

GI SPECIAL 2#B72

WAR!



(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Kerry promises “WAR” to voters during a speech at Temple University in Philadelphia, Sept. 24. He refuted charges that he is unable to decide whether his first new war as President would be with Venezuela, Iran, or Botswana, arguing that his administration, unlike the Bush Administration, would be able to attack many countries at the same time while keeping the war in Iraq going strong.

Kerry condemned the Bush Administration for only caring about rich Americans. He promised to begin enough wars to give every unemployed young American a full time job in the Armed Forces, killing off enough of them to lower crime rates in decaying urban areas.

Kerry expressed his special thanks to all those Vietnam veterans who have signed on to his campaign to carry forward the work of promoting U.S. world-wide corporate rule.

“The sun will never set on the American Empire,” he said, “and the bodies of our heroic dead will fertilize the battlefields of every continent. Because of their

special experiences, every Vietnam veteran who joins my campaign is helping accomplish that mission.”

He added that he holds no grudges against Vietnam veterans who stopped that war by rebelling against it. He said they are forgiven as long as they renounce supporting any such disloyal behavior by soldiers in Iraq, and agree to show their obedient loyalty to the Empire by supporting his campaign for the Presidency, and the war in Iraq as he will conduct it.

He also appealed to Nader voters to come over to his campaign to defeat Bush. He pointed out that he and Nader stand together in opposing the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq, and that he and Nader both believe that the bloody sacrifice of more U.S. and Iraqi lives in the war is necessary and fully justified.

"We know we can't count on the French. We know we can't count on the Russians. We know that Iraq is a danger to the United States, and we reserve the right to take pre-emptive action whenever we feel it's in our national interest."
John Kerry, *CNN*, 1997 (Thanks to Ashley Smith for this one.)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Another Marine Killed in Anbar Province

Sept. 23, 2004 American Forces Press Service

A U.S. Marine with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Baghdad was killed today in the Anbar province in Iraq, military officials reported today.

IED Hits Convoy; Casualties Not Announced

24 September 2004 al Jazeera

An explosive device blew up under a US military convoy on the highway west of Baghdad, between Falluja and Ramadi, sources told Aljazeera.

One vehicle was destroyed and several US soldiers were injured in the attack. US helicopters were seen landing near the blast site to carry away wounded soldiers.

Highland Soldier Killed By Bomb In “This Lousy War”

Sept. 24, 2004 By John Grant, Post-Tribune staff writer

“Northwest Indiana’s been taking a hit,” Dillon said. “We’ve given more than our fair share to this lousy war.”

Friends of a fallen soldier tied yellow and black ribbons to trees and flower pots of his family’s Highland home Thursday night to honor someone they called a hero.

Army Pfc. Nathan E. Stahl, 20, of Highland died Tuesday when his vehicle was struck by a homemade roadside bomb somewhere in Iraq. He is the eighth person from Northwest Indiana to die in the war in Iraq.

Stahl, a 2003 graduate of Highland High School, had been serving in Iraq since the summer of 2003. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment from Fort Lewis, Wash. He is the son of Rodney and Tawanna Nightingale.

Dena Hemphill, 18, learned of his death Thursday morning from an officer of the local Civil Air Patrol, of which Stahl was a member. “The first thing I thought of was his face,” Hemphill, Stahl’s former girlfriend, said.

Stahl broke up with her before he left to go overseas, friends with Hemphill said as they put the ribbons on trees.

“They broke up before he went because something like this could happen. He didn’t want to hurt her,” 21-year-old Robin Hemphill, Dena’s older sister, said. “Nathan was a great guy. He didn’t deserve this to happen.”

The Army Ranger was remembered as an upbeat young man who enjoyed weight-lifting and working with his father on cars, friends said.

Stahl’s family spent the day mourning at First Baptist Church in Highland. Lt. Raphael Vasques, sent from Fort Lewis to assist the family in their grief, said family members were not prepared to make any statements Thursday evening. Vasques said family members would give a statement when they were ready.

He said he wasn’t authorized to give any details about how Stahl died. A military spokeswoman said no additional information was available on Stahl’s death, including where in Iraq he died.

Matt McCarty, a fellow 2003 Highland graduate who joined the U.S. Navy at the same time Stahl joined the Army. McCarty’s mother, Annmarie, was shocked to learn a local soldier had died, the first from Highland in the war in Iraq.

“It’s hitting closer to home. I pray for our boys and girls every night,” she said. News like this makes her worry even more for her son, she said.

Ernie Dillon, director of Lake County's Department of Veterans Affairs, was saddened but not shocked by the news.

"Northwest Indiana's been taking a hit," Dillon said. "We've given more than our fair share to this lousy war."

The news sent chills down Highland High School science teacher Dan Chapman's spine as Principal Jim Conroy read the Department of Defense's announcement over the intercom Thursday. A student then played taps.

"It's a real shock; it brings foreign events a lot closer to home," said Chapman, who taught Stahl as a sophomore in his earth science class. "I remember him as a pretty quiet kid, and my initial reaction to the announcement was, it's hard for me to picture him, the high school student, as a soldier."

School Town of Highland Superintendent Renner Ventling couldn't be reached for comment, but Chapman said as far as he knew, the school doesn't yet have plans for a memorial other than lowering the flag to half-staff. That could easily change, though.

"This is going to touch many teachers, I can tell you," he said.

Onarga Native Wounded In Donkey Attack

9.24.04 By ERIN RUMBLEY\Reporter, Iroquois County Times-Republic

A Marine lance corporal from rural Onarga, currently assigned to a weapons company in the Sunni Triangle in Iraq, was injured last week when three bombs went off in a donkey cart as he drove by.

Ross Kaeding, a 2003 graduate of Iroquois West High School, was wounded in the face last Thursday and spent two hours in a Fallujah operating room getting shrapnel taken out of his face

He was in the hospital for two days, his mother Marianne Kaeding said. She said his cheekbone was broken and if he hadn't been wearing his Oakley sunglasses, he would have been blinded. "He was still picking shrapnel out of his glasses," she said. When he asked for a new pair, she said she would get them no matter how much it cost.

In addition to the broken cheekbone and shrapnel injuries, Kaeding also sustained a huge lump on the side of his head and his hair and eye brows were singed from helping other wounded Marines escape the burning vehicle.

His mother said two days after leaving the hospital to go back to his base, Kaeding had to have more shrapnel removed from his face.

She said Kaeding was doing all right and going back out on short missions from the base, something she is less than excited about. "My heart just stopped when he said he was going out again," she said. "I didn't want to hear that."

Commander Tells About Car Bombing That Wounded Five Galva Guardsmen

9.24.04 By DAVE CLARKE Of The Star Courier

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Five members of the Galva National Guard unit were injured Tuesday in a car bomb attack while they were checking an abandoned vehicle near the Green Zone, in Baghdad, according to the unit's commander, Maj. Michael Kessel.

The U.S. military revised the number of injured from Battery F, 202nd Air Defense Artillery, based in Galva, from four to five, Wednesday, after one soldier whose wounds were not initially deemed serious enough for treatment was added to the list, according to SSG Martin Gibson, the unit's rear detachment officer at the Galva Armory.

Four members of the unit were treated at the scene. A fifth member was evacuated to a military hospital by helicopter.

According to Maj. Kessel, members of Foxtrot (F) Battery were patrolling near the Green Zone, a secured area of Baghdad where government offices and housing is located, at approximately 3:35 p.m. Tuesdsay (Baghdad time), when they stopped all civilian traffic to investigate an abandoned vehicle. "A military convoy was passing and a civilian car pulled in right behind them and detonated," Kessel told the Star Couriery.

Kessel said the wounded include SSG Daniel Quimby of Henry, who sustained minor burns while working on another soldier; SSG David Jensen of Albany, who suffered a shrapnel wound to the thigh but stayed at the scene to evacuate the others and secure the scene and later had to be ordered to the hospital; and SPC Lucas Siemers of Galva, **who sustained shrapnel wounds and a dislocated elbow. All three of these soldiers have been returned to duty.**

Kessel said the most seriously wounded was PFC Dustin Hill of Wyanet. He was the gunner in the vehicle at the time of the attack, while the others were dismounted. He sustained serious injuries including the loss of one eye, and third degree burns over approximately 33 percent of his body, according to the commander. "He is being transported as I write this to Germany, then, if stable enough, on to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Brooke is the best burn center in the military and considered one of the best facilities in the world," Kessel said.

"All of the soldiers in our unit have seen a great deal of tragedy over the past week. Your continued thoughts and prayers are appreciated, especially for the wounded, but also for the rest of the battery," the commanding officer said.

"I consider myself very lucky," said Siemer's mother, Tami Siemers, who got the call from her son to say he was OK early Tuesday, followed by a call later that morning from National Guard officials in Springfield.

"I had my intuition," she said. "When he called from the hospital, I wasn't at all surprised," Mrs. Siemers told the Associated Press. "I'm one of the lucky ones because I don't have to talk about my son in the past tense," the mother said.

U.S. Boasts “Major Offensive” Captured “One Square Kilometer” Of Baghdad Sadr City; Will Try For More In A Couple Months; Three U.S. Wounded

Don't Fuck With Sadr City:



Mahdi Army partisans shout anti-U.S. slogans after Friday prayers at Al-Qadhamiya shrine in Baghdad, September 24, 2004. (Faleh Kheiber/Reuters)

BAGHDAD, Sept 23 (AFP)

A roadside bomb exploded in the Baghdad Shiite slum of Sadr City Thursday, setting a US military vehicle ablaze and wounding three soldiers, the US military said.

The attack came after a major offensive on Tuesday night in Sadr City.

Earlier that day, troops seized a first square kilometre (less than a square mile) of Sadr City's winding alleyways and labyrinth of minarets and grey cinderblock tenements, with the intention of making it a model of law and order.

On its newly-won turf, the military hopes to spend millions of dollars on sewage, water and electricity and weaken the support for Sadr's fighters in the district's tough northern sector, dense with snipers and young men ready to die for the cleric.

Until now, the incentives dangled by the Americans of reconstruction projects and cash have failed to woo the Mehdi Army.

Officers say the military will crackdown on northern Sadr City, lined with bombs and legions of fighters, by November.

U.S. Air Attacks Hit Resistance Held Territory: It's Called Baghdad

9.24.04

U.S. warplanes blasted insurgent positions in the east Baghdad slum of Sadr City on Thursday, the second day of fighting in the Shiite militia stronghold. Iraqi doctors said one person had been killed and 12 injured, several of them children.

Italian Embassy Mortared

Sep. 24, 2004 Associated Press

ROME - Mortars exploded near the Italian Embassy in Baghdad on Friday, slightly wounding three Iraqis, the Foreign Ministry in Rome said.

The mortars were fired shortly after 6 a.m. when the embassy offices were closed, the Foreign Ministry said. No other details were released.

TROOP NEWS

52% Of U.S. Say War Not Worth It

Wall Street Journal, September 23, 2004, Pg. 1

A new poll indicates 52 percent say getting rid of Saddam wasn't worth the loss of U.S. troops and the financial cost.

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.

Marine Killed In Iraq Had Been Volunteer Firefighter

9/24/04 The Associated Press

Mobile, Ala. -- **Friends say a Marine from Texas was more worried about his girlfriend being in Mobile when Hurricane Ivan approached than the dangers he faced in Iraq.**

Sergeant Foster Harrington of Fort Worth was dispatched to Iraq about six weeks ago.

The Department of Defense announced Harrington died Monday in Al Anbar Province, where he was fatally shot in combat. His girlfriend, Fran Poston, says Harrington helped anybody and everybody he could.

Harrington was 31 and was assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's Third Force Reconnaissance Company, Fourth Marine Division in Mobile. **While stationed in Mobile, he served as an unpaid volunteer firefighter and medic for the Seven Hills community.**

Poston received her final phone call from Harrington on Sunday, saying he was mailing her letters once per week.

Harrington will be buried with full military honors early next week in Fort Worth, Texas. The Seven Hills Fire Department also plans to hold a memorial service.

National Guard Comes Up 5,000 Short

(Thanks to Lou Plummer for sending this one.)

September 24, 2004 WRAL.COM, RALEIGH, N.C.

Each branch of the Armed Forces is required to recruit a certain amount of troops each fiscal year. That period ends next week. The National Guard is not having trouble retaining soldiers, but it is having problems attracting new ones.

For the first time in a decade, the Army National Guard will fall short of its annual recruiting goal. Officials say the Guard is about 5,000 troops short.

In southwest Asia, National Guard and Reserve troops make up about 37 percent of the forces on the ground. Units are shuttled in and out of the warzone, sometimes on one-year deployments, which leaves very little time for units to recruit. Now, it is beginning to show up in the numbers.

[An Army General] said the American public would not support a draft that was discontinued more than 30 years ago. As for bumping up the numbers in the National Guard, the plan is to increase recruiters and do a better job targeting high school and college students.

Rumsfeld: U.S. Troops Can Leave Before Iraq Peaceful -- But Lying Rat Has Approved More Troops For War



Terrorist Enemy Combatant Disguised As Politician Infiltrates Camp Babylon.

(AFP/Robert Sullivan)

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: Why not start now, asshole?)

9.24.04 By Charles Aldinger (Reuters)

The United States does not have to wait until Iraq "is peaceful and perfect" before it begins to withdraw military troops from that troubled country, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Friday.

Rumsfeld gave no timetable for any possible drawdown of U.S. troops from the costly and controversial Iraqi deployment that has stressed America's military and taken center stage in the U.S. election battle between President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry.

But another senior defense official, who asked not to be identified, said that the number of U.S. troops in Iraq is likely to increase in late December and January as new American troops are sent there to relieve soldiers winding up a current year on duty.

"You are likely to see a spike before the troops who are being relieved leave the country," said the official.

Rumsfeld and other administration officials have carefully avoided putting any timetable on a withdrawal from Iraq and Bush said after meeting with Allawi on Thursday that Iraq would "stay the course."

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)

The Cheap Labor Army

If you work 100 hours a week, can your salary keep up with the civilian Joneses?

September 20, 2004 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer

Edward Short, a 32-year-old Army staff sergeant in Iraq, earns about \$11.50 an hour fighting insurgents and leading combat patrols in tense places such as Baghdad's Sadr City.

Petty Officer 1st Class Sidney Jones, who has 10 years in uniform, earns about \$11.40 an hour pulling 16-hour shifts on the deck of the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk.

Of course, people in uniform get paid by the month, not the hour. But an Army Times analysis of military and civilian pay estimates hourly wages based on monthly pay and the number of hours typically worked by service members. **Hourly pay has been an age-old concern for military people when they try to compare their earnings to what they'd receive for a hard day's work in the civilian world.**

Surveys in recent years suggest most service members work 50 to 55 hours a week when not deployed. Overachievers and those deployed into combat zones can easily surpass 90 hours a week. **A typical civilian workweek is supposed to be 40 hours before overtime kicks in — another foreign concept in the military.**

By contrast, the average American earns \$15.77 an hour, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which also says factory workers typically pull 4.6 hours of overtime per week.

Of course, those who work the least earn the most per hour. An E-3 pulls down \$15.07 an hour if he or she finds a way to work just 40 hours a week. If that same person deploys to combat patrols in Iraq, where the workweek might be twice as long, if not longer, he or she is suddenly earning just \$7.02 per hour.

Still, even troops working the hardest earn more on an hourly basis than the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour. *The one exception is boot-camp recruits who pull 18-hour days on the bottom rung of the military's pay scale and earn a paltry \$4.97 per hour.*

Short, the Army sergeant in Iraq, is a tank commander turned Humvee squad leader.

For him, a recent workday began at 5:30 a.m., when he started prepping his squad for morning patrols in Sadr City in eastern Baghdad. That lasted until noon, when he passed out humanitarian meals to Iraqis until 3 p.m. Then it was on to one-hour patrols every three hours until 9 p.m.

During "down time," he was getting chow, taking care of his troops and trying to get a little rest. His duty day ended at 9 p.m., but he also had to pull one-hour guard duty shifts overnight.

Jones, a flight-deck leading petty officer aboard the Kitty Hawk, said the military's long hours are a double-edged sword.

"Being a human being, you do get burned out," he said. "Still, I do get jazzed doing the job. We're carrying out the orders of those appointed above us, doing incredible things. **There's nothing more exciting than that.**" **[No? Try convoy duty in Baquaba.]**

Along with long hours and no overtime, another characteristic of military work life is its pace, which can vary wildly from one week to the next, and sometimes even one day to the next.

A 100-HOUR WORKWEEK IN A COMBAT ZONE

This chart shows average hourly pre-tax earnings for service members pulling 100-hour workweeks in combat zones. The figures here are based on the Defense Department's Regular Military Compensation chart, which shows average annual military salaries by combining the value of basic pay, the basic allowance for housing, the basic allowance for subsistence and the average tax advantage of those two untaxed allowances. The calculations for this chart also factor in \$430 per month for combat/deployment pays, including hardship-duty pay, imminent-danger pay and temporary duty per diem. Those drawing Family Separation Allowance should add about another 60 cents to their hourly pay figure. Even with war pays factored in, many troops working at this pace in a combat zone are not making much above the current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.

Grade	Years of service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Commissioned officers															
O-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.80
O-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34.85
O-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.24
O-7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29.34
O-6	-	-	-	-	-	20.36	20.44	20.44	21.31	22.77	23.58	24.38	24.84	25.30	26.19
O-5	-	-	-	-	17.94	18.25	18.91	19.39	20.02	20.98	21.43	21.86	22.35	22.35	22.35
O-4	13.53	14.78	15.39	15.53	16.12	16.76	17.60	18.26	18.72	18.98	19.14	19.14	19.14	19.14	19.14
O-3	11.90	12.85	13.47	14.24	14.69	15.18	15.50	16.04	16.33	16.33	16.33	16.33	16.33	16.33	16.33
O-2	10.32	11.23	12.30	12.56	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73	12.73
O-1	9.00	9.24	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49	10.49
Commissioned officers with more than four years of service as warrant officers or enlisted members															
O-3E	-	-	-	14.53	14.97	15.47	15.79	16.34	16.82	17.09	17.47	17.47	17.47	17.47	17.47
O-2E	-	-	-	12.98	13.14	13.41	13.86	14.20	14.46	14.46	14.46	14.46	14.46	14.46	14.46
O-1E	-	-	-	11.03	11.53	11.80	12.06	12.32	12.68	12.68	12.68	12.68	12.68	12.68	12.68
Warrant officers (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps)															
W-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.81	18.29	18.77	19.25
W-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.08	15.68	16.08	16.48	16.90	17.32	17.76
W-3	-	-	-	-	-	12.61	13.05	13.49	13.96	14.31	14.66	14.81	14.97	15.30	15.65
W-2	-	10.72	11.03	11.25	11.44	11.95	12.33	12.62	12.89	13.08	13.24	13.54	13.84	14.14	14.14
W-1	8.93	9.38	9.68	9.67	10.38	10.69	10.96	11.26	11.45	11.62	11.90	12.12	12.12	12.12	12.12
Enlisted members															
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.46	14.75	15.04	15.52	15.93	16.38	17.08
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.44	12.54	12.88	13.13	13.59	13.82	14.21	14.43	14.97
E-7	-	-	-	10.59	10.82	11.21	11.43	11.64	12.02	12.21	12.39	12.49	12.86	13.09	13.68
E-6	8.71	9.18	9.40	9.62	9.85	10.36	10.56	10.77	10.97	11.03	11.08	11.08	11.08	11.08	11.08
E-5	7.94	8.22	8.44	8.66	9.02	9.32	9.54	9.61	9.61	9.61	9.61	9.61	9.61	9.61	9.61
E-4	7.24	7.43	7.64	7.84	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03	8.03
E-3	6.82	7.02	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23	7.23
E-2	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60	6.60
E-1	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19	6.19
E-1 with less than four months of service: 5.97															

Source: Defense Department, ATPCO calculations

Army Times 9.20.04

"It's kind of feast or famine," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kevin Hunt, a C-17 loadmaster based at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Hunt said a slow week is a regular 40-hour week, but he could work as many as 80 hours or more in a given week when he's flying.

For a 40-hour week, he'd make \$26.47 per hour, which includes his Regular Military Compensation (basic pay, BAH and BAS) as well as flight pay. **For an 80-hour week, he'd make half that, or about \$13.24 per hour.**

O'Briant, the F-15 pilot at Langley, flies three or four times a week. And if he flies Monday mornings, he has to go in Sunday for a couple of hours. When he's not piloting, he's a squadron scheduler coordinating sorties and airspace.

"I've got a pretty good job flying F-15s," said O'Briant, who usually reports for duty at 6:30 a.m. "I can't complain."

Neither does Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Marc Riddle, 31, an aviation technician who keeps F/A-18 Hornets airworthy at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., where long days and late nights are the norm.

A 40-HOUR WORKWEEK (NONDEPLOYED)

This chart shows average hourly pre-tax earnings for service members fortunate enough to have regular 40-hour workweeks. At that pace, even the lowest-ranking enlisted members earn more than double the current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour. The figures here are based on the Defense Department's Regular Military Compensation chart, which shows average annual military salaries by combining the value of basic pay, the basic allowance for housing, the basic allowance for subsistence and the average tax advantage of those two untaxed allowances. RMC does not include any additional pays, such as special duty or hazardous duty pay.

Grade	Years of service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Commissioned officers															
O-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87.02
O-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84.63
O-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78.11
O-7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.59	70.88
O-6	-	-	-	-	-	48.42	48.63	48.63	50.79	54.45	56.48	58.48	59.62	60.77	63.01
O-5	-	-	-	-	42.38	43.14	44.79	46.00	47.56	49.96	51.08	52.18	53.39	53.39	53.39
O-4	31.34	34.47	36.00	36.35	37.81	39.43	41.52	43.17	44.32	44.98	45.36	45.36	45.36	45.36	45.36
O-3	27.28	29.64	31.21	33.13	34.24	35.46	36.27	37.62	38.34	38.34	38.34	38.34	38.34	38.34	38.34
O-2	23.33	25.60	28.26	28.92	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34	29.34
O-1	20.03	20.62	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76	23.76
Commissioned officers with more than four years of active duty as warrant officers or enlisted members															
O-3E	-	-	-	33.84	34.96	36.19	37.01	38.38	39.56	40.25	41.19	41.19	41.19	41.19	41.19
O-2E	-	-	-	29.96	30.38	31.04	32.16	33.03	33.67	33.67	33.67	33.67	33.67	33.67	33.67
O-1E	-	-	-	25.11	26.34	27.01	27.67	28.32	29.22	29.22	29.22	29.22	29.22	29.22	29.22
Warrant officers (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps)															
W-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.05	43.24	44.44	45.65
W-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.21	36.73	37.72	38.71	39.77	40.83	41.92
W-3	-	-	-	-	-	29.04	30.15	31.25	32.42	33.30	34.17	34.55	34.93	35.78	36.63
W-2	-	24.33	25.09	25.65	26.12	27.40	28.36	29.06	29.75	30.22	30.62	31.37	32.12	32.87	32.87
W-1	19.84	20.96	21.71	22.19	23.48	24.24	24.92	25.66	26.14	26.57	27.28	27.81	27.81	27.81	27.81
Enlisted members															
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.66	34.39	35.12	36.32	37.35	38.46	40.22
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.63	29.12	29.71	30.35	31.49	32.07	33.05	33.60	34.95
E-7	-	-	-	24.00	24.56	25.54	26.08	26.62	27.57	28.04	28.49	28.75	29.66	30.25	31.72
E-6	19.29	20.46	21.03	21.58	22.14	23.42	23.91	24.45	24.93	25.10	25.22	25.22	25.22	25.22	25.22
E-5	17.38	18.06	18.61	19.18	20.06	20.81	21.37	21.55	21.55	21.55	21.55	21.55	21.55	21.55	21.55
E-4	15.62	16.10	16.62	17.12	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58	17.58
E-3	14.56	15.07	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61	15.61
E-2	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01	14.01
E-1	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99
E-1 with less than four months of service: 12.44															

Army Times 9.20.04

"That's just the way it is," he said of his duty days, which typically stretch well beyond 50 hours per week, bringing his hourly pay to about \$17.39 per hour. "Ultimately, the mission and fixing the aircraft has a higher priority."

Most maintenance takes place after dark. When Riddle pulls the night shift, he arrives at the hangar before 5 p.m. to meet with his crew of 10 Marines. Officially, the shift ends at 3 a.m. There are times he's arrived for work at 6 a.m. and worked until 3 a.m. the following morning, he said.

"When it comes down to it, I wouldn't change anything," he said. "I enjoy deploying. I enjoy working on the aircraft. I enjoy spending time with the Marines." **[Great! Headed for Ramadi are you? Get a real taste of how much fun it is to spend time with the Marines.]**

Dixon, the Marine sergeant who works as a computer systems specialist, said 60-hour workweeks are not uncommon. His average is 55 hours, he said.

“It’s not good,” he said of the hours. “Out in the real world, I could be making 70, 80 grand easy. I could be making \$20, \$25 an hour easy. I’d probably be working a straight 40-hour week out there.”

He’s due for re-enlistment and, with a young family to support, is waiting to see what kind of bonus he’s offered.

Most people in his high-tech military occupational specialty don’t stay in uniform, he said.

He knows he can earn far more as a civilian.

“I saw someone turn down a \$75,000-a-year job” in favor of one that paid \$92,000, he said. “It was pretty impressive. That was the guy I replaced when I got here. Now I’m the one putting in the hours.”

Staff writers Laura Bailey, C. Mark Brinkley, Gina Cavallaro, Laura Colarusso, Matthew Cox, Mark Faram and Christian Lowe contributed to this report.

Does DoD Need An Old Morse Code Operator?

September 20, 2004 By Keith Taylor, Army Times.

The writer is a retired Navy officer living in Chula Vista, Calif.

The headline out of Columbia, S.C., read, “67-year-old retired Army doctor may be called back.” I knew things were going badly, but this badly? The guy is on Medicare, for Pete’s sake.

Then I remembered that a good friend and one of America’s top scientists was activated, promoted far beyond his highest rank of World War II and sent to Iraq shortly after the “Mission Accomplished” announcement. He was a septuagenarian.

I’m guessing that unless the politicians figure out how to reinstate the draft without losing votes, we’ll see more stuff like that.

Suppose the Defense Department starts looking at all us guys over 70?

That worried me so much I checked my blood pressure. Bad news! It was dangerously normal, far too low to qualify me for a medical deferment.

That worry was something I figured was behind me after 30 years’ combined active and fleet reserve duty.

At age 49, I became so complacent, I decided to recapture my youth by taking care of myself. I quit smoking and got serious about a vigorous exercise program. Within two years, I’d run the first of my five marathons. My pulse dropped to the low 40s. My

weight returned to that of my pre-chief petty officer days. My blood pressure caused my doctor to say, "I'll be damned!"

But everything wasn't perfect. I still have my semiannual psychosomatic backache. My left ear isn't good for much except to hold my glasses in place. Last week, another tooth fell out.

But things must be desperate. Would the Defense Department really call up us guys who are getting paid today for things we did a half-century ago?

I know there are lots of us, because I usually attend the annual reunion of the Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association. You should see the sea of gray hair in just our group. I'm truly sad when I hear that so-and-so died, but there's always the satisfaction of learning I outlived someone who would never laugh at my jokes.

If Uncle Sam called for me again, I wouldn't be serving with my gray-haired contemporaries. I'd be serving with much younger sailors. Guys who were born the year I retired could be O-4s today.

How would this generation's officers take to an old curmudgeon who doesn't even like war as the primary instrument of foreign policy?

And what on earth would I do in today's modern Navy? I was once a whiz-bang Morse code operator — a wonderful skill when messages were sent around the globe by dits and dahs. Trouble is, the computers that would enable me to copy Morse code quickly now also can transmit and receive those messages thousands of times faster than humans.

Of course, I wasn't a ditty bopper my whole career. I moved up the ranks, way up, so high I was once a special services officer. I had responsibility for a lot of volleyballs at one time. I wondered how critical a skill keeping track of volleyballs would be.

Perhaps I'm worrying too much, but what if the Navy needed a one-eared, gap-toothed geezer with a sore back? Could it be that, like in the movie "Independence Day," they might suddenly need Morse code operators?

Suppose the volleyballs fell overboard on a guided missile cruiser and they needed an expert to take inventory?

I called my friend, the scientist. He said, "I think they're looking mostly for people with special scientific skills for the detection of chemical or biological weapons, or, in the case of the 67-year-old doctor, for psychiatrists."

Since he didn't mention Morse code or volleyballs, I have stopped worrying for the time being. But there's always tomorrow.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



Inside The Resistance: Clergy United For War On Occupation; “Force Is The Only Language The United States Understands”

Sept. 24, 2004 Borzou Daragahi wrote this article for The Star-Ledger of Newark

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- For Sheik Mohammad Ali Mohammad al-Ghereri, a Sunni Muslim cleric, the question is no longer whether to tell his followers to fight the Americans, but how to assure they wage war properly.

"The holy warriors should have a clerical leader with them to advise them on all points, such as how to properly treat the Americans they capture," he said in his austere mosque in the capital's Zafarenieh district.

For fellow Sunni cleric Abdul Sattar Abdul-Jabbar, the issue is no longer whether his followers should kidnap foreigners, but which ones.

"Isn't the trucker who brings supplies for the Americans and helps the occupation also part of the occupation?" said Abdul-Jabbar, a member of the Association of Muslim Scholars, the country's largest Sunni religious grouping. "I think so."

For Mohammad Amin Bashar, a Sunni cleric and professor at Baghdad's Islamic University, the limits of classroom debate are likewise clear: "When two students come to us and have a disagreement, we tell them it's all right to disagree," he said. "The important thing is that we have a unified position in resisting the occupation."

If Sunni clerics are a window into the soul of the violent resistance to the United States' aims in Iraq, the landscape they reveal couldn't be bleaker for U.S.-led forces trying to quell an insurgency that shows no signs of abating.

"There is no discussion," said Imam Mahdi al-Sumaydai, a high-ranking Sunni cleric who recently was jailed for six months by the Americans for his inflammatory teachings.

"Jihad (holy war) is a must in the religion to defend your property, your honor or your religion. How can anyone deny our right to jihad?"

Publicly, the U.S. military and the Bush administration, as well as interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, continue to describe those who battle the U.S.-led coalition as "dead enders," criminals, gangsters and losers of the former regime making a last desperate stand in the face of the interim government's successes.

But on the streets, the calls by clerics for jihad are spreading into the mainstream.... "People are trying to be more religious right now because they think it's opposition to the Americans," said an Iraqi translator working for Westerners who asked that his name not be published. "They tell me, 'It's halal (holy) to kill you because you're a translator working for the Americans.'"

Under the administration of former occupation chief L. Paul Bremer, U.S. officials closely monitored the religious leaders, seeking out allies, asking some to tone down their rhetoric and occasionally arresting firebrand clerics such as Sumaydai. **But since Allawi took over, U.S. officials have done little to engage or communicate with Sunnis outside the confines of the interim government.**

Muslim clerics believe that force is the only language the United States understands, that Americans refuse to listen to Iraqis' peaceful demands.

Were it not for the resistance throughout the Sunni Triangle following the 2003 war, they say, the now-dissolved Iraqi Governing Council would not have been conceived; if not for the April uprisings in Fallujah and the Shi'a south, Allawi's interim government would not have been established; and without the ongoing violence in Baghdad and the rest of the country, elections would not be set in January.

"Those who called for political solutions have been repeatedly embarrassed and outdone by those wanting military solutions," said professor Bashar.

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

Three Occupation Guards Wounded In Dhuluiyah

24 September 2004 (AFP)

Three national guards were wounded in clashes overnight Friday between insurgents and joint Iraqi-US forces in the flashpoint town of Dhuluiyah, security and medical sources said. According to the ING, rebels launched an assault aimed at taking control of the main police station there.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Asshole In Congress Sees “No Alternative” To Mass Misery And Disease Death For “Millions” Of Iraqis

9/24/2004 By PAULINE JELINEK, The Associated Press

Lawmakers worried about a Bush administration request to shift to security some money budgeted for Iraq electricity, water and other reconstruction.

"Reducing supplies of potable water and increasing sewage will adversely affect the health and well-being of millions of Iraqis, but I see no alternative," said Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., chairman of the foreign operations subcommittee that held the hearing.

Silliest Delusion Of The Week

September 20, 2004 By Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writer

Lt. Col. Lopez Carter's battalion recently deployed into the southern portion of Sadr City Sept. 3 to operate jointly with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, **to try to prevent *Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi army from re-establishing itself*** among the roughly 2.3 million people who live here. The unit had fought insurgents here during uprisings in April and in August.

The soldiers spread the message that life will get better ***as long as the Mehdi army stays away.*** [In this and the preceding paragraph the assumption is offered that the Mehdi Army does not control Sadr City. Hello? Tell that to the soldiers dying in Baghdad every day. This is an example of the silly nonsense being written about Iraq. Every remotely neutral observer, including those inside the U.S. military, know very well that the Mehdi Army took control of huge sections of Baghdad earlier this year, continues to control huge sections of Baghdad by force of arms, and, therefore, writing about a mission to keep the Mehdi Army from “re-establishing itself” and to talk about it “staying away” is a delusional system, having nothing to do with the real world.]

A few feet away from the 1st Cavalry patch is another message that says “Good USA,” but it's been scribbled over.

Moqtada al-Sadr posters are everywhere. [In an area where the Mehdi Army is absent, according to what is written above? How odd.]

Another piece of graffiti reads, "Life to Moqtada. Death to America."

And not everyone smiles and waves — some stand with their arms crossed and glare at U.S. soldiers.

Said Capt. Randall McCauley, intelligence officer for 2-8. "They are intelligent guys, and they are finding ways to stay undetected."

Although recent fighting in Najaf got most of the media attention when Sadr's militia staged a pitched battle out of the Ali Imam Mosque, **warfare here has been just as severe for the units in the 1st Cav's 1st Brigade Combat Team.**

"It's been ferocious," said Lt. Col. Tim Meredith, commander of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. "We had direct-fire contact across the entire area," Meredith said, adding that the fighting has involved every unit in the brigade.

"We are not pulling out of Sadr City until the militia disbands, turns in its weapons and pulls up all the IEDs," said 2-8 commander Lt. Col. Lopez Carter. "Until then, combat operations will continue." **[Another silly comment. Since the Mehdi Army is supported and protected by the Iraqi people, it will never "disband." And Lt. Col. Lopez will find his soldiers will not keep obeying orders forever in a war to let George Bush own Iraq for the benefit of his campaign contributors. And that day is not as soon as one might wish, but much sooner that the clueless Lt. Col. Lopez could imagine in his worst nightmare.]**

Sometimes the neighborhood streets here in Sadr City are so cramped that the 1st Cavalry Division's Humvees have to squeeze through one foot at a time.

But that doesn't bother soldiers from Cobra Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. **[Oh fuck no, they just love it.]**

Before they came to Iraq in March, the unit turned in its M1A2 Abrams tanks for up-armored Humvees to become motorized infantry. Since then, they have learned how to maneuver their 17 Humvees, broken into Red, White and Blue platoons, in and out of the huge slum section of Baghdad, **looking to draw enemy fire. [They staked out troops like that in Vietnam. Their officers thought it was brilliant to "draw enemy fire" since they rarely had to do the dying. Then their own troops started killing them wholesale. Something about being "staked out" seemed to piss them off.]**

This marks the third time Cobra Company has come to Sadr City, **but it's the first time it has taken its lightly armored Humvees** into the labyrinth of narrow alleys and streets where insurgents melt away as quickly as they appear. Improvised explosive devices aren't as big a threat in narrow confines as they are on the main roads.

"They won't put IEDs in neighborhoods because they don't want to hit their own people," Gventer said.

In many cases, insurgents would launch attacks at tanks and vehicles on the main roads and retreat to the safety of the crowded neighborhoods.

“There is no way to get a tank into a neighborhood, but with a Humvee, we are able to get in there and get after them,” Gventer said.

Lt. Col. Lopez Carter, commander of 2-8, said he was skeptical of the idea at first, fearing coordinated ambushes.

“It took me about two weeks to feel comfortable with putting my Humvees down the alleys,” Carter said. “We are not dealing with a trained, disciplined, well-equipped enemy.

But sometimes high-tech tools can't counter the realities of urban combat in tight quarters. Simply finding the shooters can be all but impossible. “It's frustrating,” Flores said. “In this urban environment, a shot can come from over here, but the echo makes it sound like it's coming from over there.” [Finally, some truth.]

Although these are mounted patrols, the tankers of Cobra Company have often dismounted to search houses and alleyways.

“They haven't missed a beat,” Gventer said. **“They've learned how to kick down doors and cordon and search.” [This is called recruiting soldiers for the Mehdi Army.]**

Scouring these tightly packed neighborhoods is time-consuming, because they provide so many places for an enemy to come out of nowhere, attack and duck back into a doorway.

But leaders are convinced for now that using bold tactics such as these is the only way to prevent this small insurgent force from gaining control over the roughly 2.3 million people who live here. **[If this is what “leaders” are convinced of, their stupidity is truly world class. The clueless idiots don't get it. The “2.3 million people who live here” are the people who feed, clothe, arm and hide the Mehdi Army. They hate the occupation. They hate every soldier who represents the occupation. They don't want the fucking Bush occupation. They fight for their national independence. They are right to do so.)**

“We have to own the alleyways.” Carter said. “The citizens of Sadr City have got to know we are here to stay.” **[What they do know, and silly Carter has no grip on, is that the citizens of Sadr City know *they* are the people who are “here to stay.” It's *their* country. *They* live there. *They* will keep fighting until this Carter and all the Carters are gone. They will win. All they have to do is survive. The idea that 150,000 foreign invaders can keep control of a national of 22 million determined to win back their independence is one the most deadly, brainless ideas to put an army in harms way since Hitler thought he could conquer the world.]**

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.

Silliest Prediction Of The Week: Iraqi Minister Says Election To Cut Violence

Washington Times, September 23, 2004, Pg. 1

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari predicted that national elections planned for January will bring about a dramatic reduction in the violence now plaguing his country. **[The violence is caused by the occupation. Nothing will reduce it but removing all occupation forces. Duh.]**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THREE STOOGES



Bizarre Sociopath Rumsfeld, left, with tongue sticking out, meets with Iraqi Puppet Prime Minister Allawi, right, at the Pentagon Sept. 24, 2004. Guess who the middle stooge is and win a trip to Iraq. Guess wrong and win a trip to Iraq. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Bush's Little Hand Puppets:

Allawi And The U.S. Media

9.23.04 Sam Hamod, www.todaysalternativenews.com

Bush and Allawi continue to lie.... **But, those on the ground who know enough to distrust the words of Allawi, know better. Finally, today, it is time that the media started calling Allawi what he is, a Vichy style puppet for the Bush regime.**

MSNBC, the Baghdad chief of bureau for Newsweek, a Mr. Nordland, said, "Things are very bad, and many of the places that Mr. Allawi said are safe, are places I would not venture into." I personally don't think he'll last that long, especially if he wanders outside of the American protected "green zone."

This helps contradict Bush, Allawi and the sycophants who hang at the hotels and repeat Allawi's words to the American media outlets for whom they work.

MORE:

Cut The Silly Bullshit

[Los Angeles Times, September 24, 2004]

The positive portrait of Iraq painted by President Bush and Prime Minister Allawi runs counter to the harsh reality. President Bush and Prime Minister need to stop thinking their hopes will end chaos in Iraq and face the reality of a country in increasing turmoil.

Occupation Idiot Calls Rise In Violence A Sign Resistance Getting Weaker

New York Times, September 23, 2004

Iraqi interim Prime Minister Allawi said the increased violence in Iraq proves that insurgents are getting weaker, not stronger. **[By the kind of "reasoning" this thug employs, the U.S.A. won in Vietnam, the British won the Revolutionary War, the South won the Civil War, and Hitler won World War II. In fairness, however, being a hired goon for George W. Bush requires no intelligence whatsoever. Just an ability to kill people and lie constantly.]**

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

More Troops To Afghanistan:

Increasing Resistance To Occupation Prompts Deployment Of 1,100 Soldiers

(USA Today, September 23, 2004, Pg. 7)

The Pentagon is deploying up to 1,100 soldiers to Afghanistan to help with security before the Oct. 9 presidential election there.

Received:

Please Write To This Jailed CO Soldier

From: CHUCKFAGER@aol.com, Quaker House

Date: September 23, 2004

Dear Friends,

Can you do me a big favor? It won't take long.

Here's the request:

Take a few minutes and write a letter to an imprisoned GI conscientious objector.

Last year, many of you responded to a similar call, and Marine resister Stephen Funk received over a thousand cards, notes and letters, to help keep up his morale while he served six months in the brig at Camp Lejeune. This was a tremendous service to him – and a shock to the prison officials who thought they had a war resister isolated and forgotten.

That was great Friendly work. **Now I'm asking that you take up your pen again, for David Bunt, an army private who was sent to the same Camp Lejeune brig on September 22, 2004.**

David Bunt is a churchgoing family man; he and his wife Peggy have three sons; Gabriel, the youngest, is ten months. As you might imagine, Peggy could use some encouragement too.

Like many others, David joined the army after 9/11 to "serve his country" and fight terror. It was during a tour in Afghanistan that he realized he couldn't pull the trigger to kill another human. He wrote Quaker House from there for help in preparing a CO claim.

We've done our best, but every step has been an uphill struggle. David filed his CO claim last year, endured a brutal, unfair hearing and months of uncertainty, only to have his claim rejected.

What does a pacifist who is stuck in the army do then? Especially one with a family of four depending on him? David tried to persuade the army that holding on to him is a waste of taxpayers' money, and they should discharge him.

That's what he hoped for. But it's been one depressing, exhausting hassle after another since then, with Quaker House behind him all the way.

Instead of a discharge, earlier this week I watched David face a court martial at Ft. Bragg. He was charged with two military felonies: malingering (i.e., faking illness to avoid duty) and "missing movement" (i.e., not getting on a plane to Iraq), and a lesser charge, missing a parachute jump.

The charges could have meant jail for several years. Fortunately, David had a skilled JAG lawyer, and the Army had no real evidence, so the felony charges didn't stick. He did plead guilty to missing the jump, because he had. For this he got a jail sentence of 45 days, to be served in the brig at Camp Lejeune.

Well, it could have been worse. Yet as anyone who's stared at jail cell walls knows, tedium, isolation and depression are the everyday hazards of life on the inside, and forty-five days of it is more than enough. On the outside, Peggy is feeling overwhelmed too.

Which is where you and I come in. The Lejeune brig permits visitors only on weekends and holidays, for a few hours. I'll be visiting David whenever possible – and anyone else who can make a trip there will be very welcome. But for the long days in between visits, I'm turning to you for help:

Will you write David and/or Peggy a letter, or a card, bearing a message of encouragement and support? It won't take long. (David is very interested in Bible study, and scripture reflections are particularly welcome.) And while you're at it, consider adding another note to his wife Peggy, who is also active in their Baptist church.

Here's where to send the letters:

David Bunt
Bldg 1042 PSC 20140
Camp Lejeune NC 28542

Peggy Bunt % Quaker House
223 Hillside Avenue
Fayetteville NC 28301

Thanks for taking time to make this gesture of support; it is a genuine ministry. And if you feel so moved, please pass this message along to others. David will be in the brig until the end of October, so there's time for others to join in.

Peace,
Chuck Fager

Matthew 25:36: For I was in prison, and you came to me."

Chuck Fager, Director
Quaker House, Fayetteville NC 910-323-3912
chuckfager@aol.com www.quakerhouse.org

Web Copies

For back issues as they originally appeared when issued 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>

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