligation.

"We have a whole platoon who refuses to sign," he said.

One of the soldiers provided the form to the News. If signed, it would bind the soldier to the 3rd Brigade until Dec. 31, 2007.

Extending a soldier's active duty is within Army authority, since the enlistment contract carries an eight-year obligation, even if a soldier signs up for shorter terms. **Members of Iraq-bound units can be retained for an entire year in Iraq, even if their active-duty enlistment expires.**

"I don't want to go back to Iraq," the sergeant told the News. "I went through a lot of things for the Army that weren't necessary and were risky. Iraq has changed a lot of people."

The enlisted soldier said the recruiters' message left him "filled with dread."

"For me, it wasn't about going back to Iraq. It's just the fact that I'm ready to get out of the Army," he said.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. Send requests to address up top.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

THREE MARINES DIE IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE

September 16, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-09-18C

CAMP FALLUJAH — In three separate incidents, one Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action and two died of wounds sustained in action Sept. 16 in the Al Anbar Province. (Marine Commanding officers were too scared of the resistance to release details.)

Marine From D.C. Killed On His 38th Birthday

September 16, 2004 NBC4.com

Officials said Maj. Kevin M. Shea, 38, of the District died on his birthday, Sept. 14, during combat in Al Anbar Province.

For parents Bill and Eileen Shea, and Kevin's brother, Tom, there is no consolation for the loss of their eldest son. However, his family wants to share his life with others so his young children will always know him.

"It's just important to realize that he left behind two kids, a beautiful wife, and two great parents and it can't be in vain. You want to reflect on who he was. He was a teacher, he was a rugby coach. He affected a ton of people," Tom Shea told News4's Eun Yang. **(He died in vain. Everybody who dies in Iraq dies in vain. The war is a lie, brought to you by the bi-partisan scum who run the government and the corporations who bought and paid for them.)**

"It's just surreal. You almost wake up and hope it hasn't happened. It's been your worst nightmare," Eileen Shea said.

Shea's family describes him as a gentle giant. They say he was large in stature but soft at heart.

"Whatever he put his mind to, he pushed to do it and he did it well. He is a great loss to other people and for that reason he is an immense loss to us as his parents," Bill Shea said.

Mrs. Shea said she prays for peace, both for their family and in Iraq so that no one else has to endure the pain of losing a loved one to war.

"The last line was, 'Give mom a hug and tell her not to worry.' because he knew I always worried about him and prayed. We loved him. He was just a wonderful son," Eileen Shea said.

He was assigned to 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Marine Dead: Guam Loses Third Soldier

9.17.04 By Oyaol Ngirairiki, Pacific Daily News

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. JayGee Ngirmidol Meluat, a George Washington High School graduate of the class of 1999 and a father, died on Sept. 14, becoming Guam's third son killed in the Iraqi conflict.

Meluat was a native of Palau, the youngest child of 12 children, and had moved to Guam as a teenager to live with one of his older sisters.

"He was a good boy. He always listened to what you told him and was very soft-hearted," said the Marine's father, Jonathan George Meluat. "We never thought he'd be one to go into the military. But he did and ended up working with the battle tanks."

The elder Meluat sighed. "His older sisters and brothers named him, you know. They named him after me. They took the "J" and the "G" from my name and put it together."

The elder Meluat, who lives in Airai in the Republic of Palau, said during a telephone interview last night the family received word of his youngest son's death early yesterday morning.

"It was still dark, so I wasn't sure if it was night or morning when we were awakened by the telephone ringing," Meluat said. "My wife answered the phone. It was a Marine officer. He told my wife that our son had died in a bombing."

JayGee's father said his son left behind a wife, Melanie, and their young daughter, Miacai, -- adding that the date of JayGee's death is one so easily remembered.

"The day he died was my granddaughter's third birthday," Jonathan Meluat said.

Jonathan Meluat said his son's body may arrive in Guam, where it will be buried, sometime today or tomorrow.

The Marine's sister-in-law, Angela Pocaigue, who lives on Guam, already has started rosary services, which are being held nightly at Santa Teresita Church in Mangilao.

Funeral arrangements have not been made, Jonathan Meluat said, until the family meets on Guam.

The Meluat family patriarch said he cannot attend the funeral because he is recovering from surgery, but will be sending his little brother to represent him at the funeral.

"I'm trying to find a way to send my wife and my younger brother to Guam," the elder Meluat said, saying the cost of the operation had set the family's finances back. "I can't be there. But I'll make sure my wife is there and my brother is there for me."

Troops Wounded In Baquaba; Casualties Not Announced

16 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net

US forces suffered casualties in an attack in Baquba, northeast of the capital.

An unknown number of soldiers were wounded when a military vehicle was destroyed just in front of an army headquarters building north of the city.

Patrol Hit In Mosul; Casualties Not Announced

16 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net

Five Iraqi police officers in Mosul were seriously injured when their joint patrol with US troops came under heavy attack. *The US army is yet to make a statement about casualties in the incident.*

Humvee Destroyed At Fallujah; Casualties Not Announced

16 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net & Associated Press

A US military Humvee was destroyed by a roadside device just to the east of the Iraqi town of Falluja. Witnesses said the vehicle was ablaze on a main road and that troops had sealed off the area. The incident happened at about 10:30 a.m. *The US army is yet to make a statement about casualties in the incident.*

Local Marine Injured

September 16, 2004 By Cathy Snyder Staff writer, Standard Journal Online (Pa.)

Marine Pfc. Jeffery Sanders of Mifflinburg was recently injured in Iraq.

The 2001 Mifflinburg Area High School graduate was wounded near Baghdad when his Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Sanders had a broken jaw and a serious leg injury. On Tuesday, he had his first surgery, his father, Jim Sanders said.

The six-hour surgery went well, though Jeffery seemed a little grumpy because of pain, Jim said.

Jeffery will have more surgeries and bone and skin grafting procedures, according to Jim. He will probably be in the hospital for at least one month.

Following the surgeries, Jeffery will have months of rehabilitation which Jim hopes can be done locally.

Jim and his wife, Sandy, learned their son was injured when Jeffery called on Sept. 6. Jim answered the phone and his son told him, "I've been injured. Don't put mom on the phone yet."

Jeffery went to Iraq at the beginning of July for a seven month tour of duty. He joined the marines in October 2003.

In the six weeks Jeffery was in Iraq, he had limited contact with his parents. Since his injury, they have been able to speak with him several times.

Jim and Sandy were at the hospital on Tuesday and are leaving Friday to be with Jeffery for several days.

While his son was overseas, Jim sometimes watched the news to see what was happening in Iraq.

"You play a numbers game in your mind," Jim said. "With so many there, you think it's not going to be yours."

Despite his injury, Jeffery has maintained his sense of humor and been in a good mood, Jim said.

Last night, Jeffery was excited because an officer visited him and, after learning he was an Eagles fan, told him he **may** get him football tickets. **(Don't hold your breath.)**

Jim said local people have expressed concern about their son and been very supportive.

At this point, it seems that Jeffery should be fine after rehabilitation, Jim said.

Central Illinois Marine And Mercenary Both Killed

September 16, 2004 ASSOCIATED PRESS

DU QUOIN-- A 20-year-old Du Quoin man serving as a U.S. Marine in Iraq died from shrapnel wounds, his father said.

Drew Uhles died at a military field hospital in northern Iraq early Wednesday morning, said his father, Dan Uhles. **The Du Quoin High School graduate had been assigned**

to an area between Husaybah and Al Qaim along the Syrian border, Dan Uhles said.

Veterans posted American flags along Du Quoin's main road Thursday to honor Uhles, **and a memorial service was scheduled for Sunday at a local park. The day would have been Uhles' 21st birthday.**

Du Quoin, a town of 6,600, is about 19 miles north of Carbondale.

Dan Uhles said his son joined the Marines after graduating from high school, a goal he had for a long time.

"Nobody else in the family had been a Marine, and he felt he'd regret it if he didn't serve," Dan Uhles said.

Uhles has a sister who served in the Navy during the first Gulf War and a brother who recently completed a tour of duty with the National Guard in Iraq, Dan Uhles said.

Also in Iraq, a 35-year-old from Athens in central Illinois was killed this week when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the truck he was riding in, the man's father said.

Todd Engstrom, a civilian contract worker, was traveling in a two-vehicle convoy on his way to Balad, Iraq, Tuesday when the convoy was attacked, his father, Ron Engstrom, said Wednesday.

"From all indications, he died immediately," Engstrom said.

Todd Engstrom had spent the past 21 months in Iraq working for Tennessee-based EOD Technology, Inc., his father said. **For 18 of those months, he was in charge of security at a camp used by the U.S. military and its contractors in Fallujah, Iraq.**

Most recently, Todd Engstrom was developing and training security forces that included U.S. and Iraqi personnel, Ron Engstrom said.

Iraq was not the first time Engstrom worked overseas. Ron Engstrom said his son commanded a special-forces team for the United Nations in Kosovo between 2000 and 2002.

Noose Around Baghdad Tightens; Resistance 15 Miles From Capital

9/16/2004 By Hamza Hendawi, Associated Press

MAHMOUDIYAH, Iraq (AP)

A 15-mile stretch of road south of Baghdad has become the most dreaded in Iraq after a series of high-profile kidnappings and deadly ambushes targeting foreign journalists and prominent politicians.

Heat and boredom aren't the worst aspect of being trapped in the gridlock that unfolds every day in the street running through Mahmoudiyah's main food market.

Around here, all an insurgent needs for cover is a traffic jam.

"Anyone can walk up to someone and shoot him dead now," says Adnan Fahd al-Ghiriri, a tribal leader from Mahmoudiyah. "Everyone will be too scared to do anything about it and the killer will walk away."

On a recent trip, my traveling companion was an Iraqi with a farm in the area. Not that it'll help much, he warned; his local connections were scant protection against those known here as mujahedeen, or holy fighters.

Once out of Mahmoudiyah and heading to Latifiyah, five miles south, the scenery wasn't encouraging. Two dozen burned, bullet-riddled cars and trucks lined the road.

Residents say insurgents employ lookouts on the four-lane road to spot possible targets.

And the traffic policemen standing idly by in Mahmoudiyah are no deterrent to an attacker looking to kill or abduct foreigners and their collaborators, whether Iraqi government officials or truckers working for the U.S.

The 67-year-old al-Ghiriri belongs to the leadership class that was supposed to be the Americans' best ally in facing down Iraqi insurgents and rebuilding the country. **But this farming town and two neighboring communities south of Baghdad have spun almost totally out of government control, with insurgents backed by local tribal leaders emerging as the real power.**

The reason Mahmoudiyah has constant traffic jams, ironically, is because about five months ago the U.S. military closed a stretch of highway that bypasses the three towns, squeezing traffic onto the smaller road where insurgents are active.

The disruptions of life under occupation are evident in the shortage of irrigation water and fuel that have hurt the agriculture-based economy.

"Dear farmers, we apologize that we cannot offer you credit at the present time," read a sign at a farm supplies outlet in Mahmoudiyah.

"No credit, and no 'I'll pay later'," read another sign.

While not yet a "no-go" area like Fallujah, west of Baghdad, **the towns south of the capital pose a serious challenge to Iraq's U.S.-backed interim government.**

Youssifiyah, just 15 miles from Baghdad, is of particular concern in case the insurgency spills from there into the capital, already racked by an insurgency of its own.

The apparent noncooperation of tribal leaders is another sign the insurgents are, at least in some places, on their way to supremacy.

The insurgents, according to residents, are highly disciplined and sophisticated.

The new government is also up against a close network of tribes and families sharing the religious belief that the Americans in Iraq are invaders and that every Muslim has a duty to fight them.

"Things have gone too far for middle ground now," said Sheik Faisal Jalab, a tribal chief from Youssifiyah. "Our religion obliges us to stand behind those defending the faith."

Jalab, who is in his late 60s and wears traditional Arab robes, speaks of his joy at Saddam's fall and his later disappointment over the behavior of U.S. troops in Iraq, especially their raids on Iraqi homes in search of insurgents.

"I know they are a superpower," he said, "but must they humiliate us like this?"

His son, Ahmed Faisal, chimed in: "How can you blame me for hating the Americans after they killed so many innocent Iraqis and forced their way into our homes?"

"You cannot even blame me if I become a suicide bomber."

Get The Evac Helicopters Ready: Green Zone "No Longer Secure"

September 15 2004 By James Drummond and Steve Negus in Baghdad, London
Financial Times

US military officers in Baghdad have warned they cannot guarantee the security of the perimeter around the Green Zone, the headquarters of the Iraqi government and home to the US and British embassies, according to security company employees.

At a briefing earlier this month, a high-ranking US officer in charge of the zone's perimeter said he had insufficient soldiers to prevent intruders penetrating the compound's defences.

The US major said it was possible weapons or explosives had already been stashed in the zone, and warned people to move in pairs for their own safety. The Green Zone, in Baghdad's centre, is one of the most fortified US installations in Iraq. Until now, militants have not been able to penetrate it.

But insurgency has escalated this week, spreading to the centre of Baghdad. **The zone is home to several thousand Iraqis, and on Sunday it came under the heaviest attack since it was established. Up to 60 unexploded rockets were found inside its perimeters after a five-hour barrage.**

“Hey, look what I found.”



REUTERS/Aladin Abdel Naby

Mercenary “Security Expert” Killed By RPG Shot Thru His Open Car Window

September 16, 2004 By TIM McKENZIE of the Journal Star

Todd Engstrom, who turned 35 on Sept. 4, was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his vehicle on its way to Balad, Iraq, his father, Ron Engstrom, said Wednesday.

The grenade flew into the open rear window, landing on Engstrom, who was sitting in the back seat of the second vehicle in a two-vehicle convoy, his father said.

Engstrom was believed to be killed instantly, his father said. The other occupants survived but suffered shrapnel injuries.

Engstrom was contracted through a private company, EOD Technologies, to develop security for the U.S. military, his father said. He had been in the country for 21 months and had just finished developing security at a city in central Iraq.

After high school, Engstrom attended the Music Institute of Technology in Hollywood, Calif., but after graduating, he went to Lincoln Land College in Springfield, where he studied law enforcement, his father said.

From there, he went to work on the police force at Nashville International Airport before working for a federal agency doing undercover investigations.

War Profiteers Captured In Baghdad Raid On Wealthy Neighborhood

16 September 2004 Aljazeera.Net & Associated Press & By Edward Wong, The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The resistance abducted two Americans and a Briton in an attack Thursday on a residence in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood housing many embassies and foreign companies.

The hostage takers had no qualms about staging their raid during daylight hours in the heart of the capital, when witnesses would likely be roaming around.

These incidents are quickly forcing changes to the way foreigners live and work here, with security advisors scrambling to boost the presence of armed guards at private homes or move residents into hotels.

In short, the insurgents are succeeding in tightening the circle in which foreigners think they can safely operate, slowly squeezing in the edges until a single ice floe remains among turbulent swells.

The three, all employees of Gulf Services Company, a Middle East-based construction firm, were seized from a two-story house surrounded by a wall in the al-Mansour neighborhood, said Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman, an Interior Ministry official.

The raid unfolded at around 6 a.m., when a blackout prompted two of the victims to open the black metal gate of their home to turn on a large generator sitting outside a four-foot front wall surrounding the house. As the gate swung open, masked men rushed into the front yard and seized the foreigners, said Bahir Saleem, a student living on the block who said he spoke with several witnesses.

The insurgents then took a third man from the house. A car was also missing from the house, he added.

A neighbor who gave his name as Majid, 23, said he left his house around 6 a.m. during a power outage to switch on a generator.

"I noticed unusual movement in the garage. I heard voices that sounded like someone was trying to drag somebody else," he said. "I was frightened and left the area, but when I came back to the foreigners' house I saw that the outer gate was open and the foreigners' car had gone."

Another witness, 19-year-old Ziad Tareq, said he was walking down the street when he saw a man dressed in black, his face covered with a red scarf, dragging one of the hostages by the collar and pushing him into a car parked outside the house.

Several neighbors said that up to ***two foreign Arabs usually lived in the house and were responsible for maintaining the generator and driving the Westerners around, but that they had left just a day or two earlier.***

The home, in which the Westerners had lived for about a year, is a drab building in a middle- to upper-class area that had no visible defenses. The wall around the house functions more as decoration than protection. Four white plastic chairs surround a circular table sit on the tiny front lawn.

Several foreign embassies, contracting and security companies and many prominent Iraqi politicians are based in the al-Mansour neighborhood, which is normally teeming with security guards. It was not immediately clear whether the three were guards themselves or involved in reconstruction projects.

As yet unconfirmed, Aljazeera has learnt that the US captives' names are Jack Hensley and Eugene Armstrong while the British captive may be Betley.

Iraq's Interior Ministry said all three work for GSCS, a United Arab Emirates-based firm that has won several building contracts in Iraq.

TROOP NEWS

Rumsfeld Caught Faking Casualty Reports By Violating Reporting Rules; Only 17,000 Troops Cut From List

Sept. 15 By MARK BENJAMIN (UPI)

Nearly 17,000 service members medically evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan are absent from public Pentagon casualty reports, according to military data reviewed by United Press International.

The Pentagon said most don't fit the definition of casualties, but a veterans' advocate said they should all be counted.

The Pentagon's own definition of a war casualty provided to UPI in December describes a casualty as, "Any person who is lost to the organization by having been declared dead, duty status - whereabouts unknown, missing, ill, or injured."

In a statement Wednesday, the Pentagon gave a different definition that included casualty descriptions by severity and type and said most medical evacuations did not count.

A veterans' advocate said the Pentagon should make a full reporting of the casualties, including non-combat ailments and injuries. "They are still casualties of war," said Mike Schlee, director of the National Security and Foreign Relations Division at the American Legion. "I think we have to have an honest disclosure of what the short- and long-term casualties of any conflict are."

"The great majority of service members medically evacuated from Operation Iraqi Freedom are not casualties, by either Department of Defense definitions or the common understanding of the average newspaper reader." It cited such ailments as "muscle strain, back pain, kidney stones, diarrhea and persistent fever" as non-casualty evacuations.

In addition to those evacuations, 32,684 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan now out of the military sought medical attention from the Department of Veterans Affairs by July 22, according to VA reports obtained by UPI. The number of those visits to VA doctors that were related to war is unknown.

The military has evacuated 16,765 individual service members from Iraq and Afghanistan for injuries and ailments not directly related to combat, according to the U.S. Transportation Command, which is responsible for the medical evacuations. Most are from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Casualty reports released to the public are generally confined to fatalities and those wounded in action," the statement said.

The Pentagon casualty reports do list soldiers who died in non-combat-related incidents or from illness. But service members injured or ailing from the same non-combat causes -- the majority that appear to be "lost to the organization" -- are not reflected in those Pentagon reports.

A spokesman for the transportation command said that without orders from U.S. Central Command, his unit would not separate the medical evacuation data to show how many came from Iraq and Afghanistan. "We stay in our lane," said Lt. Col. Scott Ross. But most are clearly from Operation Iraqi Freedom where several times as many troops are deployed as in Afghanistan. (One more asshole Lt. Col. heard

from. They must have a special Idiot Asshole Lt. Col. Training Program someplace.)

The Pentagon has reported 1,019 dead and 7,245 wounded from Iraq. And 27,571 of the veterans who have sought health care from the VA served in Iraq, according to the documents reviewed by UPI.

Among veterans from Iraq seeking help from the VA, 5,375 have been diagnosed with a mental problem, making it the third-leading diagnosis after bone problems and digestive problems. Among the mental problems were 800 soldiers who became psychotic.

**USED THE ARMED FORCES FOR PRIVATE PROFIT:
LIAR
CRIMINAL
TRAITOR
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



(Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

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

US Running Short Of Reserves For Iraq War; General Says “No Secure Area” There

September 16, 2004, (AEST) & by Charles Aldinger, Reuters & 15 September 2004
Agence France Presse

Guerrilla warfare in Iraq is putting U.S. troops under growing mental stress as the military struggles to retain and recruit soldiers, according to a study cited by the Army Reserve commander on Thursday.

The United States military may run out of national guard and reserve troops for the war.

The army national guard, for instance, has failed to meet recruiting goals in 14 of 20 months from October 2002 through May 2004, the report said. It was 7,800 soldiers below its recruiting goal at the end of fiscal 2003.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) said the US Government has considered changing the policy to make members of the 1.2 million-strong guard and reserve subject to repeated involuntary mobilisation, so long as no single mobilisation exceeds 24 consecutive months.

More than 47,600 members of the guard and reserve were serving in Iraq as of last month, about a third of the 140,000-member US force currently deployed.

Since September 11, 2003, more than 335,000 guard and reserves have been involuntarily mobilized for active duty -- 234,000 from the army alone, according to the report.

"This is just very tough business," said Lt. Gen. James Helmly, noting that military chores from driving supply trucks to directing traffic in Iraq had become battlefield jobs because of bombings and other growing attacks by insurgents.

"Driving that truck is one of the most hazardous damned occupations we have in Iraq," he said. "Truck drivers, frankly, and MPs (military police) are front-line troops these days."

"As you know, there is no more secure area," he said

More Nebraska Troops Called To The Imperial Slaughterhouse

September 16, 2004 Nebraska StatePaper.com

The 1013th Quartermaster Company of North Platte and McCook has been activated for duty in Iraq, the Army announced Wednesday. The unit includes 125 troops.

Two other Nebraska units were also activated, the 561st Corps Support Group of Omaha with 123 soldiers and the 295 Ordinance Company of Hastings, Lincoln and Kearney with 208 soldiers.

The 561st will be the first to mobilize, reporting Friday and departing for training at Fort Riley in Kansas next week.

The 1013th handles laundry, shower and clothing renovation. When deployed, its duties will include textile renovation, such as repairing tops of vehicles, fixing tents, canvas and uniforms. The reservists also set up showers close to combat areas. The 1013th can handle laundry facilities and showers for more than 21,000 troops.

A send-off ceremony for the 1013th is scheduled for Saturday at Mid Plains Community College at 4:30 p.m.

The new mobilizations were announced just one day after some 500 people gathered in Grand Island to pay their last respects to Petty Officer Eric Knott, a Navy Seabee who was killed in Iraq on September 4.

Knott was a 2001 graduate of Grand Island Senior High.

Generals Become Millionaires In Mercenary Business

16 September 2004 By Jonathan Turley, The Los Angeles Times

David A. Passaro was a mercenary working for the United States. A former Special Forces soldier, he was on the job for the American government in Afghanistan on June 19, 2003, when he was told to get information from a detainee named Abdul Wali. When Wali insisted that he knew nothing, Passaro allegedly beat him to death with a heavy metal flashlight.

Now on trial for murder, Passaro is described in a recent criminal indictment as "a contractor working on behalf of the United States Central Intelligence Agency ... engaging in paramilitary activities."

"Contractor" is the term used by the Defense Department to avoid more pejorative terms like "mercenary" to describe Washington's growing shadow army.

In all, there are about 20,000 military contractors currently working in Iraq for the U.S. government, according to the Washington Post; that's the equivalent of three army divisions of contractors.

Soldiers-for-hire like Passaro are often employed (for as much as \$200,000 a year) by former generals, who retired to run clandestine operations for profit and who have, in many cases, become millionaires from the secret budgets of the CIA and Defense Department.

Gays In Uniform Effective In Conflicts; Serving Openly In Middle East

[Defense Today, September 16, 2004, Pg. 2]

A study conducted by a fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara, concludes that U.S. gays and lesbians in uniform posted in the Middle East serve openly without undermining unit cohesion and their missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Wow! Big Surprise!!

Iraqis Don't Want Their Country Occupied; They Support The Resistance

9.16.04 By Mike Dorning, Chicago Tribune correspondent

Along with the heavy toll of attacks by insurgents, the Marines cite other sources of frustration. **High among them is the scarcity of tips from Iraqis on the locations of the roadside bombs that kill and maim Marines, even though the explosives frequently are placed in well-trafficked areas where bomb teams probably would be observed.**

Then there are the hostile glares that adults in the community give to passing American military patrols, and treachery from high-profile allies, such as the provincial police chief who was arrested last month amid strong suspicions that he was working with the insurgency.

After a series of ambushes one April day that killed a dozen Marines, Cpl. Jason Rodgers saw a familiar face among a group of slain attackers. The dead Iraqi, who was lying inches from a grenade, was a shopkeeper Rodgers had called on several times during foot patrols, he said.

Capt. Rob Weiler, commander of the battalion's mobile assault company, arrived in Iraq toting a copy of the Federalist Papers and an American government textbook along with his M-16 and body armor, expecting to spend as much time advising local leaders new to democracy as he did fighting off insurgents.

He met with leaders to assess needs and hired local contractors to complete several projects, including renovation of a school.

But as a convoy of Marines pulled up to the school one day in late May to check on the contractors' progress, he said, a roadside bomb exploded in front of the building, wounding two Marines.

"It was extremely difficult for me to believe that none of the people that I was employing to do things to improve their lives and the lives of their children knew anything about it," Weiler said.

Likewise, Sgt. Curtis Neill cites a rocket-propelled grenade attack on his platoon as it passed some shops one hot August day. When the Marines responded, the attacker fled, but they found that he had established a comfortable and obvious position to lie in wait.

There, in an alleyway beside the shops was a seat and ammunition for the grenade launcher--along with a pitcher of water and a half-eaten bowl of grapes, said Neill, who was so amazed that he took photos of the setup.

"You could tell the guy had been hanging out all day. It was out in the open. Every single one of the guys in the shops could tell the guy was set up to attack us," said Neill, 34, of Colrain, Mass.

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

Resistance Expertise Growing

16 Sep 2004 By David Stringer, PA News

"The attacks have become more sophisticated and they are showing a lot of ingenuity," David Claridge, managing director of Janusian Security Risk Management explained.

"In a recent incident a convoy was under surveillance and followed on to a bridge. Cars blocked either end and the convoy came under fire in a prolonged and aggressive encounter.

"It was being controlled via radios by a general who was expertly directing his men.

Another Oil Pipeline Blown Up



Burning oil pipeline near Baqouba Sept. 16, 2004. The pipeline has been subjected to repeated sabotage in the past. (AP Photo/Sami Aburaya)

17sep04 From correspondents in Baquba, The Advertiser

AN oil pipeline feeding the Al-Dura refinery on the outskirts of Baghdad was ablaze late today after sabotage northeast of the Iraqi capital, said an AFP correspondent.

Local residents near the restive city of Baquba said they heard a loud explosion in the afternoon and rushed to help extinguish the flames that continued to rage as dusk set in.

The pipeline links the Kurdish town of Qanaqir, about 100 kilometres from Baghdad, to Al-Dura refinery.

An official at the Northern Oil Company said the repair work would take "three days to a week to complete".

An official at the Northern Oil Company said the repair work would take "three days to a week to complete".

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Iraq Veterans Against The War



9.15.04 By Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War <http://www.ivaw.net/>

August 29th, 2004 marked a great day in the history of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

On that day, IVAW joined in solidarity with 500,000 other people of the worldwide community by leading the largest march in U.S. history against a political convention. More importantly, it was a march in protest of the policies that needlessly put our troops in danger.

But it was not just a single day that made history. From the first unfurling of the new IVAW banner to the Vigil for the Fallen at Union Square on September 2nd, it became apparent that we were going to be a predominant factor in the fight to bring our troops home.

Truth be told, it was a long week. From walking the streets for 18 hours a day to attending the meetings of other like-minded groups to fielding a never-ending stream of questions from the media, the work was exhausting.

Nonetheless, we were able to send a clear and resounding message: whether it be the republicans or the democrats who are in charge, we will not relent until the occupation of Iraq is ended and our brothers and sisters are safe at home! Keep an eye out for more news from IVAW, as there's plenty more to come...

OCCUPATION REPORT

FREE AT LAST



Prisoners walk out of an Iraqi military base after they were brought there from Abu Ghraib prison to be released, in Baghdad Sept. 15. Hundreds of prisoners were (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**KERRY BROKE MY BULLSHIT
METER (IT TOOK A WHILE TO FIX IT
AFTER BUSH):**

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN WITH THE HEADLINE ABOVE)

"Imus sought to engage Kerry on his position on the Iraq war, a subject Kerry has had trouble explaining. He asked Kerry whether there are any circumstances we should have gone to war in Iraq, any? Kerry said: Not under the current circumstances, no. There are none that I see.

"Explaining his vote in 2002 to authorize Bush to go to war, Kerry told Imus, I voted based on weapons of mass destruction. He added: "I mean, look, I can't be clearer. But I think it was the right vote based on what Saddam Hussein had done, and I think it was the right thing to do to hold him accountable. I've said a hundred times: There was a right way to do it and a wrong way to do it. The president chose the wrong way. Cant be more direct than that." (From story By Jim VandeHei, Washington Post, Sept. 15)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Helicopter Bearing Puppet Afghan "Leader" Escapes Rocket Attack

September 16, 2004 By Stephen Graham, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — President Hamid Karzai escaped a rocket attack on the U.S. helicopter carrying him to a provincial capital in eastern Afghanistan Thursday, officials said. The American military said the rocket missed the chopper as it approached a landing zone near Gardez, where Karzai planned to open a school.

The helicopter did not touch down and returned the president to Kabul. No one was hurt, either on the ground or in the air, presidential spokesman Jawed Ludin said.

"The president was not in any imminent danger," U.S. military spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said. (So if there was so little danger, why did he run away? Either Maj. Mark McCann is a barefaced liar, or Karzai is a puking coward. Too bad all the U.S. troops stuck occupying Afghanistan for George Bush can't leave as fast, but no, they have to stay and die for this worthless piece of shit stooge. The U.S. corporate empire comes first.)

Gardez is just 60 miles south of Kabul, but security concerns still meant Karzai needed the U.S. military as his escort.

Karzai has been constantly shadowed by American bodyguards armed with automatic weapons since the July 2002 killing of a vice president and the September 2002 assassination attempt on the president in the southern city of Kandahar.

Bush's Colonial Occupation Needs Fresh Meat: 82nd Unit Prepares For Afghan Deployment

September 16, 2004 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times staff writer

The 82nd Airborne Division is preparing to deploy its division ready force — the battalion kept on alert at Fort Bragg, N.C. — to Afghanistan to provide added security in advance of the October 9 election there.

“They have received a warning order, they are taking prudent measures now to prepare for a short-notice deployment to Afghanistan **that will occur probably within the week,**” XVIII Airborne Corps spokesman Col. Bill Buckner said today.

Buckner identified the battalion as one of the three battalions in the 82nd's 3rd Brigade, which is currently the division ready brigade.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Sadism on Checkpoints: Israeli Soldiers Force A Palestinian To Drink Urine

International Press Center 9/16/2004

GAZA, September 16, 2004 (IPC + Agencies)-- **An Israeli newspaper** revealed one more example of the sadistic treatment Israeli soldiers extend to the Palestinian civilians crossing the different checkpoints in the occupied Palestinian territories, **after reporting a story about a Palestinian worker who was forced to drink the soldiers' own urine.**

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv newspaper reported the story of a Palestinian worker, Sameeh, who was **forced by the Israeli soldiers, manning the Abu Dees checkpoint to choose between having his hands and legs broken or drinking the soldiers' urine.**

(To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: www.rafahtoday.org. The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.)

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>