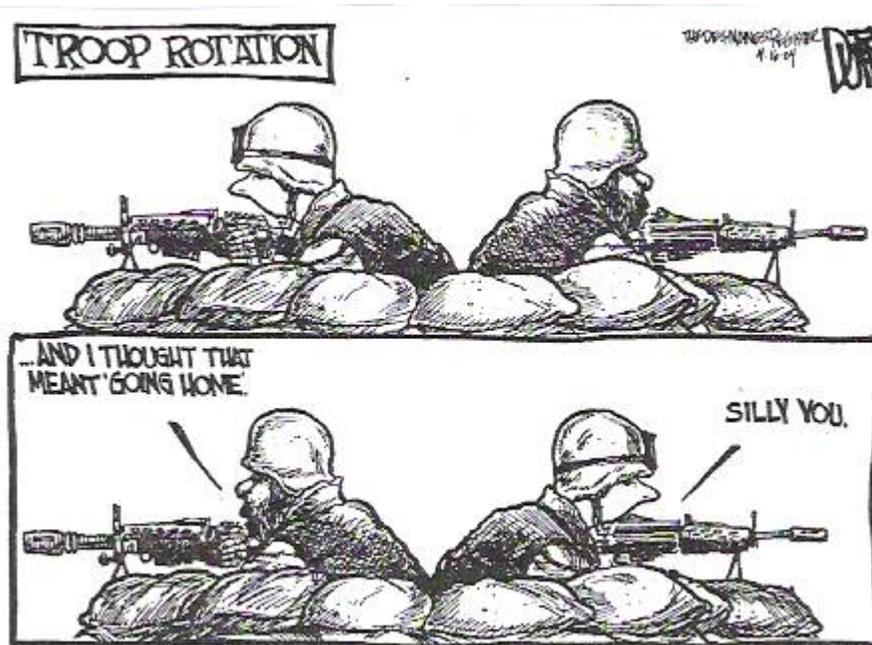


GI SPECIAL 2#70



Reprinted in Army Times May 3, 2004 from The Des Moines Register

Iraqi Resistance Hails Falluja Victory; Crowds Celebrating U.S. “Military Debacle” & “Defeat Of The Americans”

(BBC News reports 4.30.04 that the only requirements imposed on the city of Falluja are:

1. "Foreign fighters" will leave the city {The U.S. pullout does that.}
2. "Heavy weapons" will not be taken into the streets. {Pretty please.}



Iraqi insurgents celebrating victory brandish weapons on a rooftop in Falluja May 1, 2004. (Akram Saleh/Reuters)



Cries of 'victory over the Americans' echoed from minarets and guerrilla soldiers celebrated in the streets under the green banner of Islam and Iraqi flags.

5.1.04 By Fadel Badran, FALLUJA, Iraq (Reuters)

Soldiers of the old Iraqi army led by one of its former generals patrolled Falluja on Saturday, a year after George W. Bush declared "mission accomplished" in ousting the Iraqi regime.

Cries of "victory over the Americans" echoed from minarets and gunmen celebrated in the streets under the green banner of Islam and Saddam-era Iraqi flags. Thousands who had fled a month of heavy fighting streamed back to their homes after U.S. Marines pulled back from their siege positions.

Hammad Makhlas, returning to Falluja with his wife and five children to find windows smashed and walls damaged at his home, said: "Praise God. The most important thing is that the town's dignity has been preserved with the defeat of the Americans."

Mired in a confrontation that spilled blood on both sides and outraged Iraqi and Arab opinion, U.S. commanders withdrew to more distant positions on Friday. Security was entrusted to police and a new force of ex-soldiers under General Jasim Mohamed Saleh, formerly of the Republican Guard.

U.S. officers said their troops were still ready to storm the city if needed but Marine commander Lieutenant-General James Conway said Saleh's 1st Battalion of the Falluja Brigade would tackle the insurgents and the foreign fighters aiding them.

Saleh's offer came just in time, said Conway, **who conceded some in his new force may have fought the Marines over the past month.**

Iraqis see a military debacle.

"The city's defenders are celebrating," yelled one man as a group of gunmen in civilian clothes raised green banners and rifles aloft on a street to acclaim the defeat of the Marines.

A uniformed member of Saleh's 1,000-strong force looked on.

On foot and in civilian four-wheel-drive vehicles, Saleh's men patrolled the city.

A Pentagon spokesman said the United States was going into the Falluja deal with its "eyes wide open," **aware of the risks of dealing with the relatively unknown Saleh, whose influence over -- or indeed links with -- the insurgents are unclear.**

(Wrong again. The Fallujah Protection Army are the insurgents. They won. Duh.)

The United States turned to Saleh after failing to root out some 2,000 guerrillas dug in among 300,000 civilians. Bush's critics accuse him of wading into a Vietnam-style "quagmire."

US Marines Hand Fallujah Over To Armed Citizens



Armed Iraqi men celebrate in the center of Fallujah May 1, 2004. Hundreds of families who fled Fallujah began returning on Saturday after **US officials announced that a deal has been struck for an Iraqi force to take control of the city and end its siege.** (AP Photo/Abdul Kader Saadi)

29/04/2004 Ireland Online & 01 May 2004 al Jazeera & Wall St. Journal, Alan Friedman, 4.30.04

US marines announced the end of the bloody, near four-week siege of Fallujah today and will hand the city over to an all-Iraqi force, commanded by a former Hussein regime general.

U.S. officials say they remain committed to a shaky cease-fire with militants who have been in effective control of the city for weeks.

Only last week, American commanders had been threatening to launch an all-out attack on the city to root out Sunni insurgents.

But US troops have been frustrated in their attempts to overcome a highly motivated and increasingly resourceful resistance force.

Falluja residents waving Iraqi flags and Iraqi security forces cheered the former officer, Jasim Muhammad Salih, when he entered the town centre and gave a speech on Friday.

"We have now begun forming a new emergency military force to help the forces of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps and the Iraqi police in completing the mission of imposing security and stability in Falluja **without the need for the American army, which the people of Falluja reject,**" **Salih said.**

The former general, wearing his old army uniform, said he was forming a military unit to restore calm to the bloodied Iraqi city of Falluja after an agreement with US occupation forces.



Major General Jasim Muhammad Salih arrives in Falluja

Salih, who a relative said had been chief of staff of a Republican Guard brigade, said the force would help Iraqi security forces bring order to the town, so US forces would not be needed.

Under a deal reached last night, a new Iraqi force known as the Fallujah Protection Army is to start moving into the Sunni city to impose security on Friday, marine Lieutenant Colonel Brennan Byrne said.

Marine forces will end their siege of Fallujah, pulling back from their positions in and around the city, while the FPA forms a new cordon around it and then moves into the centre, Byrne said.

“The plan is that the whole of Fallujah will be under the control of the FPA,” he said.

Earlier US Marines withdrew from the southeastern part of Falluja which they had occupied for the last three weeks while Iraqi police were deployed in some areas inside the city.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment withdrew from frontline bases in the abandoned factories and garages of Falluja's southern industrial zone, witnesses said.

Occupation troops also moved out of areas in the western part of the city.

On the southern edge of Fallujah, marines from 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment began packing up gear today, saying they had been ordered to withdraw from the industrial zone they have held throughout the siege.

Bulldozers flattened a sand barrier that troops had set up along the city's southern edge.

This is what national liberation looks like:



Iraqi men and children celebrate victory with Iraqi flags on the streets of Falluja, May 1, 2004. (Akram Saleh/Reuters)

Byrne said the marines would remain around the Fallujah area, but not in an immediate cordon or inside the city.

The FPA will consist of up to 1,100 Iraqi soldiers.

Many of the guerrillas in Fallujah are thought to be former members the dissolved Iraqi military.

The new Fallujah force could present American officials with a repeat of the problems that have bedeviled the other American-created Iraqi security forces.

American and Iraqi officials now concede that significant numbers of personnel are sympathetic to the insurgents the U.S. expects them to fight.

But Mr. Allawi said the coalition is responsible for complicating the problems through a lack of mission clarity. "It certainly doesn't help matters if the army has been told all along that it will be fighting foreigners, and then suddenly finds itself in an Iraqi neighborhood, fighting other Iraqis," he said.

US troops at the main checkpoint in and out of Fallujah opened fire on a car, killing several Iraqis, but there were differing accounts of the circumstances of the attacks.

Captain James Edge said a car screeched into the razorwire near the main marine checkpoint into Fallujah and gunmen inside opened fire with assault rifles on the Americans.

Troops returned fire with a Humvee-mounted heavy machine gun, killing at least three men in the car, Edge said. A fourth person was wounded but it was not clear if he was in the car or a bystander, Edge said.

An AP reporter, however, saw US soldiers open fire on a pick-up truck at the checkpoint, killing a seven-member family that was trying to flee the city. It was not clear if the accounts referred to separate incidents.

In an interview earlier this week, Iraqi Defense Minister Allawi said the country's new army and paramilitary forces had performed 'completely unacceptably' when violence began to swell across the country last month.

He said the forces were inadequately trained and poorly commanded, and blamed both Iraqi and American officials for ordering them to fight too soon. "They were clearly not ready to be put into combat," he said.

Two U.S. Sailors Killed In Falluja

5.1.05 BAGHDAD (Reuters) & AP

The U.S. military said on Saturday two U.S. sailors have been killed in Al Anbar province, which includes Falluja, on Friday, a Marine statement said.

It said the sailors, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, were killed while conducting operations against anti-U.S. forces.

The Marines statement gave no details of what the sailors were doing in the area but the Navy often provides medical corpsmen to Marine units **and other personnel, such as special forces** and construction units, sometimes operate inland.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Convoy IED Attack Kills One, Wounds Two Soldiers Near Qarrayah

5.1.05 BAGHDAD (Reuters) & AP

One soldier was killed and two were wounded on Saturday when a roadside bomb hit a military convoy near northern Iraq, a military statement said.

The soldier was killed Saturday morning when a roadside bomb exploded near a convoy south of Qarrayah just after 9 am, some 45 miles from the northern city of Mosul, the U.S. military said in a statement.

Both wounded soldiers have been transported to the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Mosul.

Several vehicles were damaged in the IED attack.

Another statement said a soldier who was wounded in a similar attack in the same area on Friday died of his injuries on Saturday. One soldier was also wounded in that attack.



A U.S. Army soldier approaches a burning U.S. Army military truck after a convoy attack in the outskirts of Baghdad on the highway to Fallujah, May 1, 2004. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

Six British Troops Wounded In Fight With Shi'ite Mehdi Army At Amara; Pull Out Of City

May 1, 2004 AMARA, Iraq (Reuters)

Six British soldiers and an Iraqi policeman were wounded in a rare clash between British forces and the Shi'ite Mehdi Army in south Iraq on Saturday, a British officer said.

Militiamen loyal to cleric Moqtada al-Sadr attacked British forces in the city of Amara, 365 km (230 miles) south of Baghdad, after a number of the Mehdi Army militia officials were arrested, local security sources said.

A British military spokesman said numerous individuals had been arrested in a swoop that netted "significant amounts of arms, explosives and bomb-making equipment."

He said British forces sustained a number of casualties in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on a convoy in the town. A British officer at the scene said three soldiers were wounded, one seriously.

British forces then pulled out of parts of the city and talks were under way to restore order, the spokesman said. Local sources said the militiamen were demanding the release of 10 of their comrades.

Mortar rounds were also fired at an airport used by the U.S.-led administration in the town, wounding an Iraqi police.

Sadr announced an uprising against U.S.-led occupation forces and his militiamen have repeatedly clashed with U.S. troops in central and south-central parts of Iraq.

Two Marines Killed In Fallujah

April 30, 2004 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- **Two U.S. Marines were killed and six wounded Friday** in a car bombing near the Marines' camp in Fallujah, the U.S. military said.

Soldier From Rapids City Killed On His Homecoming Day

April 30th, 2004 By Barb Ickes, Quad City Times, Davenport, Iowa

A soldier from Rapids City, Ill., died Thursday, the day his Illinois National Guard unit from Freeport, Ill., originally had been scheduled to arrive home from Iraq.

Sgt. Landis Garrison, 23, served with the 333rd, a military police unit. **The unit's tour of duty recently had been extended.**

The circumstances of Garrison's death were unknown early Friday afternoon, but his mother said he died somewhere north of Baghdad.

MP Mysteriously Dead

April 30, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-04-52C

Baghdad, Iraq - A Soldier attached to the 16th Military Police Brigade died in a non-hostile incident in Baghdad.

Sgt. Landis W. Garrison, 23, of Rapids City, Ill., died April 29, in Abu Gharb, Iraq, of non-combat related injuries. Sgt. Garrison was assigned to the 333rd Military Police Company, Illinois National Guard, Freeport, Ill.

Three Convoy Personnel Killed

April 30, 2004 Manila, Philippines-AP

Officials say he was a civilian truck driver and was killed Wednesday in an attack on a convoy of trucks taking supplies to U-S troops in central Iraq. Two Ukrainian workers were also killed.

There are about four-thousand Filipino contract workers in Iraq and about 41 government workers -- including soldiers, police and medical workers.

Philippine President Gloria Arroyo -- a staunch U-S ally -- says there are no plans to pull them out.

AP Toll Says 1,361 Iraqis Killed in April; Falluja A Symbol That Rallied Nationwide Resistance

Apr. 30, 2004 LEE KEATH, Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Volunteers hunting for bodies in Fallujah find a woman and her daughter in their home, killed in the siege but undiscovered for days. Chanting mourners bury two boys caught in the crossfire of a Baghdad gunfight.

Victims - young and old, women and men, insurgents and innocents - have been piling up day by day, making April the deadliest month for Iraqis - and Americans - since the fall of Saddam Hussein a year ago.

Official and complete death counts for Iraqis nationwide are unavailable. But a count by The Associated Press found that around 1,361 Iraqis were killed from April 1 to April 30 - 10 times the figure of at least 136 U.S. troops who died during the same period.

The daily carnage, seen by Iraqis before their own eyes and in bloody images and photos transmitted around the country by Arab television and Iraqi newspapers,

has heightened anti-U.S. sentiment across the country - even when the deaths were caused by insurgent attacks.

The siege of Fallujah, where Americans unleashed their arsenal of warplanes and tanks, became a symbol of resistance that rallied many Iraqis Shiite and Sunni - to the anti-occupation cause.

The majority of Iraqi deaths likely took place in the Marine siege of Fallujah, but the toll there has been a source of controversy. The head of Fallujah's hospital, Rafie al-Issawi, said Friday his records show 731 killed and around 2,800 wounded since the Marine siege began on April 1, though he could not immediately provide a breakdown on how many were women or children. His number is factored into the AP count.

It's A Start: Now Bring Them All The Way Home



U.S. Army military vehicles drive away from the U.S. military checkpoint at the entrance of Fallujah April 30, 2004. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

U.S. Base Near Najaf Mortared

29/04/2004 Ireland Online

In southern Iraq, witnesses reported that Shiite militiamen clashed this afternoon with US troops at a base in the holy city of Najaf.

There were no immediate details on the extent of the clashes. Earlier in the day, militiamen fired a volley of seven mortars at the base, causing no casualties.

CHAOS ON THE HIGHWAYS

April 23, 2004 II Manifesto (Rome), By Stefano Chiarini

In front of the Abu Hanifa mosque in Adamiya notices appeared calling for support of the revolt of the inhabitants of Fallujah against the occupier. By way of reply, marine tanks broke down the gates to the courtyard and destroyed the cases filled with food and medicine that were in transit to the refugees. Outside, the square in front of the mosque soon turned into a battlefield.

Last Wednesday, on the same square, life seemed to have resumed its normal course, when, at 10:30 a.m., a member of the mujahedin wearing a face covering shot a man who had just gotten out of an armored vehicle. "That's how mercenaries working for Israel should end up," he screamed. Then he turned toward the owner of the kiosk where the victim had been heading, and shot him in the leg. "And woe to those who work for them." The dead man was a South African national recruited by a private military contractor.

Every convoy, even those carrying mineral water, has to be escorted. And at least fifty subcontractors have been executed so far for working for the American army (fifty have been kidnapped, but most of them later have been liberated later).

This strategy can be said to have been successful, in that a considerable quantity of military matériel remains stuck at the Baghdad airport.

The members of the "Committee of Free Officers," comprised of the upper echelon of those in the Iraqi army dismissed by Paul Bremer, issued a statement, saying: "In 24 hours, we could form anew an army that would put an end to the chaos reigning in this country, but we will never do that for the Americans. We will do it only for a government that defends the national sovereignty of our country."

But perhaps all is not lost for a fringe element of the military coalition that claims to be full of good will. A group of experts in mass communication is supposed to arrive soon in the Iraqi capital. They're the same ones who managed Margaret Thatcher's election campaign. Now they're charged with convincing the Iraqis of the occupation's good intentions. But their success in this city is anything but assured.

Fuel Convoy Ambushed, Mercenaries Killed

May 01, 2004 Agence France-Presse

MOSUL, Iraq -- Two foreign security contractors were killed and five wounded in a bomb attack Saturday in the northern city of Mosul, the US-led coalition said.

The contractors, who worked for a security company protecting oil convoys, were killed in a blast as five sports utility vehicles sped through the city 230 miles north of Baghdad, police said.

"Two foreign workers were killed in a roadside bomb attack," according to a coalition spokesman.

TROOP NEWS

Pentagon's No. 2 Doesn't Know How Many Troops Have Died In Iraq

(THANKS TO PG WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: P WRITES: Liar or deluded fool detached from reality? You be the judge.)

April 29, 2004 Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Asked how many American troops have died in Iraq, the Pentagon's No. 2 civilian estimated Thursday the total was about 500 -- more than 200 soldiers short.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was asked about the toll at a hearing of a House Appropriations subcommittee. "It's approximately 500, of which -- I can get the exact numbers -- approximately 350 are combat deaths," he responded.

"He misspoke," spokesman Charley Cooper said later. "That's all."

American deaths Thursday were at 722 -- 521 of them from combat -- since the start of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Department of Defense.

April has been the deadliest month so far, with more than 100 killed and some 900 wounded amid a sharp rise in violence.

GET 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/>

Officer In Command Earns Condign Punishment



U.S. Marines from Gulf Company, a part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, guard detained Iraqi men near the town of Falluja on April 27, 2004. **They were ordered by their officer to detain health workers for helping wounded insurgents. Note white hospital uniforms the prisoners are wearing.** (Oleg Popov/Reuters)

Wounded GI Fights Bill Collector

April 30, 2004 BRAD EDWARDS reports, WorldNow and KFOR-TV

The Marine is in a military hospital, recovering from wounds he received on the battlefield. But, he said he's more worried about the bill collector than he is about his health.

So his mother, here in Oklahoma, asked me to go "In His Corner."

If you've watched even a few minutes of news recently, you know that the serious action in Iraq is in a town called Fallujah. And that's exactly where Sonya Christmon's son is serving with the Marine Corps.

The Corps called her two days ago to say Robert had been wounded again by shrapnel, but that he would be all right.

Sonya was anxious to hear those words from her own son's mouth when he called later that same day. But what was he worried about?

"And he said, 'Mom, I got a bill here on my cell phone.' "

"And I'm like, 'what?' "

"And he said, 'It's like \$2,000.' I [have to] get this paid. Because you know his credit.' "

Robert had received a threatening letter from a bill collector for AT&T Wireless saying pay \$2,000 or they would take legal action. Robert claimed he had shut off the service before he got shipped out from the U.S. again, but it wasn't shut off.

Sonya couldn't believe someone would trouble troops about a bill when they face death on a daily basis.

Sonya called and questioned the San Diego AT&T office because Robert's cell bills were normally \$75 to \$100. But they would only talk to Robert. They hung up on Sonya and her family.

Army National Guard attorney Capt. Michael Mannes said bill collectors can send letters to GI's in war zones, but soldiers, like anyone, can write and demand the letters stop. It's federal law. But if they persist, GI's can fight back against bill collectors, too.

"There are certain provisions that allow for a service member to bring civil action against them and in some cases there is even criminal penalty," Mannes said.

Now, I contacted AT&T corporate affairs and they have apologized to Robert and his family and also said they deeply regret that a collector hounded Robert in a dangerous combat situation.

A company executive told me they will work as hard as possible to get this bill resolved in the next few days.

That's a great relief to Robert's family. We'll check back for results.

I'm Brad Edwards, In Your Corner.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"The quickest way to end a war is to lose it."

--George Orwell

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? Mercenaries Hired To Terrorize Iraqis

By Sharon Smith, April 30, 2004 Socialist Worker: www.socialistworker.org

NO SOONER did the Spanish government announce plans to pull its troops out of Iraq than the governments of Poland and Honduras followed suit. The Thai

Senate is debating whether to withdraw its forces, and Nicaragua has already quietly done so.

True to form, Bush reacted to the Spanish decision by accusing the new Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of giving "false comfort to terrorists" in Iraq. In reality, the Bush administration is alarmed by this hemorrhaging of the "coalition of the willing" because it exposes the unraveling political disaster of its military strategy in Iraq.

At least 700 Iraqis--including hundreds of civilians--were mowed down by U.S. troops quelling the popular uprising in Fallujah in April. But we will never know exactly how many Iraqis were killed--because, as Lt. Cmdr. Jane Campbell explained to the *New York Times*, "We don't keep a list. It's just not policy."

More than 100 U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq in April. In fact, mid-April was the deadliest two-week span for U.S. troops since October 1971, during the Vietnam War.

The Bush administration's strategy was to conquer and subdue Iraq with a lean and mean U.S. military force, supplemented by foreign troops, private security firms and--crucially--an Iraqi army of rapidly trained Iraqi soldiers. But the Iraqi army has proven to be an unreliable ally for U.S. occupiers--especially when called upon to kill fellow Iraqis resisting the occupation. **U.S. officials admitted that half of its Iraqi army refused to fight when U.S. Marines began their massive assault on Falluja on April 5. In fact, U.S. troops found themselves fighting against some of the very same Iraqi soldiers that the U.S. military had trained in recent months--after they joined the uprising.**

"They made a very big mistake in Fallujah," Iraqi journalist Majid al-Samarai explained to the Inter Press Service news agency. "They try to say they were fighting foreign Arabs and terrorists like Zarqawi, but they were not--just regular Iraqis in their houses who were tired of the occupation."

Incapable of ever admitting a mistake, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared that he will continue to look for ways to "outsource and privatize" the U.S. military. The U.S. is relying on a growing army of soldiers from private military contractors, such as Blackwater USA--the employer of the four American "civilian contractors" killed and mutilated by enraged Iraqis in Falluja.

These troops are mercenaries--Chileans trained under the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, South Africans who defended the former apartheid state, and ex-British SAS and U.S. Special Ops soldiers--now earning a bundle killing Iraqis on behalf of the U.S. government. Whereas the average combat soldier in Iraq earns \$16,000 a year (more than 25,000 military families are eligible for food stamps), private security firms pay up to \$1,000 a day for soldiers to fight high-risk battles in Falluja and Najaf.

Private military contractors--which now provide 20,000 soldiers to supplement the U.S. military in Iraq, larger than the British contingent--have begun coordinating since the attack on Falluja. Nevertheless, as the strain on U.S. troops reaches crisis proportions, Rumsfeld ordered 20,000 battle-weary U.S. soldiers who were due to head home to remain in Iraq.

With 40 percent of U.S. ground troops in Iraq already made up of reservists and National Guard, the Defense Department announced that the Selective Service is making preparations for another draft--"in case one is needed." Last week, Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) proposed that the U.S. should consider reviving the draft to ensure that all Americans "pay some price" in a "generational--probably 25-year --war." White House Spokesperson Scott McClellan quickly responded with the not-very-reassuring comment that reviving the draft is not under consideration "at this time."

While answering reporters' questions about the 90-day troop extension last week, Rumsfeld said that soldiers "are fungible. You can have them here or there." Fungible, for those not schooled in "Rummy-ese," means "commodities" that can be "traded or substituted," according to the dictionary. Much like cannon fodder.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Military Prison Torture Scandal: Role Of Mercenaries Highlighted In Rape, Other Abuse Of Prisoners

April 30, 2004 Julian Borger in Washington, The Guardian

Graphic photographs showing the torture and sexual abuse of Iraqi prisoners in a US-run prison outside Baghdad emerged yesterday from a military inquiry which has left six soldiers facing a possible court martial and a general under investigation.

The scandal has also brought to light the growing and largely unregulated role of private contractors in the interrogation of detainees.

According to lawyers for some of the soldiers, they claimed to be acting in part under the instruction of mercenary interrogators hired by the Pentagon.

US military investigators discovered the photographs, which include images of a hooded prisoner with wires fixed to his body, and nude inmates piled in a human pyramid.

The pictures, which were obtained by an American TV network, also show a dog attacking a prisoner and other inmates being forced to simulate sex with each other.

Gen Kimmitt said the investigation began in January when an American soldier reported the abuse and turned over evidence that included photographs. "That soldier said: 'There are some things going on here that I can't live with'."

The inquiry had centered on the 800th Brigade which is based in Uniondale, New York.

Lawyers for the soldiers argue they are being made scapegoats for a rogue military prison system in which mercenaries give orders without legal accountability.

A military report into the Abu Ghraib case - parts of which were made available to the Guardian - makes it clear that private contractors were supervising interrogations in the prison, which was notorious for torture and executions under Saddam Hussein.

One civilian contractor was accused of raping a young male prisoner but has not been charged because military law has no jurisdiction over him.

This is the first time the privatisation of interrogation and intelligence-gathering has come to light. The investigation names two US contractors, CACI International Inc and the Titan Corporation, for their involvement in Abu Ghraib.

Titan, based in San Diego, describes itself as a "a leading provider of comprehensive information and communications products, solutions and services for national security". It recently won a big contract for providing translation services to the US army.

CACI, which has headquarters in Virginia, claims on its website to "help America's intelligence community collect, analyse and share global information in the war on terrorism".

According to the military report on Abu Ghraib, both played an important role at the prison.

Colonel Jill Morgenthaler, speaking for central command, told the Guardian: "One contractor was originally included with six soldiers, accused for his treatment of the prisoners, but we had no jurisdiction over him. It was left up to the contractor on how to deal with him."

She did not specify the accusation facing the contractor, but according to several sources with detailed knowledge of the case, he raped an Iraqi inmate in his mid-teens.

Col Morgenthaler said the charges against the six soldiers included "indecent acts, for ordering detainees to publicly masturbate; maltreatment, for non-physical abuse, piling inmates into nude pyramids and taking pictures of them nude; battery, for shoving and stepping on detainees; dereliction of duty; and conspiracy to maltreat detainees".

One of the soldiers, Staff Sgt Chip Frederick is accused of posing in a photograph sitting on top of a detainee, committing an indecent act and with assault for striking detainees - and ordering detainees to strike each other.

His lawyer, Gary Myers said the role of the private contractors in Abu Ghraib are central to the case.

"We know that CACI and Titan corporations have provided interrogators and that they have in fact conducted interrogations on behalf of the US and have interacted with the military police guards at the prison," he said.

"It's insanity," said Robert Baer, a former CIA agent, who has examined the case, and is concerned about the private contractors' free-ranging role. "These are rank amateurs and there is no legally binding law on these guys as far as I could tell. Why did they let them in the prison?"

The Pentagon had no comment on the role of contractors at Abu Ghraib, saying that an inquiry was still in progress.

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

Accused Soldier Fingers MI & Commanders In Prison Abuse Scandal; "I Asked For Help And Warned Of This But Nobody Would Listen"

(It's despicable that so many who are so outraged by this story ignore far worse done to prisoners in the U.S.A. every day of the week. If you doubt it, check out Prison Legal News: www.prisonlegalnews.org/.)

Friday April 30, 2004 (AP) & May 1, 2004 The Guardian

After an investigation into problems at a Baghdad prison run by the U.S. military began, Maryland-based soldier Ivan "Chip" Frederick wrote an account of how the prison he helped run treated inmates.

"I questioned some of the things that I saw ... such things as leaving inmates in their cell with no clothes or in females' underpants, handcuffing them to the door of their cell. I questioned this and the answer I got was, 'This is how military intelligence (MI) wants it done.' MI didn't want any of the inmates talking to each other. "

``This is what happened when they were caught talking. Prisoners were forced to live in damp, cool cells. **MI has also instructed us to place a prisoner in an isolation cell with little or no clothes, no toilet or running water, no ventilation or window for as much as three days.**" MI personnel and even CID agents were present at these times.

On or about the first week of Jan 2004 ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] was to make an appearance at the facility. Prisoners that were not processed were rushed out to processing immediately to be processed.

I pulled Lt Col Phillabaum aside while he was in 1A. I questioned him about how MI wants things done and about how prisoners were being treated in 1A/B. His reply was "Don't worry about it." I have asked for support from BN [battalion] and the company as to dealing with certain prisoners' behaviour and have received nothing."

"I had a few small rooms within the tiers ... I was often told to place them in these rooms that were as small as 3ft by 3ft. When I brought this up with the acting BN commander he stated "I don't care if he has to sleep standing up."

"Prisoners were forced to sleep in areas not suitable, such as tents that had water in them from rain, only 2 or 3 blankets to shield them from the weather. A prisoner with a clearly visible mental condition was shot with non-lethal rounds for standing near the fence singing when a lesser means of force could have been used."

"The hardsite never knew who to accept or not to accept. **MI prisoners were left in cells for as many as 60 days before their handler would ever know that they were there.**"

"MI has encouraged and told us great job that they were now getting positive results and information. CID has been present when the military working dogs were used to intimidate prisoners at MI's request. [A] CID agent told the soldier working 1A to stress one prisoner out as much as possible that he wanted to talk to him the next day. On the 18th Jan 2004 an unruly prisoner with a broken arm. The prisoner was placed in a head lock and choked out in the presence of CID agent team."

"Back around Nov an OGA prisoner was brought to 1A. **They stressed him out so bad that the man passed away. They put his body in a body bag and packed him in ice for approximately 24 hours in the shower in the 1B. The next day the medics came in and put his body on a stretcher, placed a fake IV in his arm and took him away. This OGA was never processed and therefore never had a number.**"

"There was a large breakout of body lice among many prisoners. Only solution given was razors.

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| "Prisoners that were infected with TB were housed in the same tier as other prisoners and ... the soldiers to be possibly infected by this airborne virus. |
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Frederick also wrote e-mails to his sister, Marian, including one on Dec. 18:

``It is very interesting to watch them interrogate these people. I have made some really close friends. **They usually don't allow others to watch them interrogate, but since**

they like the way I run the prison, they make an exception. ... We have had a very high rate with our style of getting them to break. They usually end up breaking within hours."

January 22, 2004 "Dear Mimi,

I am feeling so bad at how the army has come down on me. They always said that shit rolls downhill and guess who is at the bottom? **I have asked for help and warned of this and nobody would listen. I told the battalion commander that I didn't like the way it was going and his reply was 'Don't worry about it. I give you permission to do it'.**

Prisoner Of British Punched, Kicked; "We're Never Going To Get Them On Our Side. We Are Fighting A Losing War," Soldier Says

May 1, 2004 Matthew Taylor, The Guardian

The British Army was at the centre of new torture allegations last night after pictures showed an Iraqi prisoner being battered with rifle butts, threatened with execution and urinated on by British soldiers.

The prisoner - thought to have been a thief - had his jaw broken and his teeth smashed during an eight-hour ordeal after being arrested near the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Bleeding and vomiting, he was eventually driven away from the army camp, still hooded, and thrown off the back of a moving vehicle. He was not charged with an offence and it is not known whether he lived or died.

The photographs were given to the Mirror newspaper by soldiers who said the horrific treatment of prisoners was widespread and was one of the main reasons why coalition forces faced such fierce opposition in Iraq.

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| <p>One told the newspaper: "We are not helping ourselves out there. We are never going to get them on our side. We are fighting a losing war."</p> |
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The soldier said the man had been hit with batons. "You normally try to leave off the face until you are in camp," he told the Mirror. "If you pull up with black eyes and bleeding faces, you could be in a bit of shit. So it is body shots, just scaring him."

In the final few photographs the man is barely conscious, his shirt torn, while vomit seeps through the sack on his head. The soldier, who admits he took part in the attack, said the man was pleading with the others to stop.

"He could speak a few words, 'No mister, no mister.' What I did was less than others, but yes, I joined in." The soldier said he feared the man would die. "He was dying, basically, so he could not take any more, so basically they threw him out."

"One of the officers came down to get him and it was like, a bit of a mini-bollocking, but nothing really. Then it was, 'Get rid of him, I've not seen him. The paperwork gets ripped."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Some fight and die...



The coffin of Army Sgt. Major Michael B. Stack during burial services at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., April 29, 2004. Stack, 2nd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group out of Fort Campbell, Ky., was killed during fighting in Al Anbar Province, April 11. His family received the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. **(Which is a piss poor exchange for the life of a soldier who died in vain for oil and empire.)** (AP Photo/Stephen J. Boitano)

While these loathsome pieces of shit in human form stay home, get promotions, and send others to do their dying for them:



Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., left, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., pose on the North Lawn of the White House **after they were both promoted to the rank of colonel by President Bush during a ceremony earlier in the Oval Office Thursday, April 29, 2004, in Washington.**

Sen. Graham, who is an Air Force reservist, and Rep. Buyer, who is an Army reservist, were both exempt from serving in Iraq because they are congressmen, but plan to do their active duty on the home front. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

(Their “duty on the home front” will consist of kissing the ass of George W. Bush, stuffing their bank accounts full of campaign contributions, cutting taxes on the rich, sending more soldiers to die in Iraq, and giving a whole new dimension to the world “traitor.” They have no more business wearing these uniforms than a child molester has wearing a Santa Claus outfit. What they do deserve is trial, sentence and imprisonment for impersonating members of the armed forces.)

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. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>

Received:

From: (Australia)
To: GI Special
Sent: April 27 & 29, 2004

Subject: Re: GI Special 2#60: "Get Us Out Of Here" & 2#67

Thanks a million for the 2/67 and others. Am distributing. I can't thank you enough for this great material. Our press tells us nothing. Fraternal greetings M

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