

GI SPECIAL 2#B79

**TRULY PROBLEMATIC ENVIRONMENT.
NO WMD. SADDAM GONE. NO MISSION.
TIME TO COME HOME, ALIVE.**



Army Backs Off: Hundreds Of No Show IRR Callups Will NOT Be Classed AWOL

October 01, 2004 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer & By Will Dunham, REUTERS

In mid-September, a spokesman for the Army Human Resources Command in St. Louis said those who have not filed exemption requests and who don't show up within seven days of their ordered report date will be considered AWOL and possibly charged as deserters.

As of Sept. 20, the spokesman told Army Times that 14 people had met the AWOL criteria. But Army Brig. Gen. Sean Byrne, the service's director of military personnel policy, insisted in an Oct. 1 meeting with Pentagon reporters that "no one is considered in an AWOL status right now."

Byrne said each case is being worked individually and that no soldier has been formally classified as absent and added that the IRR issue is being handled

delicately because “we’ve not done something of this magnitude before now ... we’re basically in new territory here.”

The Army announced June 30 that due to the pace of the Iraq deployments, it would seek to activate 5,674 civilians on the IRR list through early 2005 in order to meet a requirement to deploy 4,400 soldiers.

The Army said about 3,900 of the 5,600 IRR soldiers scheduled to be summoned to active duty already have received orders to report.

Of those who have already been issued orders, at least 1,374 have formally requested delays or exemptions from duty. However, one official said the number requesting delays and exemptions has reached 1,498.

Byrne said 1,765 IRR members have been issued orders to report for duty by Sept. 28, and 1,143 have reported for duty *while 622 have not.*

Of the 622 who have not reported, 375 “have been positively contacted and their individual case is working,” Army officials said in a statement following their Oct. 1 meeting with reporters.

Of the other 247, the statement said, “we are still working to establish positive contact.”

Of the 1,498 requested exemptions and delays, 373 have been approved to date and 26 requests for exemptions or delays have been disapproved. Of the approved requests, about two-thirds were exemptions from duty and one-third were delays.

Robert Smiley, the Army’s principal assistant secretary for training, readiness and mobilization, said a comparable IRR call-up likely will take place next year. “We’re probably going to use the IRR again,” Smiley told reporters.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

More U.S. Troops Dying Every Month

01 October 2004 By Edmund Sanders, The Los Angeles Times & Sep 30 By Will Dunham, Reuters

September's death toll reflects a steady increase in American deaths since June 28, when the U.S. transferred authority to the interim Iraqi government and the death toll for the first time has risen four straight months.

Pentagon figures show that 42 U.S. troops were killed in June, 54 in July and 66 in August.

Only three other months have produced a higher American death count than September since U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq in March 2003 to topple President Saddam Hussein.

Ted Carpenter of the Cato Institute think tank noted the number of daily attacks launched by insurgents against U.S. and other foreign troops and Iraqi security forces are surging, indicating a further deteriorating security situation.

"I think we're losing slowly but steadily," Carpenter said. "I think we're sinking deeper into the quick sand."

Mass. Soldier Killed

October 1, 2004 **GROTON, Mass.**

A soldier from Groton has been killed in Iraq, one day after telling his family he'd be returning home from the war a month early.

Darren Cunningham was 40. His family says he joined the Army at age 18 and had served in the military since. He was a veteran of the first Gulf War in 1991.

He leaves a wife, a 12-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old son.

One of Cunningham's sisters says he called home on Wednesday to say he'd be coming home in November, a month earlier than scheduled.

Marietta Soldier Dies From Injuries

October 01, 2004 By CONNIE CARTMELL, The Parkersburg News

MARIETTA - An official at Brook Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, confirmed that Allen Nolan, 38, of Marietta, died at 1:06 p.m. Thursday of injuries received Sept. 18, while serving in Iraq with the Ohio National Guard 660th transport unit.

Nolan, 38, the father of five, husband of Gail Nolan, and youngest son of Robert and Mary Nolan, of Marietta, is the first soldier from Marietta and of Washington County killed in combat in Iraq.

"He sustained serious burns as a result of an improvised explosive device that hit the fuel truck he was driving," Nelia Schrum, chief of public affairs at the medical center, said late Thursday. "He died shortly after a surgery today. It isn't clear how the device hit the truck."

The Nolan family was notified soon after his death, she said.

"It's very sad. His wife and son were here. We are so very, very sad," Schrum said.

Nolan's wife, Gail, and their oldest son, Roman, 12, were with him in Texas and four other children, three sons and a daughter, are being cared for at home, by relatives.

"We didn't find out until after I got home from work, about 5:30 p.m., Robin Nolan, his sister-in-law, said Thursday evening. "The family is in shock. Yesterday I actually thought he was doing better. He had surgery Monday and was scheduled for a second surgery today."

There are no details of services or of when Nolan will be brought back to Ohio, she said.

HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR? BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. soldiers tend to their injured colleagues after a bomb exploded in Baghdad, September 30, 2004. (NAHREEN Via REUTERS TV/Reuters)

U.S. Attacks Samarra:

Hundreds Of Civilians Killed & Wounded To Improve “Their Quality Of Life,” Command Says; Snipers Kill Anybody On The Street; One Soldier Dead, Four Wounded So Far



Samarra Burning (Aljazeera)

10/01/04 The Associated Press, By Zidan Khalaf & (Reuters) & Outlook Publishing (India) & Aljazeera & The Guardian

The military statement said the purpose of the attack is “ to proceed with quality-of-life improvements" in the city.

Samarra, Iraq -- **Troops backed by tanks pushed slowly through the streets of Samarra, a city with an estimated population of 250,000, in a bid to secure government and police buildings in the city as guerrillas unleashed mortar attacks and fired rocket-propelled grenades and rifles from the rooftops. As the fighting continued past midday, residents found electricity and water cut off.**

One U.S. soldier was killed. The U.S. military said four U.S. soldiers were wounded during the operation in the town, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad. An AH-64 Cobra helicopter was hit by small arms fire but was able to land safely at a coalition base near Samarra, the military said.

The Samarra operation, 125 kilometres north of Baghdad, started before dawn, with the US military saying 2,500 US troops and 1,000 Iraqi forces had seized the city hall and police stations.

This was followed by clashes that continued throughout the early morning.

Later Friday, the city appeared calm except for American snipers firing at anybody in the streets below. Many bodies were strewn in the street but could not be

collected for fear of American snipers firing from rooftop of high buildings, eyewitnesses said.

The governor of Salaheddin province, where Samarra is located, cautioned yesterday that fresh fighting risked plunging surrounding towns into violence.

Unaware of the impending battle, Governor Hamed Hamud al-Qaissy told AFP that local Iraqi officials were close to brokering a deal to allow Americans to return to the troublespot.

U.S. troops blocked most of the roads, preventing residents from fleeing the city although one exit route was still reportedly open. Some residents fled before the attack, but most stayed behind amid news of intense negotiations to solve the crisis peacefully.

"I have warned the Americans if there is any violence in Balad and Duluyia it is because of what is happening in Samarra," said Governor Hamid Hamud al-Qaissy, referring to nearby towns.

Clashes flared between gunmen and soldiers in the city centre around the gold-domed Imam Ali al-Hadi shrine, revered by Shiite Muslims the world over.

Smoke billowed into the sky as the soldiers and insurgents traded fire on the hallowed ground.

Dr Khaled Ahmed at Samarra's main hospital said 90 people were killed and 180 hurt including women and children. They said ambulances could not reach many wounded as fighting, which lasted throughout the night, was still going on. The hospital was running out of bandages, oxygen and other supplies, Ahmed said.

The Samarra assault began shortly after midnight with air strikes and artillery barrages pounding the mainly Sunni Muslim town, which had been a no-go zone for U.S. forces for months.

U.S. forces had stayed out of the city for three months. The Americans moved in briefly earlier this month to try to re-establish the local government, but much of the town remained in rebel hands.

"We are terrified by the violent approach used by the Americans to subdue the city," said Mahmoud Saleh, a 33-year-old civil servant. "My wife and children are scared to death and they have not been able to sleep since last night. I hope that the fighting ends as soon as possible."

Analysts in the United States said an offensive into Samarra was also a way to give Iraqi forces some needed combat experience training before they might have to take on Ramadi and Fallujah, which Secretary of State Colin Powell last week called "the tough one."

The offensive came in response to "repeated and unprovoked attacks by anti-Iraqi forces" against Iraqi and coalition forces, the military said in a statement. [The

Occupation attacking itself? Apparently so, since the Occupation is the only anti-Iraqi force in the country, and the Bush regime is certainly guilty of the most famous “unprovoked attack” in modern history: invading and occupying Iraq.]

The military statement said the purpose of the attack is “ to proceed with quality-of-life improvements" in the city. [Quality of death would be more like it.]

U.S. forces also clashed with insurgents in Baghdad, where warplanes and tanks attacked militants in the vast slum of Sadr City. A hospital director said 12 Iraqis were killed and 11 were wounded. The U.S. military, which maintains casualties are often exaggerated by Iraqi hospital sources, said only one armed insurgent was killed.

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

War Reports: The Resistance Point Of View

Events of Wednesday, 29 September 2004

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

Wednesday, 29 September 2004.

For the first time since the US invasion: Resistance bombardment and assaults force US troops to evacuate base south of Baghdad.

Local people swarm in to witness burned out remnants of defeated American hordes.

Iraqi forces pounded US troops in their base in the Ridwaniyat ad-Duwaylibah area of Mazra`at `Uday south of Baghdad Wednesday morning inflicting such severe casualties on the Americans that for the first time since the US invasion of Iraq, the US troops totally evacuated their base.

The Americans left behind numerous dead as well as smashed cars and armored vehicles. The Mafkarat al-Islam correspondent in the area visited the inside of the reclaimed US base with the first wave of local people to visit the facility -- a visit that took place at exactly 6:45pm Wednesday night -- only fifteen minutes after the last American soldier vacated the premises.

The correspondent saw 14 Humvees ablaze inside the camp, with nothing left of them except their wrecked chassis. Four amphibious armored vehicles were also completely on fire. The correspondent also saw the Americans' tents that had been reduced to ashes by the flame.

The correspondent wrote that it appeared that the US base had been shelled by some sort of chemical weapons, since a green tint was noticeable on the ground in the area of the camp. This was a sign that a chemical warhead had been used, as was previously noted in attacks on the al-Hadbah camp and in Mosul and ar-Ramadi that were hit by Resistance chemical shells some months ago.

Later an Iraqi Resistance martyrdom bomber detonated himself amidst the fleeing Americans inflicting further damage on them. The correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported three US amphibious armored vehicles were driving away carrying crowds of US troops on the ad-Duwaylibah - Sadr al-Yusufiyah road when the booby-trapped car drove into them, killing at least 15 Americans -- a number likely to rise.

Resistance shoots down Black Hawk helicopter.

Iraqi Resistance fighters in al-Qa'im shot down a US Black Hawk helicopter near the phosphate works in the area near the Syrian-Iraqi border. The Mafkarat al-Islam correspondent in al-Qa'im reported that the Resistance shot down the helicopter using a C5Kroclet at about 7:00am Wednesday local time.

Resistance bomb gets tank in al-Khalidiyah.

An Iraqi Resistance bomb disabled a US tank at about 1:00pm Wednesday afternoon near the large al-Khalidiyah mosque.

After midnight: Strange US activities reported in Baghdad.

In a dispatch posted at 1:38am Thursday morning Mecca time the Baghdad correspondent of Mafkarat al-Islam reported that US troops and their stooges in the Iraqi puppet army had begun behaving in an unnatural manner. The aggressor troops began smashing commercial store fronts in the al-Karakh district of Baghdad, busting down doors of residential apartments and stealing any items of value they find.

A number of children who had recently been arrested and released were now re-arrested (not including the youngsters who were released just yesterday, however). A number of doormen of residential apartment buildings have also been arrested, particularly those who are Egyptian and Sudanese citizens.

Young men belonging to Syrian families that had fled to Iraq from Syria in Saddam Hussein's time for political reasons, have also been arrested.

US bulldozers have also crushed sacks of flour in the city square on the grounds that there might be weapons hidden inside. The US troops have also attacked and destroyed telephone booths and electric boxes, claiming that there are sometimes hidden rooms behind them.

The Americans and their stooges have also begun destroying numerous private cars that were parked in the roads and in front of houses and other buildings, claiming that they might contain weapons.

Among the most strange activities of the Americans and their Iraqi stooge forces has been their raid on the ash-Shaykh Ma`ruf cemetery, where they also say they are searching for arms.

Three Congress rockets slammed into the "green zone" at about 12:00 noon on Wednesday. The Congress is a 290cm long rocket known for its efficiency in dealing with buildings and armored targets. The Iraqi government obtained these weapons six months before the US invasion in spring 2003.

TROOP NEWS

Merry Christmas: You're Fucked: Early Holiday Separation Tradition Canceled

October 01, 2004 By Jim Tice, Army Times staff writer

The Army's tradition of allowing officers and enlisted soldiers to separate up to two weeks early has been cancelled for this year.

"We at war, and it's not business as usual," said a senior officer of the decision to scrap the fiscal 2005 Holiday Early Transition Program.

This year because of the high pace of operations in nearly all units and installations, soldiers will be required to complete their full active-duty service obligations, according to an Oct. 1 order from the Human Resources Command.

In year's past the Army has authorized the phased, early release of soldiers whose enlistments or service obligations expired during the final weeks of the year, when most installations and units experience an exodus of soldiers gong home on leave for the holidays. In 2003 for example, soldiers with separation dates of Dec. 1, to Jan. 1, were released Dec. 1-18.

Marine Vet Wife Fighting To Bring Medically Disabled Husband Home From Iraq: Update:

Sept. 30, 2004

Update on my husband Sgt. Tony Lampin, a mechanic for the 115th Field Hospital, forced into Iraq despite being medically unfit for service.

First let me say that I apologize for my language, I happen to be very **MAD/UPSET**.

About a week ago, I received a letter from my husband. In it he writes:

I went to see a doctor that has been in for 18 years and he read my medical records and said that he was going to put me on weight training but it want help with my knee, just the muscle around it. He said that he would support my P3 profile and medical board. He said that my knee was like when you are born to when you die. My knee is 3/4 gone. So he said if he pushes it he told me that don't be surprised if I get put out. I said, I would be surprised if I left at all.

On Sept. 27, he called me to let me know what has been going on sense we last talked.

He told me that some time last week his commander handed him a document that he had to sign. The document was a release form sent to him bye the government giving me permission to do what I have been doing, and that is asking for the help of our State Senators and Congressmen.

He also said that after doing so, for some reason his medical paper work that has accumulated there has suddenly disappeared and that the doctors that he has seen doesn't remember what they wrote down. All documents except for one, and that one is on it's way to me, and if I am not mistaken, it is the document that the doctor he wrote about had said.



I am looking for my Dada's medical records that the command said they lost.

So what do you think, does it look like this command is trying to hide something or what?

It is amazing what a command will do to risk the life of one of their own Soldiers, who has no business being there in the first place, and they damn well know it. It would surprise the hell out of me if those documents are found, but 10 to 1, they were shredded, burned or on their way to some land fill. But, just in case if they do show up, Tony will most certainly make a copy of them and send them to me.

I then asked him how he was doing, and he said OK. He hasn't been going to sick call in over a week now because he hasn't been doing anything to irritate his knee.

All he has been doing is sitting on his duff everyday and giving advice when or if they need it. So it looks as if tax payers money is hard at work doesn't it.

If they are not going to let him do his job then again, they said that they so badly needed him for, then why in the hell is he still there?

He also told me that one time he had to climb on a truck and do some other stuff involving lifting and when someone of higher rank saw him doing it, they would ask him why he was doing it when he wasn't supposed to. If they are asking why he is doing something he is not supposed to, and they don't want him doing it, then why do they say they need him? Again, they are trying to cover their ass.

One last thing that we talked about was that he has been confronted by his commander about the information that I have been getting about the attacks there at the Prison. For the commands information, Tony has not given me one bit of information about what has happened there at the prison.

The only things he tells me is about his medical issues and what he has been doing that was against his medical profile. The information that I get about the incidents at the prison come from what has been posted on the internet in newsletters, emails, and what the news media reports. As an example, today Sept. 30, CNN just reported the numerous attacks that have occurred in Iraq, and one of them was near the Abu Ghraib Prison. I pasted below what was said and posted on the internet.

"Hours earlier, a suicide car bomber struck in the Abu Ghraib area outside of Baghdad, killing the American and at least two Iraqis, and wounding 60, said Dr. Abbas al-Timimi. Three of the wounded were U.S. troops, said Maj. Philip Smith, spokesman for the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division."

Now I have no idea where exactly my husband's command is located at the prison, and every time I hear, or read about attacks at the prison, I worry a great deal.

It says that an American Soldier was killed and three were wounded. I can only pray that Tony was not one of them, because according to the command he does not have to wear his protective gear at all times even at work.

This attack just proves a point, that if an attack was to occur in the area that my husband is at, he would be in danger of getting severely hurt, because he would not have his protective gear on.

It makes you wonder if the Soldier that was killed or the Soldiers that were wounded had their gear on or not, and if they didn't, you know that the government would hide that information.

On Oct. 21, I am the guest speaker at the C3 Military Family Support Rally in New Orleans.

It starts at 7:30 PM at the Holy Angel Convent, and it is titled Military Family Speaks Out Against the War.

For those of you who wish to be there, you are more than welcome. I plan to talk not only about my husband, but about other Soldiers who are medically unfit for service and are or will be forced into Iraq. I could use all the support I can get from everyone.

Thank you,
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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 RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Freed Italian Supports The Resistance

10/1/2004 Aljazeera.com

One of the two freed Italian aid workers who were held hostage in Iraq said that rebels in Iraq were right to fight against U.S. occupation forces and their Iraqi "puppet government."

In statements that would annoy the Italian government, Simona Torretta also called on Rome to pullout its forces from Iraq.

"You have to distinguish between terrorism and resistance. The guerrilla war is justified, but I am against the kidnapping of civilians."

Toretta also described the administration of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi as "a puppet government in the hands of the Americans," and she said the nationwide elections, due in January, would have no legitimacy.

Police Killed In Basra

October 1, 2004 News Limited

FOUR Iraqi policemen and four tribesmen were killed in tribal clashes near the southern port city of Basra, police said today.

"Armed clashes broke out Thursday night between members of two tribes in Qurna", 8km north of Basra, police Lieutenant Colonel Karim Ali al-Zaidi told AFP without elaborating on what prompted the fighting.

"A police unit tried to intervene to put an end to the fighting. Four policemen were killed and seven injured, while four tribesmen also died," he added.

...AND STILL MORE JOIN THE RESISTANCE



Iraqi men attend the funeral of Jaseb Rahim, 25, in the Sadr city district of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, October 1. Rahim was killed by U.S. troops. (Ali Jasim/Reuters)

...AND STILL MORE JOIN THE RESISTANCE



Iraqi men inspect a crater, following a U.S. air attack on the city of Falluja, September 30, 2004. **U.S. command calls this "precision bombing.** (Mohammed Khodor/Reuters)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

About War

01 October 2004 By John Cory, t r u t h o u t | Perspective. **John Cory is a Vietnam veteran. He received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with V device, 1969 - 1970.**

Slogans -- that's war for most folks. War is Hell. Support The Troops. Uncle Sam Wants You. Yellow ribbons and candlelight vigils. War.

Listen friend, war, is electric. It's a jangle of short-wired nerves; raw blue sparks that jump the gaps of politics and twist the ignition key of survival. War is living fast, hard, and furious, life between the teeth. You are never so alive as when you're about to die. War is a five-and-dime store of friction toys and cheap tin thrills. War, is all the power of heaven accessed through the front door of hell.

War is a mad minute, sixty seconds of Godhood: let there be light in the rocket's red glare and the Zippo flame of razed hootches. God is an amateur who took six days to create the earth, but a grunt with a radio and artillery and air support is true holy power in a fiery obliteration of inhabitants and geography - all in less than six minutes.

War is weather. Sometimes so hot, you have to chew a hole in the heat and swallow, just to get a breath of fresh air. And sweat that drips from the leaky faucet of your pores and into your eyes; sweat that scalds and blinds. So hot you could have lunch with the Devil.

And there's the rain, day after day and night after night. Warm rain, muggy rain at first, slick oily droplets skidding across your skin in a muddy film that never refreshes. Then night rain, dark rain with a chilly breeze that crawls inside your fatigues and pools around your ankles and crotch, and quietly peels away the layers of your wrinkled soggy flesh.

War is solitaire. Humping, marching, moving or standing watch, a soldier packs a rucksack, weapon, ammo, and thoughts. Always thoughts. **The only retreat allowed in war is the retreat inside your own head.**

Eyes are on the terrain while radar sensors process the physical world, clicking and categorizing shapes and shadows. But the mind is crowded with another world and a cast of thousands. It's all there, living in the past and living in the future, while praying to survive the present.

War is looking into a child's face, having to instantly decide whether friend or foe. Wondering what's in their smile or in their hand. Constant suspicion. Constant sadness when you see them wounded and you wonder, was it your bullet that made them an orphan or stole their limbs?

War is language of the numb and damned, anesthesia to protect the soul. Call them gooks or hajjis or anything but people. You don't kill people--you kill the enemy. Don't care why they are the enemy. If you care too much you will die in pieces day by day.

Sweet Jesus, what the hell? Incoming! Incoming! Hit the dirt!

Voices scream as the show begins. It's rock-and-roll time; psychedelic funk explodes like a bad trip on cheap acid cut with speed. The world goes slow-mo and real-time, all at once. Strangers in a strange land intent on killing one another. Don't want to die in this dirt clod of a hellhole. Dust to dust is not for me.

Blip boom bang.

Light 'em up! Grease the bastards! Zap the mothers, now! Medic! Medic! Exclamation points galore: with bodies strewn across the mud like so much broken furniture in the living room of violence.

Turn up the volume and bring it on. Lock and load is the rhythm of surviving one more minute, one more hour, one more day.

Never look down - never stop shooting - never stop. Not now. Move. Move. Move.

The more you move the closer to home you get. Buddy to buddy lay the fire down and carpet the joint with anything that will kill them and preserve you.

The firefight is a cacophonous rock opera gone insane: smashed guitars, squealing amps that spit fire, and drummers pounding on the audience.

Sulfur smoke curls up inside your nose and passes on the stench of cauterized flesh and amputation. Youth and innocence are crumpled like discarded ticket stubs on stadium cement, but the band riots on and on. And then-

It's over. The plug is pulled. Silence.

Not, silence is golden, silence.

Silence of the dead and doomed: cutting silence that slices tomorrow into shards of guilty relief and hope. **One day down - another day to go.**

There are no politics in war. Politics is the luxury of the safe-at-home. War is a lottery of survival.

There is no morality in war. Morality is the privilege of those judging from the distance. War is only death and destruction, regardless of which scripture is quoted.

War is the tool of small-minded scoundrels who worship the death of others on the altar of their greed. War is the cemetery of futures promised.

War is eternity jammed into frantic minutes that will fill a lifetime with dreams and nightmares.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT

So Much For The “Sovereignty” Bullshit: Iraqi “Government” Gives Cops Weapons; Occupation Takes Them Away

October 01, 2004 Helen Jung, Newhouse News Service

Baghdad, Iraq- When U.S. soldiers discovered a huge stash of guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades here recently, it wasn't the size of the cache that surprised them.

Rather, it was the location they found unnerving. **The weapons were discovered at an Iraqi police station across the street from the American unit's own headquarters, Patrol Base Volunteer.**

The soldiers, members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, wondered why police officers would need explosives and weapons typically associated with the insurgents who fight against U.S.-led forces.

The Guardsmen confiscated the stockpile, but days later, the weaponry is still the subject of debate and speculation.

Military authorities have determined that Iraq's Ministry of Interior gave the weapons to the police station, which was supposed to distribute them to other police stations throughout Baghdad, said 1st Lt. Abe Gilman, 31, of Salem, Ore. Gilman said the Iraqi government's reason for reversing an earlier policy that had prohibited the dissemination of such explosives "is totally unknown."

One thing is certain: The discovery has stirred feelings of unease among soldiers.

"You don't know who to trust," said Staff Sgt. James Way, 33, of Portland, Ore.

What to do with the confiscated weapons and explosives remains to be determined. [By who. The "sovereign" government or the occupation?] Way and several other soldiers said they don't like the thought of returning the rocket-propelled grenades and mortars to the Iraqi police - even though they are supposed to be allies in the battle with insurgents.

"If we give the cops [back] this stuff, it's going to be shot at us," Way said.

It's a lot of "stuff." The cache included more than 100 rocket-propelled grenades and three dozen launchers, nearly 100 mortar rounds, and hundreds of machine guns and rifles.

"I'm all for the Iraqi people and Iraqi police arming themselves so they can do their job," said Spc. Gregory Wuelfing, 22, of Santa Paula, Calif. He and Spc. John Karrantza, 31, of Portland were the two guards who spotted the Iraqi police unloading the weapons and alerted the platoon on duty. **"But overarming them and taking the chance of [their] becoming more of a hazard than a help? That concerns me."**

Then there is the X factor that soldiers find most worrisome - the possibility that the Iraqi police could have insurgents in their ranks.

Though few U.S. soldiers will say so publicly, there's a widespread sense that the police force in some of Iraq's most violent areas employs at least some corrupt officers.

"That's always a concern," Karrantza said.

“Sovereign” Iraqis Guarded Only By Americans

September 30, 2004 By Sam Hamod

Just as a note of irony, Allawi and his puppet colleagues always go around with a U.S. or mercenary escort--they know better than to allow "trained Iraqis" to guard them; they fear they will be assassinated by the Iraqis. No doubt, this is a justified fear. The question is, how many more Americans and Iraqis must die before this folly is abandoned?

Occupation Cops Open Fire To Keep Shias Out Of Mosque: First Time Since Saddam Hussein

01 October 2004 By Zidan Khalaf, The Associated Press

In the southern city of Kufa security forces prevented hundreds of Shiite Muslims from entering a major mosque grounds for Friday prayers - *the first such action since the fall of Saddam Hussein last year*. Police fired in the air to disperse the faithful.

Until Friday they allowed them to hold prayers in a yard outside the shrine.

From Baghdad: A Wall Street Journal Reporter's E-Mail to Friends

September 30, 2004, by Farnaz Fassihi, CommonDreams.org.

Being a foreign correspondent in Baghdad these days is like being under virtual house arrest. Forget about the reasons that lured me to this job: a chance to see the world, explore the exotic, meet new people in far away lands, discover their ways and tell stories that could make a difference.

Little by little, day-by-day, being based in Iraq has defied all those reasons.

I am house bound. I leave when I have a very good reason to and a scheduled interview. I avoid going to people's homes and never walk in the streets. I can't go grocery shopping any more, can't eat in restaurants, can't strike a conversation with strangers, can't look for stories, can't drive in any thing but a full armored car, can't go to scenes of breaking news stories, can't be stuck in traffic, can't speak English outside, can't take a road trip, can't say I'm an American, can't linger at checkpoints, can't be curious about what people are saying, doing, feeling. And can't and can't.

There has been one too many close calls, including a car bomb so near our house that it blew out all the windows. So now my most pressing concern every day is not to write a kick-ass story but to stay alive and make sure our Iraqi employees stay alive. In Baghdad I am a security personnel first, a reporter second.

It's hard to pinpoint when the 'turning point' exactly began.

Was it April when the Fallujah fell out of the grasp of the Americans? Was it when Moqtada and Jish Mahdi declared war on the U.S. military? **Was it when Sadr City, home to ten percent of Iraq's population, became a nightly battlefield for the Americans?**

Or was it when the insurgency began spreading from isolated pockets in the Sunni triangle to include most of Iraq? Despite President Bush's rosy assessments, Iraq remains a disaster. If under Saddam it was a 'potential' threat, under the Americans it has been transformed to 'imminent and active threat,' a foreign policy failure bound to haunt the United States for decades to come.

Iraqis like to call this mess 'the situation.' When asked 'how are thing?' they reply: 'the situation is very bad.'

What they mean by situation is this: the Iraqi government doesn't control most Iraqi cities, there are several car bombs going off each day around the country killing and injuring scores of innocent people, the country's roads are becoming impassable and littered by hundreds of landmines and explosive devices aimed to kill American soldiers, there are assassinations, kidnappings and beheadings.

The situation, basically, means a raging barbaric guerilla war. In four days, 110 people died and over 300 got injured in Baghdad alone. **The numbers are so shocking that the ministry of health -- which was attempting an exercise of public transparency by releasing the numbers -- has now stopped disclosing them.**

Insurgents now attack Americans 87 times a day.

A friend drove thru the Shiite slum of Sadr City yesterday. He said young men were openly placing improvised explosive devices into the ground. They melt a shallow hole into the asphalt, dig the explosive, cover it with dirt and put an old tire or plastic can over it to signal to the locals this is booby-trapped.

He said on the main roads of Sadr City, there were a dozen landmines per every ten yards. His car snaked and swirled to avoid driving over them. Behind the

walls sits an angry Iraqi ready to detonate them as soon as an American convoy gets near. This is in Shiite land, the population that was supposed to love America for liberating Iraq.

For journalists the significant turning point came with the wave of abduction and kidnappings. Only two weeks ago we felt safe around Baghdad because foreigners were being abducted on the roads and highways between towns. Then came a frantic phone call from a journalist female friend at 11 p.m. telling me two Italian women had been abducted from their homes in broad daylight. Then the two Americans, who got beheaded this week and the Brit, were abducted from their homes in a residential neighborhood. They were supplying the entire block with round the clock electricity from their generator to win friends. The abductors grabbed one of them at 6 a.m. when he came out to switch on the generator; his beheaded body was thrown back near the neighborhoods.

The insurgency, we are told, is rampant with no signs of calming down. If any thing, it is growing stronger, organized and more sophisticated every day. The various elements within it-baathists, criminals, nationalists and Al Qaeda-are cooperating and coordinating.

America's last hope for a quick exit? The Iraqi police and National Guard units we are spending billions of dollars to train. **The cops are being murdered by the dozens every day-over 700 to date -- and the insurgents are infiltrating their ranks.** The problem is so serious that the U.S. military has allocated \$6 million dollars to buy out 30,000 cops they just trained to get rid of them quietly.

As for reconstruction: firstly it's so unsafe for foreigners to operate that almost all projects have come to a halt. After two years, of the \$18 billion Congress appropriated for Iraq reconstruction only about \$1 billion or so has been spent and a chunk has now been reallocated for improving security, a sign of just how bad things are going here.

Oil dreams? Insurgents disrupt oil flow routinely as a result of sabotage and oil prices have hit record high of \$49 a barrel. Who did this war exactly benefit? Was it worth it? Are we safer because Saddam is holed up and Al Qaeda is running around in Iraq?

Iraqis say that thanks to America they got freedom in exchange for insecurity. Guess what? They say they'd take security over freedom any day, even if it means having a dictator ruler.

I heard an educated Iraqi say today that if Saddam Hussein were allowed to run for elections he would get the majority of the vote. This is truly sad.

Then I went to see an Iraqi scholar this week to talk to him about elections here. He has been trying to educate the public on the importance of voting. He said, "President Bush wanted to turn Iraq into a democracy that would be an example for the Middle East. Forget about democracy, forget about being a model for the region, we have to salvage Iraq before all is lost."

I asked a 28-year-old engineer if he and his family would participate in the Iraqi elections since it was the first time Iraqis could to some degree elect a leadership.

His response summed it all: "Go and vote and risk being blown into pieces or followed by the insurgents and murdered for cooperating with the Americans? For what? To practice democracy? Are you joking?"

Farnaz Fassihi, a Wall Street Journal reporter sent this report as an e-mail to friends.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

YES, YALE MEN AGREE. NINE OUT OF TEN YALE MEN SAY: "FUCK THE TROOPS, IT'S THE CORPORATE EMPIRE THAT COMES FIRST. OF COURSE WE'RE AGAINST BRINGING THE TROOPS HOME NOW."

(WE'RE THE AMERICAN RULING CLASS, AND WE NOT ONLY APPROVED THIS MESSAGE, WE BUY AND SELL THESE ASSHOLES. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO SHIT IN YOUR HAT.)



September 30, 2004. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

Supreme Court Justice Opposed To Abortion And Gay Rights Favors Orgies

October 1, 2004, Oliver Burkeman in New York, The Guardian

He is the conservative bastion of the US supreme court, a favorite of President Bush, and a hunting partner of the vice-president. He has argued vociferously against abortion rights, and in favour of anti-sodomy laws.

But it turns out that there is another side to Justice Antonin Scalia: he thinks Americans ought to be having more orgies.

Challenged about his views on sexual morality, Justice Scalia surprised his audience at Harvard University, telling them: "I even take the position that sexual orgies eliminate social tensions and ought to be encouraged."

It seems unlikely that this is what President Bush meant when he promised to appoint more judges like Scalia to the court, should the opportunity arise. Crucially, Justice Scalia is one of the judges in favour of overturning Roe v Wade, the landmark judgment protecting abortion as a constitutional right.

One audience member also asked the judge "whether you have any gay friends, and, if not, whether you'd like to be my friend," the Harvard Crimson newspaper reported.

"I probably do have some gay friends, but I have never pressed the point," Justice Scalia responded. He offered no clue to the logic behind his claim that orgies eliminate social tensions.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Now Here Are Some Terrorists Who Badly Need Killing

From: Alison Weir [\[mailto:alisonweir@yahoo.com\]](mailto:alisonweir@yahoo.com)
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 4:05 PM
Subject: activists beaten with baseball bats

Chris Brown, an Oakland activist who was active in the anti-Apartheid movement against south Africa, was bludgeoned early this morning by Israeli settlers wielding baseball bats and chains.

Brown had been escorting Palestinian children to school in the West Bank town of Hebron, to protect them from attacks by Israelis.

With Brown and also brutally attacked was Kim Lamberty, of Washington DC.

Brown sustained broken ribs, one of which punctured his lung. He has undergone a surgical procedure to fix his collapsed lung. Brown also suffered a contusion on his head at his temple, but does not appear to have any brain injury. He will be recovering in the hospital for an unspecified amount of time.

Lamberty suffered a broken arm and knee. She has now been released from the hospital and is recovering in Jerusalem.

In a phone interview Liberty said: "We were attacked by settler men who came from the Ma'on outpost. They were dressed in black with black scarves across their faces. They threw us down to the ground and kicked us. Chris was also beaten with chains and a bat."

The Israeli settlers stole Lamberty's money, passport and cell phone.

Israeli settlers frequently attack the nonviolent Christian Peacemaker members, throwing them to the ground, kicking them, cursing them, using obscenities against their religion etc., while Israeli soldiers look on.

This incident, however, is the most brutal to date. Laberty and Brown are with the Christian Peacemaker Teams. **Christian Peacemaker members plan to accompany Palestinian school children again tomorrow.**

The children who, witnessed this incident, are terrified about returning to school. The Americans planning to accompany them are terrified, as well.

Christian Peacemaker teams are present in the area of the attack at the request of Palestinians, who are the target of repeated harassment from Israeli settlers while Israeli authorities have failed to intervene.

So far, AP has refused to cover this incident. Christian Peacemaker Teams places small ecumenical teams trained in nonviolent intervention in war zones, for violence reduction.

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

Received:

European TV Reporter Wants Info On Body Armor Shortage In Iraq

From: [Susanne Reichling](#)
To: GI Special
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2004 7:47 PM

Hello,

I am a producer for the French/German network ARTE here in New York. ARTE is the largest network in Europe and airs simultaneously in France and Germany. The news program I am producing for, ARTE-INFO, airs daily in Prime Time in both countries (<http://www.arte-tv.com>).

John Kerry mentioned "the Humvee risk" yesterday in his speech and we weren't really aware of this problem in Europe.

Kerry: "I've met kids in Ohio, parents in Wisconsin, places, Iowa, where they're going out on the Internet to get the state-of-the-art body gear to send to their kids. Some of them got them for birthday presents. I think that's wrong. Humvees, 10,000 out of 12,000 Humvees that are over there aren't armored. And you go visit some of those kids in the hospitals today who were maimed because they don't have the armament.

This president just, I don't know if he sees what's really happening there. But it's getting worse by the day. More soldiers killed in June than before. More in July than June. More in August than July. More in September than in August."

For ARTE-INFO, I would like to do report about families of soldiers in Iraq, that have sent and still send them body-armor and other equipment because of the "Humvee risks".

CAN YOU PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH ONE OF THE FAMILIES that send or have sent body armor to Iraq (best in New York area).

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible!!

Yours sincerely,

Susanne Reichling
Producer for ARTE TV
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Tel: 646-239-8598

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