

GI SPECIAL 2#B73



FTA 1968

F.T.A. 2004

TO: GI SPECIAL
FROM: hEkLe, Baquba, Iraq
9.22.04

"They paint the walls to cover my pen, but the Shit House Bandit has struck again!"

--Shit House Bandit

The US Army loves a good robot.

A soldier who takes orders obediently without thought or question is considered a good soldier.

Each automaton is expected to take to gospel any ideas or beliefs held by the authority over him. Any thinking that would contradict the absolute omnipotence of the army as a whole is considered heresy.

The intense mind control starts very early in a soldier's career. Once a person enters into the ranks of the war machine, that person will be subjected to inane mind games and deprived of human spirit and character.

An installation of fear will break down his free will, clear it of all pride and self-respect, and replace it with fiber-optic bloodlust. The average soldier soon discovers to always

be the yes-man, always stay motivated, and always know that the army is steadfast in its supremacy. Never again would that soldier think for himself or question authority.

Those few of the enlisted who would dare display any traits of individuality or independent thought are immediately singled out and dealt with.

These such “black sheep” are subjected to ridicule, ostracism, and idle threats in order to conform that soldier back to the standardized way of thinking. Trepidation plays a huge role in keeping the lower ranking in line, thus smiting any desires for an individual to speak out for himself.

Valid complaints of ill treatment are expected to pass upwards through a long, bureaucratic chain of command, usually brushed off repeatedly and almost never reaching the authority needed to deal with the problem at hand.

Robots are expected to receive orders and process them without thought or feeling. Killing is the robot’s task. Emotion is not tolerated. Fear is processed into hatred and hatred is turned into motivation. The drone is expected to eat, sleep, and to mindlessly serve the High Command.

The army loves a good robot, but the army consistently neglects the fact that its soldiers are human, displaying every feeling and emotion that a person normally would.

Deployments are a long and hard trial of negativity, doubts, and horror.

Soldiers in Iraq are incessantly faced with the extreme conditions of a searing desert, a constant paranoia of their volatile environment, undue stress caused by the despot authority over them, and imminent death around every corner.

The soldier will make every attempt to keep these problems to himself, to deal with them on his own terms. Talking to friends about these problems can only help so much, and an attempt to express these issues to his superiors prove to be futile...one can be accused of cowardice only so much.

Angst and frustration fill the bottle more and more everyday, until the time comes to ignite the greasy rag. With no one around, and the all seeing eye of Big Brother out of range, the soldier makes his stand within the confines of a restroom stall. Marker in hand, freshly painted white walls his canvas, he explodes and sums it all up with one rebellious thought...

“FUCK THE ARMY!”

It goes without saying, an American soldier is not privileged to the same constitutional rights he defends with his life.

The soldier cannot come and go as he sees fit; there is no such thing as a “two-week notice” in his line of work. Limitations are placed on what he says, and free speech is certainly not free. Incorrect thoughts are to be kept silent, and dire consequences await for those who act on their convictions. Due to the absolute privacy found in bathrooms,

what was once suppressed frustrations suddenly become an open forum of ideas and acquisitions. **The latrine walls become what The Combine dreads the most, a podium of free speech for soldiers.**

You will not find too many of these such restrooms or portable toilets on smaller camps. The fear of authority in such places cuts too deep. However, on larger forward operating bases, usually consisting of many different units, the shit will hit the fan. **You can join in on the open-ended debates, if you remembered your marker. I for one have made a black permanent marker an everyday part of my uniform.**

Most of the time, you will see unit rivalries going back and forth, sort of like a dog marking his territory:

“1/8 Cavalry was here...too damned long!”

“HHC 854th ENG all the way”

“B 1-7 FA don’t know their asses from a hole in the ground!”

Or you may see valid complaints from the front, such as National Guard units who were extended past a year, or soldiers who were stop-losses from leaving the army:

“One weekend a month?! BULLSHIT!!”

“Thank God I got out of the army...SEVEN MONTHS AGO!!”

“FUCK THE WORLD!”

“FUCK IRAQ!”

The most interesting toilets I have found in the past have been the ones containing politically heated debates, going back and forth from one scribbled statement to the next:

“FUCK G.W. BUSH AND HIS FUCKING OIL WAR!”

“FUCK YOU, BASTARD! BUSH IS FIGHTING TERRORISM WHERE IT STARTS!”

“HE MUST BE AN OFFICER. FUCKING TOOL!”

“THAT’S OUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF! YOU CALL YOURSELF A SOLDIER?!”

“YOU CALL YOURSELF INTELLIGENT?”

...and then there’s always something from the incorrigibles:

“FUCK THE ARMY!”

“FUCK BIG BROTHER!”

“FUCK THE \$YSTEM!”

...or one of my personal favorites:

“FIGHT FASCISM!

(insert [1] well drawn anti-swastika circle)

THE U.S. ARMY IS RAN BY NAZI SWINE!!”

Bathroom graffiti is never a pretty sight. The language is always horrible, certainly not spoken through the mouths that kiss mothers. One thing should be made very clear right now: soldiers talk like a bunch of sailors, bottom line.

One thing very interesting is that of the FTA.

This is an almost underground cult within the ranks. The members of this secret organization refer to each other as Joe's. Soldiers will know who is FTA just by looking at him.

He will immediately understand that “Joe” hates being oppressed by his superiors, disagrees with the army's stupid rules, and resents the army for taking him to crazy 3rd world countries, only to try to kill him.

The actual graffiti “FTA” can be found in almost every portable toilet or restroom where others have left their opinions. It's almost never written fancy or artistic, just three bold, simple letters...

F.T.A.

One can surely assume what it means.

It's a safe guess that “lifer's” or high ranking officers see this kind of subversive swill and become rather angry about it.

The whole façade of “one big happy army” disappears right in front of their eyes, and their petty little fantasy world of structure and order come crashing down around their ankles.

The only way to counter the bathroom graffiti is, of course, painting over the walls. Or take a can of spray paint and omit the slander quicker than G.W. Bush can black-out his sham military record.

The fallacy of treating soldiers like tools is that the soldier will eventually speak out in one way or another. No matter how many times a bathroom wall gets painted over, Joe and his pen will strike again...

“I will never run out of ink as long as there's bathroom walls to write on!”

--anonymous

I strongly believe in and support bathroom graffiti.

Whether it helps to vent frustrations or simply express opinions and ideas, the free speech of the shithouse will always live on. Quick little shout-outs against the system are always good, and sometimes you feel entertained by what someone said.

Other times the graffiti isn't too intelligent, but it helps to gauge the soldier's overall feelings for the army and the war.

Obviously, the dissension is rampant as the message is literally on the wall. A good tag will remind you that you are not the only one that feels the war is wrong or your "president" is a complete joke.

However, it is the graffiti that speaks The Truth that always leaves the lasting impression:

"The loss of diversity is the degradation of effectiveness.

Submission to conformity is the deprivation of creative expression.

The inability to form a personal opinion leads to the lack of self worth.

THINK FOR YOURSELF!" --The Heretic

Author's Note To The Above Article: 9.24.04

From: hEkLe, Baquba, Iraq

I want you to know one thing about the piece, those quotes I wrote in there are all 100% guaranteed genuine quotes I pulled off the walls of porta-johns and other restroom facilities. I write down the good ones when I see it.

And a very interesting point of view from our resistors. One thing everyone should remember is that the people we are fighting are just like any other freedom loving Americans back home, and there is no "army" of resistors as the Pentagon ignorantly assumes, it's more like a movement. I've got respect for them.

Anti-War Anger Among U.S. Troops In Iraq Growing

September 21, 2004 By Ann Scott Tyson, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor, WASHINGTON

"People are so fed up with Iraq, and fed up with Bush." "This whole war was based on lies."

Inside dusty, barricaded camps around Iraq, groups of American troops in between missions are gathering around screens to view an unlikely choice from the US box office: "Fahrenheit 9-11," Michael Moore's controversial documentary attacking the commander-in-chief.

"Everyone's watching it," says a Marine corporal at an outpost in Ramadi that is mortared by insurgents daily. "It's shaping a lot of people's image of Bush."

The film's prevalence is one sign of a discernible countercurrent among US troops in Iraq - those who blame President Bush for entangling them in what they see as a misguided war.

"[For] 9 out of 10 of the people I talk to, it wouldn't matter who ran against Bush - they'd vote for them," said a US soldier in the southern city of Najaf, seeking out a reporter to make his views known. "People are so fed up with Iraq, and fed up with Bush."

Whether representing pockets of opposition to Bush or something bigger, soldiers and marines on Iraq's front lines can be impassioned in their criticism. One Marine officer in Ramadi who had lost several men said he was thinking about throwing his medals over the White House wall.

"Nobody I know wants Bush," says an enlisted soldier in Najaf, adding, "This whole war was based on lies."

Like several others interviewed, his animosity centered on a belief that the war lacked a clear purpose even as it took a tremendous toll on US troops, many of whom are in Iraq involuntarily under "stop loss" orders that keep them in the service for months beyond their scheduled exit in order to keep units together during deployments.

"There's no clear definition of why we came here," says Army Spc. Nathan Swink, of Quincy, Ill. "First they said they have WMD and nuclear weapons, then it was to get Saddam Hussein out of office, and then to rebuild Iraq. I want to fight for my nation and for my family, to protect the United States against enemies foreign and domestic, not to protect Iraqi civilians or deal with Sadr's militia," he said.

Specialist Swink, who comes from a family of both Democrats and Republicans, plans to vote for Kerry. "Kerry protested the war in Vietnam. He is the one to end this stuff, to lead to our exit of Iraq," he said. **[Wrong. You're the one to "end this stuff." Instead of waiting for Kerry to save your ass, read your history. The Vietnam War stopped when the whole army rebelled against it and wouldn't fight it anymore. And Kerry likes you right where you are.]**

Other US troops expressed feelings of guilt over killing Iraqis in a war they believe is unjust.

"We shouldn't be here," said one Marine infantryman bluntly. "There was no reason for invading this country in the first place. We just came here and [angered people] and killed a lot of innocent people," said the marine, who has seen regular combat in Ramadi. "I don't enjoy killing women and children, it's not my thing."

As with his comrades, the marine accepted some of the most controversial claims of "Fahrenheit 9/11," which critics have called biased. "Bush didn't want to attack [Osama] Bin Laden because he was doing business with Bin Laden's family," he said.

Another marine, Sgt. Christopher Wallace of Pataskala, Ohio, agreed that the film was making an impression on troops. **"Marines nowadays want to know stuff. They want to be informed, because we'll be voting out here soon," he said. " 'Fahrenheit 9/11' opened our eyes to things we hadn't seen before."**

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)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

“The Death Of A Soldier”

(Sept. 25) By KIM HOUSEGO, AP & By Edward Wong, The New York Times

The U.S. military announced the death of a soldier.

The First Cavalry Division, charged with controlling the capital, said a soldier with Task Force Baghdad died on Saturday after a roadside bomb exploded by the soldier's vehicle at 6:45 a.m. The vehicle was slightly damaged, the division said.

“Samarra Is Not Over With”

24 September 2004 By Patrick J. McDonnell, The Los Angeles Times

[Two weeks ago one of those idiot gasbag generals who love TV interviews boasted about how Samarra had been taken and the resistance broken.]

In the city of Samarra, Allawi noted, a new police chief had been appointed and Iraqi forces were patrolling the city "in close coordination" with the U.S.-led coalition. **But U.S. commanders say the insurgent stronghold, which the Army recently entered for the first time in months, remains far from pacified.**

"Samarra is not over with," said Lt. Col. James Stockmoe, intelligence officer with the 1st Infantry Division, which patrols Samarra. The police chief appointed this month, at least the 12th since Saddam Hussein's ouster, resigned within a few days after receiving death threats.

Some U.S. military officials fear that the city's police force is largely in cahoots with insurgents, giving them access to weapons and vehicles.

More Women, Kids Butchered In U.S. Terror Attacks



An Iraqi man rushes his wounded son to a nearby ambulance in the restive city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.(AFP/Fares Dlimi)

25 September 2004 Aljazeera.net

US warplanes, tanks and artillery units have bombed the Iraqi town of Falluja, killing at least eight people and wounding 15.

Dr Dhiya al-Jumaili of Falluja General Hospital said at least eight people were killed and 15 wounded, including women and children.

Reuters quotes the US military as saying: "**There were no innocent civilians *reported* in the immediate area at the time of the strike.**" ["Reported?" "Reported" by who? **What the fuck is this bullshit supposed to mean? He wanted a phone call**

from Falluja saying women and kids weren't around? He's whining that since he didn't get one, slaughtering the civilians isn't his fault? Bloody asshole.]

Iraqi War Reports: Resistance Point Of View

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

Thursday, 23 September 2004.

Resistance gunfire brings down US helicopter near al-Yusufiyah.

Iraqi Resistance forces opened fire on a US Apache helicopter in the Sadr al-Yusufiyah area south of Baghdad, **striking it with intense and concentrated Dimitrov machinegunfire.** The correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam in al-Yusufiyah reported that the attack set the aircraft ablaze.

Eyewitnesses, however, provided different versions of the incident. Some said that the helicopter fell in flames into Saddam International Airport, others said that they saw it ablaze but did not know what happened to it exactly.

The correspondent wrote that the Dimitrov is a Russian-made anti-aircraft weapon that fires a 14.5mm shell and has a range of up to 3.5 or 4km.

Resistance forces US transport plane to make emergency landing.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a huge US C-130 transport plane with C5K rockets at about 11:00am Thursday morning. **The rocket fire struck the left wing of the American airplane, and forced it to make an emergency landing** at Saddam International Airport, according to the local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam.

Resistance pounds US camps around Iraq Thursday.

Various US bases in Iraq came under rocket and mortar attack on Thursday morning. **At 11:00am Iraqi Resistance fighters fired more than 25 shells, believed to be 60mm mortar rounds, at a meeting attended by the governor of Ba'qubah and a number of US soldiers.** Eyewitnesses who work in the governor's office building told the correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam that the blasts destroyed a number of cars belonging to the governorate and US Humvees.

Resistance downs US Black Hawk helicopter.

At 7:00pm Thursday night, Iraqi Resistance fighters brought down an American Black Hawk helicopter in the Khan Sa'd area, probably with a C5K anti-aircraft rocket, according to a correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam.

Friday, 24 September 2004.

Five US Marines killed in Resistance ambush in al-Yusufiyah Friday afternoon.

Five US Marines were killed when Iraqi Resistance forces engaged in a fierce battle around 4:00pm local time Friday afternoon in al-Yusufiyah, south of Baghdad. **The local correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that the fighting erupted when a US patrol of the amphibious armored vehicles used by the Marines was ambushed by the Iraqi Resistance. Two amphibious armored vehicles were destroyed, killing five US Marines.** This took place despite Apache helicopters that were hovering in the area attempting to provide air cover

Resistance ambushes US patrol near Samarra', kills one US intelligence officer, captures a second.

Iraqi Resistance forces attacked a US patrol consisting of six Humvees, two armored vehicles, and four GMC Suburbans of the type used by the US CIA. Resistance fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades and BKC's in their ambush at about 7:45am Friday morning, local time in the al-Ishaqiyah area near Samarra', 120km north of Baghdad.

The Samarra' correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that some Iraqi civilians were surrounded in the area of the fighting **and that the battle left one US Intelligence GMC disabled when it collided with a tree. The rest of the US patrol fled to relative safety half a kilometer away. Resistance fighters pulled two men out of the disabled GMC. One appeared to have been killed in the attack, but the other appeared only to have been injured. The Resistance fighters quickly packed up both of them and sped away with them from the area.**

Operation Iraqi Fuckup Not Protecting Oil Industry For Bush Regime

Sep 24 BAIJI, Iraq (AFP)

Tribal loyalties and political patronage, combined with a lack of effective intelligence, are undermining efforts to stem mounting sabotage against Iraqi oil infrastructure, US commanders complain.

Despite the importance of the network to Iraq's economic future, General John Batiste, commander of the US 1st Infantry Division, said he had plotted a "steady" rise in the volume of sabotage against the pipelines.

The US-backed interim government puts the cost of the attacks, which now number more than 300, at millions of dollars a day.

To beef up security the state-owned North Oil Company (NOC) has paid thousands of dollars to tribal chiefs to recruit their own guards with next to no regulation.

It is a practice that US commanders and private security officials see as ineffective -- however one which the US military employed last year before discovering that some of the tribes it had hired were implicated in attacks.

No easy solutions exist for protecting the vast network.

"There's no place you can go to say hey, I want your best security dudes to secure the refinery," said Major Stanley Moss, blaming the faulty security on nepotism and political patronage.

One NOC official said he gets up to 15 complaints a day over contracts being awarded to the wrong person amid fierce feuds over land rights. Military and civilian officials suspect that some clans commit sabotage and finger rival tribes on erroneous criminal or insurgency charges.

The 1st Infantry Division wants the oil ministry to take the bull by the horns over security and insists that neither coalition soldiers nor the Iraqi national guard have the time to protect pipelines in northern Iraq.

Locals have been reluctant to come forward with intelligence. "They're afraid for their lives and rightly so. If you've got an insurgent group working in town and they know you're the one who told on them, you're as good as dead," said Captain Thomas Laflash.

"Right now his priorities are probably elsewhere," said General John Batiste, commander of the US 1st Infantry Division, when pressed about the efforts being made by Oil Minister Thamer Abbas Ghadban, **with most of the political elite in Baghdad turning their attention towards elections scheduled for January next year.**

More Notes From A Lost War; The National Guards That Won't

25 September 2004 By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, The Washington Post

Saqlawiya, Iraq - The police outpost here is supposed to house 90 armed members of Iraq's National Guard. Their job is to keep watch over a stretch of six-lane highway, deterring insurgents from laying roadside bombs and trying to blow up a bridge over the nearby Tharthar Canal.

But when the U.S. Marine commander responsible for the area visited the outpost this month, he found six bedraggled guardsmen on duty. None of them was patrolling. The Iraqi officer in charge was missing. And their weapons had been locked up by the Marines after a guardsman detonated a grenade inside the compound.

The guardsmen in Saqlawiya, who come from the nearby city of Fallujah, were not always this pathetic. They were, as one Army officer put it in March, "a glimmer of hope in an otherwise dark place."

The battalion disintegrated in April because of an order by the White House and the Pentagon to have the Marines lay siege to Fallujah - a decision top Marine officials now acknowledge was a profound mistake. As Marines advanced into the city, the guardsmen were put in an untenable position: Either flee, or join the Marines in fighting Iraqi neighbors - and risk violent retribution. The guardsmen fled.

Now, the Marines are trying to reconstitute the two battalions, mustering members to report to outposts in such nearby towns as Saqlawiya. In some ways, it is exactly what the Army's 82nd Airborne Division did a year ago, when it formed the two battalions.

"The soldiers on duty, they will be paid, they will be taken care of," Marine Lt. Col. Gregg Olson, the commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment, told Iraqi Lt. Wissam Hamid.

After Olson's comment was translated, Hamid nodded but his expression betrayed disagreement. "There is a war there," he said, referring to Fallujah. "People are afraid to come to work."

Olson asked about the unit's vehicles, which were stolen by the insurgents over the summer. Had the guardsmen recovered them? Hamid said they had not.

As Olson walked out into the bright afternoon sun, the task ahead was clear to him. "We have to start from scratch," he said.

TROOP NEWS

Advisers To Rumsfeld: DoD Can't Sustain Current Occupations

(Inside The Pentagon, September 23, 2004, Pg. 1)

A Pentagon advisory group has told Secretary Rumsfeld that DoD cannot sustain ongoing occupations, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan, using the military's existing force levels.

Rumsfeld Admits Large Parts Of Iraq Lost To Resistance



Rumsfeld at Pentagon news conference, September 24 using his hands to illustrate the amount of ground the Bush Occupation still controls in Iraq, which he estimated to be two feet wide, and about six feet across. (Mannie Garcia/Reuters)

CQ Today, September 23, 2004: Following a closed-door meeting with Secretary **Rumsfeld**, senators said the briefing made them more "realistic" about Iraq's deteriorating security conditions. Senators said the briefing just **confirmed** their belief that the violence is getting worse and **the U.S. doesn't control large parts of Iraq.**



Via David Cline, Veterans For Peace

Slaughter Of Iraqi Civilians Mounting: Imperial Lt. Col. Hasn't A Clue

...the widespread casualties meant that coalition forces already had lost the political campaign: "I think they lost the hearts and minds a long time ago."

Sep. 25, 2004 By NANCY A. YOUSSEF, Knight Ridder Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Operations by U.S. and multinational forces and Iraqi police are killing twice as many Iraqis - most of them civilians - as attacks by insurgents, according to statistics compiled by the Iraqi Health Ministry and obtained exclusively by Knight Ridder.

Iraqi officials said the statistics proved that U.S. airstrikes intended for insurgents also were killing large numbers of innocent civilians. Some say these casualties are undermining popular acceptance of the American-backed interim government. [Imagine that!]

That suggests that more aggressive U.S. military operations, which the Bush administration has said are being planned to clear the way for nationwide elections scheduled for January, could backfire and strengthen the insurgency.

American military officials said "damage will happen" in their effort to wrest control of some areas from insurgents.

They blamed the insurgents for embedding themselves in communities, saying that's endangering innocent people. Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, an American military spokesman, said the insurgents were living in residential areas, sometimes in homes filled with munitions. "As long as they continue to do that, they are putting the residents at risk," Boylan said. "We will go after them." [This is a marvelous classic of blind Imperial stupidity. The Lt. Col. is brain-dead to the simple fact that the Iraqi people are the resistance, and therefore, obviously, live among themselves. Duh. That's what a national liberation movement against a foreign invasion and occupation is all about. With fools like this in charge, no wonder it's all turned to shit. He's clueless. Well, he missed his big chance. He would have made a terrific British officer in 1776, full of justifications for slaughtering Americans.]

The Health Ministry statistics indicate that more children have been killed around Ramadi and Fallujah than in Baghdad, though those cities together have only one-fifth of the Iraqi capital's population.

Juan Cole, a history professor at University of Michigan who specializes in Shiite Islam, said the widespread casualties meant that coalition forces already had lost the political campaign: "I think they lost the hearts and minds a long time ago."

At his fruit stand in southern Baghdad, Raid Ibrahim, 24, theorized: "The Americans keep attacking the cities not to keep the security situation stable, but so they can stay in Iraq and control the oil."

"Anyone who hates America has come here to fight.... " said Hamed, **the ministry official. "But everyone is afraid of the Americans, not the fighters. And they should be."**

The ministry is convinced that nearly all of those reported dead are civilians, not insurgents. Most often, a family member wouldn't report it if his or her relative died fighting for rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia or another insurgent force, and the relative would be buried immediately, said Dr. Shihab Ahmed Jassim, another member of the ministry's operations section.

"People who participate in the conflict don't come to the hospital. Their families are afraid they will be punished," said Dr. Yasin Mustaf, the assistant manager of al Kimdi Hospital near Baghdad's poor Sadr City neighborhood. "Usually, the innocent people come to the hospital. That is what the numbers show."

Iraqis are aware of the casualties that are due to U.S. forces, and nearly everyone has a story to tell.

At al Kimdi Hospital, Dr. Mumtaz Jaber, a vascular surgeon, said that three months ago, his 3-year-old nephew, his sister and his brother-in-law were driving in Baghdad at about 9 p.m. when they saw an American checkpoint. His nephew was killed.

"They didn't stop fast enough. The Americans shot them immediately," Jaber said. "This is how so many die."

At the Baghdad morgue, Dr. Quasis Hassan Salem said he saw a family of eight brought in: three women, three men and two children. They were sleeping on their roof last month because it was hot inside. A military helicopter shot at them and killed them: "I don't know why."

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.

Wasting Soldiers Lives

September 23, 2004 Jessica Mathews, Washington Post

What was an emerging opposition is now a full-fledged insurgency. The United States is still without a political strategy that recognizes this reality. **As a result, the military is forced into a stop-go-stop hesitancy in which soldiers' lives are being wasted and security continues to worsen.**

Air Force's Roche Suspected Of Crooked Defense Contract Deal

(Reuters.com, September 23, 2004, Pg. 12)

The Justice Department, acting on a White House request, will look to see if Air Force Secretary James Roche engaged in possible misconduct over an initial proposal to lease 100 Boeing air refuelers.

Insurer To Refund Money To Soldiers Ripped Off By High-Cost Life Policies

[New York Times, September 23, 2004]

American Amicable Life Insurance Co. has offered to return cash refunds to hundreds of soldiers who signed up for high-cost life insurance during basic training at Fort Benning. Those refunds could be just the beginning---similar refunds may be justified for GIs who bought policies at other bases in Georgia.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Shiites And Sunnis United Against The Occupation



So Much For That "Civil War" Bullshit

Shiites and Sunnis demonstrate outside the Abu Ghraib prison complex Sept. 24. They protest the abuse of prisoners and urge for their release. Man at left holds a photo of resistance Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

Welcome To Little Fallujah

25 September 2004 By Mariam Fam, The Associated Press

Baghdad - Haifa Street bears the scars of recent violence: A pockmarked edifice, a blackened facade, a charred car carcass. "Long live the courageous Iraqi resistance," reads a scrawl on a wall. "Death to the traitors," warns another.

This street of high-rise apartments has erupted into the latest trouble spot in Baghdad, the seat of power of Iraq's U.S.-backed interim government and a scene of fierce clashes between armed militants and U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Militants are able to force a showdown in one of Baghdad's main arteries.

"Before, we used to hear about Fallujah and Ramadi," said street resident Salma Abbas, citing two insurgent strongholds west of Baghdad. "Now it has become Haifa Street."

The graffiti casts the battle in nationalist terms. "No USA," screams one. "Death to the government," warns another. "Yes! Yes to the leader Saddam Hussein," reads yet another.

From her 13th floor apartment in a towering off-white and orange building, Abbas has watched the changes to the street she has called home for the past 19 years. Saddam Hussein's government gave many of the apartments in her residential compound to college professors, deducting the price in installments from their salaries. There are also doctors and engineers.

But in recent months, peering out her window, she has started seeing strangers: Men whose faces were covered with black bags with two holes for the eyes. They fade in and out of the area in their cars and prowl the street, grenade launchers balanced on their shoulders, she said.

U.S. raids and patrols offend the nationalist sentiments of residents here, argues Nabil Mohammed, a political science professor at Baghdad University's Center for International Studies.

"People have close-knit relationships so it's easier for a resistance fighter to hide there ... and maybe get protection," he added.

The word on the street is that the Americans now call Haifa "Hell's way," Abbas said. Residents came up with their own nickname: "Little Fallujah."



Photo by The Associated Press Police officers guard their faces from the intense heat as they inspect a burning oil pipeline near al-Fahhama village, north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday. An oil industry source said saboteurs blew up part of the East Baghdad oil field, causing extensive damage.

Occupation Cops Officer Killed

25 September 2004 By Edward Wong, The New York Times

Northeast of Baghdad, near the city of Baquba, insurgents shot dead a police captain named Salman Turki al-Shamani, Agence France-Presse reported.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

New War, Same Tired Old Bullshit

September 24, 2004 Jack Dalton, Online Journal Contributing Writer. *Jack Dalton is a disabled Vietnam veteran and freelance writer that lives in Portland, Oregon. He can be reached thru his web site at www.ommp.org.*

Forty years ago this nation was lied and deceived into the Vietnam War. We now know, thanks to the Pentagon Papers, how bad and deep the deception was. Even after the expose it still took another two-three years before it was finally over—with over 58,000 dead Americans and over 2 million Vietnamese dead as a result of that bogus war.

Today we hear all the same catch phrases from the Vietnam War days being repeated by Bush & Company: "better to fight them there than here;" "we must stay the course;" "our safety depends on it;" "promote freedom and democracy;" "if we cut and run our credibility will be at stake;" "winning the hearts and minds;" and the list is seemingly endless.

The Kill Ratio

Comment:

There may be a direct relationship between the increasing number of dead U.S. troops and the fact that an ever higher proportion of them are reserves and guards.

That's the weak link in the military chain that holds Iraq for Bush.

1. They've been forced to use very inferior troops, in capabilities, training, experience, equipment and personal physical strength. Thirty-five isn't 19. By now the resistance troops are tough, seasoned, experienced, and survivors. The dumb ones are dead.

A guerrilla fighter in Falluja, speaking in a room full of mortar shells and rocket-propelled grenades, said, "For a year and a half we have caused the American army to face a dilemma in Iraq. Thank God we are much better than at the start of this uprising in terms of the quality of our attacks and the military tactics of the resistance." (September 12, 2004 Will Dunham, Reuters)

Now, they're up against Jerry the accountant and whoever else has spent most of their life being civilians and going to work every day. Not what you'd want to have ever more of in war.

2. The ones getting killed are rooted in the society, not living on a military base as full time troops. The reverberations will be infinite. T.

The Empire Needs Kerry

Comment:

A substantial section of the people that own and run everything in society have decided it has to be Kerry. The hundreds of millions are flowing into his campaign. Those who own and control America for their own private profit vote with what really counts in elections: money.

If Bush had to do another Imperial war, nobody would believe him. Kerry could invade Venezuela or wherever a lot more easily.

And the Bush team is more like a malevolent Animal House. Would you want them running your Empire?

Doesn't matter, we never got anything through any election in history. The movements from below did it all. Including stopping Vietnam. T.

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.

Bush Only Rules The Ground The Soldiers Stand On

It's hard to identify any major urban areas outside Kurdistan where the United States and its allies exercise effective control. **Insurgents operate freely, even in the heart of Baghdad, while coalition forces, however many battles they win, rule only whatever ground they happen to stand on.** (September 22, 2004 Paul Krugman NYT)

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation "Under Siege"

September 25, 2004 AP

Many foreigners are leaving the country, finding the circumstances increasingly unacceptable, while others are boosting security. New locks are being put on doors and companies are re-thinking how they operate.

The feeling on the streets of Iraq is being described by foreigners, including those from other Arab nations, as being under siege.

"It Was Like Rats On Cheese" Truck Drivers Blow Lid Off Halliburton Iraq Fraud: While Soldiers Die Bush Buddies Loot The Treasury

Sept. 24, 2004 (CBS)

Halliburton's public face is feeding the troops and trucking supplies through dangerous desert.

But waste and theft are silent players in Halliburton's Iraq operations, according to two men who drove supply trucks for Halliburton subsidiary KBR, reports CBS News Correspondent Sharyl Attkisson.

KBR has a multi-billion dollar contract to supply U.S. troops in Iraq, but is accused of hundreds of millions of dollars in improper charges.

Former KBR truckers David Wilson and James Warren say Americans paying Halliburton's \$7 billion tab were getting taken for a ride.

There was no basic plan, they say, to maintain all the supply trucks. So even in oil-rich Iraq, "you couldn't get parts or oil or filters for oil changes," said Wilson, a former KBR convoy commander.

That meant \$85,000 trucks got ditched in the desert.

"A lot of times trucks were left on the side of the road because of something as simple as a flat tire or a bad filter," Wilson said.

Theft was a problem, too. Supplies were poorly strapped onto flatbeds in open view -- a free-for-all for looters who stole off the trucks as they drove through town.

And in Army camps, they say some soldiers and Halliburton employees helped themselves.

"We'd be in our trucks asleep at night and people would be on top of our trailer going thru our stuff," said former Halliburton truck driver James Warren.

"It was like rats on cheese," Wilson added.

There may be no way to know how much was lost and stolen. **Incredibly, Warren says there were no manifests listing what was on the trucks to begin with.**

"There was no accounting for what was shipped and what was actually delivered," he said.

Warren and Wilson recently told their stories to Congress after Halliburton/KBR fired them for allegedly running Iraqi civilians off the road -- **something they say their supervisors repeatedly instructed them to do to protect the convoys.**

<p>Halliburton makes up to two percent profit over costs -- a "cost-plus" arrangement that critics say leaves little incentive to save: the more taxpayer dollars Halliburton spends; the more Halliburton makes.</p>
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Imperial Dream Turns Into Imperial Nightmare:

Scared Off By The Resistance, Foreign Capitalists Shun Iraq

September 23, 2004 Robert L. Moore, theledger.com

As the violence in Iraq worsens, entrepreneurs and insurers are having second thoughts about risking investments there. So, while many of the old government-owned industries have collapsed through looting and lack of funds, the hoped-for foreign investment has slowed to a snail's pace. The reconstruction seems to be going nowhere and, for this, America is blamed.

Actors Wanted For Horror Movie

Dear Phil,

I need two actors who can play the parts of disgusting, slimy, greedy, psychopathic, thieving traitors to their own nation who help a foreign power invade and take it over.

This isn't a high budget thing, so make them really fat, you know, big fat bellies, rolls of fat hanging off their greasy chins, the kind everybody in the audience can see right away aren't just bad guys, but the kind of bad guys that make you puke. You know, the kind that torture helpless prisoners, molest and chop up little kids, rape old women, fuck dogs, and steal everything that isn't nailed down. Real backstabbing rats. Think you can find me a pair like that? Jerry

Dear Jerry,

Here's a couple possibilities. They're working now but may be laid off soon. Or dead. Right now they've got a contract with the government but you never know. Will advise. Phil/The No-Talent Agency



Iyad Allawi, Bush stooge, CIA terrorist, "Prime Minister" of Iraq. (AFP/Don Emmert)



U.S. puppet Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari after stuffing his face at BBC TV's "Breakfast with Frost" program, Sep. 19, 2004 (AFP/File/Louai Beshara)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Caught In Another Stupid Lie: This Time Pentagon Report Catches Him

September 24, 2004 Reuters

Fewer Iraqi security forces will be fully trained by the end of this year than cited by President George W. Bush and it will take until July 2006 to fully train the police force, according to Pentagon documents.

With interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi at his side, Bush said on Thursday that nearly 100,000 fully trained and equipped Iraqi soldiers, police officers and other security personnel are already working and this number would rise to 125,000 by the end of this year.

But documents prepared by Defense Department officials and given to lawmakers show that fewer than 100,000 will be trained by the end of this year.

The Pentagon also said on Monday that only about 53,000 of the 100,000 Iraqis on duty now have undergone training.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attacks Occupation Checkpoint

September 24, 2004 By Noor Khan, Associated Press

Militants wounded four Afghan army soldiers in an attack in southern Afghanistan, a provincial governor said.

The Taliban rebels attacked a checkpoint of Afghanistan's fledging national army at midnight in the area of Thor Nasar in Deh Rawood district, 105 miles north of Kandahar, said Jan Mohammed Khan, governor of Uruzgan province.

Received:

Appeal For Imprisoned Greek Anti-War Sailor

Dear friends,

We need urgently solidarity messages for the Greek sailor who refused to embark on frigate NAVARINO last year during the bombing of Baghdad and was convicted ten days ago to 3 years and 4 months imprisonment.

With the great antiwar mobilizations in Greece and his courageous stand even the government was forced to say that the frigate will not take part in war operations but checking of vessels out of the war zone.

We have started a big campaign for his immediate release. Please send solidarity messages from your organizations as soon as possible.

Fraternaly, Yiannis Sifakakis,
Coordinator Stop the War Coalition, Greece
Symmahia Stamatiste Ton Polemo
stoppolemo@yahoo.gr

DECLARATION OF GIORGOS MONASTIRIOTIS

15.09.2004

For three days I am prisoner in the Court Prisons of Korinth.

I was accused for desertion because I denied -- with a public statement on 08/05/04 -- to follow frigate NAVARINO, where I was serving as a Volunteer on Five years contract, for the war in The Gulf.

On Monday morning 13/09/2004, I presented myself to the Navy court of Piraeus with the hope to end my sixteen months hostaging.

Over there, I was captured and driven immediately to an emergency Navy court where I was sentenced with three years and four months imprisonment. The same morning I was reading in the newspapers that an American soldier who confessed that he was torturing prisoners of war was convicted for 8 months.

I made myself very explicit from the first moment. I refused and I am still refusing consciously to serve or participate or to contribute with any means to the merciless slaughtering of Iraqi people, to the bombing of bazaars and hospitals. I refused and I am refusing being part in this madness of violence and insanity.

With my participation in the antiwar movement I joined my voice with the voice of millions from all over the World against the horrors of war. My action was a minimum step in solidarity to humans who are under difficult conditions in this situation.

My choice is not to support this insane terror and to deny the end of history. I paid and I will pay the price.

But I am sure that beyond the justice of the state that convicted me, there is the justice of people -- of Greek society that marched on thousands against this dirty war -- which is more important and true, and their verdict has not yet been announced.

Giorgos Monastiriotis
Court Prisons of Korinth

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<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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