

GI SPECIAL 2#80

“Get Out Now. We’re In Charge”



A member of resistance Shiite Army of Mehdi, holding a poster of his leader, brandishes his Kalashnikov in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

U.S. Intelligence Contractor Says Dual-Power In Iraq; In Baghdad Everything Lost But Occupation Headquarters

May 14, 2004 Stratfor Intelligence Service Report:

The war in Iraq is not going as Washington had planned, and pacifying the country is unlikely to be an option for a very long time. We suspect -- and we see some indications -- that, despite putting a brave face on the situation in Iraq, the Bush administration has finally recognized this and is in the process of rethinking its strategy. Washington must know that if U.S. policy in Iraq does not change, it will hinder long-term U.S. goals in the Middle East.

Stratfor sources doing contracting work for U.S. commanders in Iraq say there is a dangerous dual-power situation in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad, where the

United States controls only the Green Zone, and guerrillas and criminal gangs have the run of the rest of the city.

Sources say U.S. tanks patrolling the capital do not translate into control, and local police have a helpless, hands-off attitude -- and those are only the ones who are not members of guerrilla or criminal bands.

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/qi-special/>

Bush Approval Hits New Low, Iraq Support Falling Away

5.15.04 WASHINGTON (AFP) & Wall St. Journal 5.5.04

Public approval for US President George W. Bush has hit a new low, as Americans show increasing disapproval over his administration's occupation of Iraq, a poll revealed.

The American president's overall job approval rating has fallen to 42 percent, down from a 49 percent rating recorded in an April 8-9 Newsweek poll.

For the first time since Bush took office in January 2001, a majority of Americans surveyed by Newsweek (52 percent) disapprove of him.

The Republican president's approval rating on Iraq has hit a record low, as well, plummeting to 35 percent from 44 percent in the April poll.

Just 41 percent of registered voters said they would like to see Bush re-elected, down from 46 percent in a March survey, while a majority of 51 percent said they would not.

A May 5 Wall St. Journal/NBC News poll found that "Voters see neither peace nor prosperity on the horizon." In that poll, a 47% plurality said the war in Iraq isn't worth its human and financial toll. By a 50% to 33% margin, voters said the country is headed in the wrong direction. "The images that voters see on their television screens surmount everything else," said Messrs. Hart and Teeter," in the Wall St. Journal poll report.

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Mehdi Army Strikes Back

15 May, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

British Ambushed Near Amara

Fighters from Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army militia struck back at U.S.-led coalition forces.

Two British soldiers were wounded when a convoy headed north on Friday toward the city of Amara from their main base at Basra came under attack. **Troops returned fire "to save their lives".**

A second patrol which came to the rescue was ambushed by guerrillas who detonated a roadside bomb and opened fire with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns, the spokesman said. In all, there were three attacks, he added.

The British took no further casualties and the two initially wounded were being treated. A Defence Ministry spokesman in London, who declined to identify the regiment involved, added that **the wounded were expected to survive.**

The spokesman in Iraq said it was not yet clear who the attackers were. The prisoners were being questioned. **(Perhaps it can be assumed the attackers were Iraqis fighting for their national independence against a foreign Imperial occupation? That's not too big a stretch.)**

Italian Troops "Besieged" In Nassiriya; Control Of City Center "Unclear"

In Nassiriya, controlled by Italian forces, militiamen besieged the offices of the occupation authority, firing rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, the British spokesman said. "A number of militia are believed to have been killed," he added.

An Italian spokesman in the building said fighting had died down after dawn but it was still unclear whether the guerrillas were in control of the town centre. (Nobody went out to take a look? Probably the right choice.)

Madhi Army Sets Up Roadblocks In Samawa

In Samawa, at the northern end of the British-run area of operations, troops clashed with Sadr's militiamen overnight, the British spokesman in Iraq said, but sustained no casualties. **Fighters had set up roadblocks in the town and resisted attempts by Iraqi police to remove them, he said.**

Dutch and Japanese troops are based in Samawa.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed South Of Baghdad

15 May, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

Insurgents have killed two U.S. soldiers from the 1st Armoured Division in separate attacks south of Baghdad, the U.S. military says.

One soldier died from wounds received in a mortar attack on his unit on Friday, while the other died of bullet wounds sustained in a sniper ambush the same day, the statement said on Saturday.

U.S. forces face daily attacks from insurgents in and around Baghdad and other cities countrywide.

A U.S. military spokesman said recently that U.S. forces faced as many as 50 attacks a day with rocket-propelled grenades, assault rifles or mortars somewhere in the country.

Two More 1st AD Soldiers Die

15 May, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

Early Friday, a military vehicle overturned during a patrol, killing a soldier belonging to the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division the military

Another 1st AD soldier died of natural causes Friday in the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad, the military said.

"The soldier was found unconscious and transported to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad where he was pronounced dead at 6:55 a.m.," the military said in a statement.

COSCOM Soldier Dies Of Wounds In Al Tarmya Convoy Attack

5.15.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040515j

BALAD, Iraq - A 13th Corps Support Command Soldier died around 8 p.m. May 14 from wounds received in combat earlier that day.

The Soldier was one of two wounded in a car bomb attack on their convoy near Al Tarmya around 4 p.m.

The wounded were transported by air to a nearby combat support hospital.

“Intelligence” Mercenary, Ex-Cop, Killed Near Tikrit

5.14.04 The Sanford (N.C.) Herald By TIM PRESTON

SANFORD - Jesse Gentry, 61, a veteran of the U.S. Army and law enforcement agencies in Lee and Harnett counties, died Thursday morning in Iraq when a taxi ran into the vehicle in which Gentry and coworkers rode.

Gentry, who retired as a detective from the Sanford Police Department, went to Iraq in early March, according to his wife, Vicki Gentry, of Sanford.

"His original job over there was to help train the Iraqi police," Gentry said Friday, explaining her husband's job for DynCorp International changed to an intelligence role as violence against U.S. personnel in Iraq escalated.

Gentry was one of two men who died after being thrown from the vehicle they were riding in, his wife said.

"An Iraqi taxicab driver deliberately ran into them," she said, explaining that the vehicle was part of a convoy traveling near Tikrit.

Born in Pennsylvania, Gentry grew up in West Virginia and Florida, eventually settling in North Carolina after retiring from the Army and serving with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, including two tours of duty in Vietnam. His local family includes a stepdaughter and four adult children.

Jim Eads, one of many local police officers who worked alongside Gentry during his years in Sanford as well as with the Harnett County Sheriff's Department, remembered Gentry as an outstanding investigator with a keen sense of humor.

"He was a good fellow and quite a good friend to several of us here at the police department," Eads said Friday.

"He taught me a lot about the job and other people. With his former military work and his experience in Harnett County, he was a wealth of information as well as a good

investigator," he said, noting Gentry's detective work included cases ranging from misdemeanors to murders.

Examples of Gentry's sense of humor included his telephone answering machine message advising callers of their right to remain silent.

Among his memories of moments with Gentry, Eads recalled a drive from Sanford to Wilmington.

"People pick on me for being a slow driver," he said. "Jesse said, 'Let me drive.' Now, I know it is a pretty good distance from Sanford to Wilmington. We made it there in about an hour and a half."

Already nervous due to their rate of speed, Eads said he noticed an unusually high number of what appeared to be reflectors along both sides of the road. When he asked Gentry about the "glints" along the rural stretch of road, his driving partner calmly informed him, "Those are deer."

"I said, 'Please slow this thing down,'" Eads said.

TROOP NEWS

The War Comes Home Brighton Honors Native Son's Life, Lost In Iraq War

May 12, 2004 By Enid Arbelo, Staff writer, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

BRIGHTON — More than 50 people attended a memorial Tuesday to honor a fallen Navy petty officer and former Brighton resident.

Michael Pernaselli, a Navy petty officer first class, was killed in late April in Basra, Iraq, near an oil terminal in an attack linked to al-Qaeda.

To honor the 27-year-old, an eastern redbud tree and commemorative bench with a nameplate were dedicated to Pernaselli. The memorial is behind the Brighton Town Hall, adjacent to the Brighton-Kiwanis playground, where Pernaselli used to spend his childhood afternoons.

The inscription on the bench reads: "You served our country and made us proud to call you son, brother, father and friend. Forever your family, friends, Roselawn Neighborhood Association and McQuaid Jesuit High School."

John Pernaselli, Michael's father, said his son would have loved the ceremony. While on leave, he would bring his daughters — Nicole, 3, and Dominique, 4 — to enjoy the playground on sunny days, much like Tuesday afternoon.

McQuaid Jesuit High School and the Roselawn Neighborhood Association funded the memorial, and the town contributed the space and installation.

"People we don't even know come up to express their condolences," Pernaselli said. "I don't know where to begin to start thanking everyone."

Brighton Town Supervisor Sandra Frankel said that the ceremony was not just a way to honor Pernaselli but also a way to celebrate his life.

"Michael was a son of Brighton and anytime we lose a son it hurts ... but this is a loss that is embraced with honor," Frankel said.

With the sun beating down on the crowd, Lori Garrat, a member of the Roselawn Neighborhood Association and a family friend, addressed the group, thanking the community for the support that made the memorial possible.

Next to her stood the tree, covered with purple blossoms, and the bench that would welcome passers-by to sit and rest in the future.

"It is our hope that people will come and visit," Garrat said. "Perhaps in years to come ... people will just stop to reflect on what Michael gave."

Problems with GI Smallpox Vaccinations: Service Members Develop Cardiac Trouble

May 15, 2004 By M.A.J. MCKENNA, COX NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA -- Members of the armed forces who have been vaccinated against smallpox are developing an unexpectedly high rate of reactions that affect their hearts, military doctors said.

The reactions suggest thousands of citizens would experience problems if the smallpox vaccine were ever offered broadly to the U.S. population, the doctors said.

About 16 out of every 100,000 armed forces members vaccinated have developed cardiac problems, Dr. Dimitri Cassimatis of Walter Reed Army Medical Center said at a briefing in New York.

About 615,000 have been inoculated since December 2002, when bioterrorism fears prompted the resumption of smallpox vaccinations for military personnel and some civilians after a 30-year hiatus.

Looney General Who Attacked Islam As Evil Tied To POW Torture

May 11, 2004 By Andrea Shalal-Esa, WASHINGTON (Reuters)

The U.S. Army general under investigation for anti-Islamic remarks has been linked by U.S. officials to the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal, which experts warned could touch off new outrage overseas.

A Senate hearing into the abuse of Iraqi prisoners was told on Tuesday that Lt. Gen. William Boykin, an evangelical Christian under review for saying his God was superior to that of the Muslims, briefed a top Pentagon civilian official last summer on recommendations on ways military interrogators could gain more intelligence from Iraqi prisoners.

Critics have suggested those recommendations amounted to a senior-level go-ahead for the sexual and physical abuse of prisoners, possibly to "soften up" detainees before interrogation -- a charge the Pentagon denies.

One Senate aide, who asked not to be identified, said any involvement by Boykin could be explosive. "Even if he knew about the abuse, that would be a big deal," he said.

Rumsfeld And Myers Personally Ordered Prison Tortures; “Grab Whom You Must. Do What You Want”

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: Rummys grimy fingers are deep in this shit. Now they're stuck.)

5.15.04 By Jeremy Pelofsky WASHINGTON (Reuters)

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved a plan that brought unconventional interrogation methods to Iraq to gain intelligence about the growing insurgency, ultimately leading to the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, the New Yorker magazine reported on Saturday.

Rumsfeld, who has been under fire for the prisoner abuse scandal, gave the green light to methods previously used in Afghanistan for gathering intelligence on members of al Qaeda, which the United States blames for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the magazine reported on its Web site.

The New Yorker said the interrogation plan was a highly classified "special access program," or SAP, that gave advance approval to kill, capture or interrogate so-called high-value targets in the battle against terror.

Such secret methods were used extensively in Afghanistan.

Rumsfeld and Defense Undersecretary for Intelligence Stephen Cambone expanded the scope to bring the interrogation tactics to Abu Ghraib, the article said.

A former intelligence official quoted in the article said Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, approved the program.

The rules governing the secret operation were "grab whom you must. Do what you want," the unidentified former intelligence official told the New Yorker.

The Cover-Up Unravels: Pfc. England: Superiors Gave Iraq Abuse Orders

5.12.04 By ESTES THOMPSON, Associated Press Writer

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - The Army private facing a court-martial for being photographed with naked Iraqi prisoners says she was following orders to create psychological pressure on them.

Pfc. Lynndie England told KCNC-TV in Denver on Tuesday that her superiors gave her specific instructions on how to pose for the photos. Asked who gave the orders, she would say only, "Persons in my chain of command."

"I was instructed by persons in higher rank to `stand there, hold this leash, look at the camera,' and they took picture for PsyOps (psychological operations)," she told the station.

Asked whether worse things happened than those already seen on the photos, she said yes but declined to elaborate.

She said her superiors praised the photos and "just told us, 'Hey, you're doing great, keep it up.'"

"We don't feel like we were doing things that we weren't supposed to because we were told to do them," England said. "We think everything was justified because we were instructed to do this and to do that."

After meeting with England, attorney Giorgio Ra'Shadd said she shouldn't be used as a scapegoat by the military.

Ra'Shadd said England was pulled into the situations by intelligence agents who subverted the military chain of command. He said they used England to humiliate the men being photographed so they could show the pictures to more important prisoners and threaten them with the same treatment.

"The spooks took over the jail," said Ra'Shadd. Now in private practice, he was formerly an Army lawyer assigned to the civil affairs and psychological operations command at Fort Bragg.

Pentagon officials told a Senate committee that the prison conditions shown in the pictures were confined to a few low-level soldiers and intelligence officers.

But Ra'Shadd contended that the blame for the scandal lies high up in the chain of command, arguing that only the highest-ranking officials could have allowed civilian intelligence to override military command structure.

600 Filipino Workers In Iraq Quit

May 15, 2004 (Kyodo News)

MANILA — **Fearing for their safety, about 600 Filipinos working inside a U.S. military base in Iraq have decided to quit after Wednesday's mortar attack on the base that killed a Filipino warehouseman and wounded four others, a Philippine official said Friday.**

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the workers at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, will be flown to the United Arab Emirates in batches by a cargo aircraft chartered by their Dubai-based employer Prime Projects Inc.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Why Iraqis Celebrate When Iraqi Occupation Cops Are Killed

(The Occupation press hacks whine a lot about how the nasty resistance fighters are killing "their own" police. "See how awful they are," the line goes, "they're killing other Iraqis! How barbaric of them! What freedom haters they are!" But as this story reports, every dead Iraqi occupation cop is a reason for every decent human being to celebrate, not just Iraqis.)

May 12, 2004 by Oakland Ross. The Toronto Star

Hard as it may be to believe, the detainees captured by coalition forces are the lucky ones.

Those picked up by the Iraqi police -- a force that operates under U.S. authority and control -- often proceed at once to the innermost circle of hell.

The Red Cross report documents horrific practices carried out by the Iraqi police against detainees in their charge, often with the purpose of extorting money from them, sometimes prior to turning them over to coalition forces for further interrogation.

Abuses cited by the Red Cross include whipping prisoners with cables, kicking them in the testicles, hanging them from iron bars by their handcuffs, burning them with cigarettes, pretending to shoot them with unloaded pistols, threatening to rape their wives, and pouring water on their legs while giving them electrical shocks with live, stripped wires.

Finally, it should be noted that the vast majority of the political detainees in Iraq are likely innocent of any wrongdoing.

According to the Red Cross report, **coalition military intelligence officers themselves estimate that somewhere between 70 and 90 per cent of those whom they detain have been picked up by mistake and are guilty of nothing at all, except the crime of living in an occupied country and stumbling into a foreign-administered hell.**

Mortar Kills Four Iraqis Waiting to Join New Army

May 15, 2004 MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters)

A mortar or grenade attack on Iraqi civilians lining up to join the new Iraqi army killed four people and wounded at least 15 on Saturday, hospital staff and the U.S. military in the northern city of Mosul said.

Men were queuing at the entrance to a base set up for recruitment in an industrial area in eastern Mosul when the attack happened at 0235 EDT, police said.

The coroner at a nearby hospital said at least three people had been killed in the attack. Hospital staff said 17 were wounded, two of whom were in a serious condition.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Piek, a spokesman for U.S. forces in the region, said later four had died and 15 were wounded.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

US Prisons Make Iraq Look Good

May 14, 2004 From: Tilda Sosaya, Albuquerque, NM
portside@lists.portside.org

For prisoner family members and activists, the situation at Abu Ghraib is hauntingly familiar. My son is in prison ... six years on an offense that seems so obscure and hugely unrelated to the physical abuse and constant mental torture he consistently endures (in varying degrees) at the hands of ignorant, ill-trained and/or sadistic guards.

How and why this abuse is such a shock to the American people is the curious point. It happens here every day ... prison rape is a given. "Booty bandits" – known prisoner predators - are cultivated by prison guards in order to "tame" younger prisoners with "attitude" or to extract information and develop a snitch system.

Prison authorities most often cast a blind eye to such abuse, especially if they are provided with information which might pre-empt future problems. In addition, the rise of privatization has further exacerbated prison abuse, since oversight of private prisons is scant. That is not to say that state and federal facilities are much more concerned. Most allegations of abuse are invalidated as the product of prisoners who are "liars" anyway.

Three years ago, at a federal lock-up in Milan, NM (Cibola County) run by CCA, approximately 800 prisoners refused to go back into the prison and engaged in a day-long sit-in following their recreation period. By mid- night, the prison authorities used dogs and tear gas to force them back inside so that the community would "feel safe" again.

These prisoners had issues – complaints which never saw the light of day. Most were immigrants and many, we believe, were held without the benefit of legal counsel or family knowledge. I organized a demonstration with a couple dozen people. We carried 10 foot banners with our (organization's) phone number and mailing address. We were close enough to the facility to see hands waving, and people writing down the information. **We never got one phone call or one piece of mail from that facility. When we asked about issues and problems, the facility management said that there had been some "food issues" which had been corrected.**

The point is that prisons are the darkest, most hidden corners of American life. Once you've been inside the walls, you lose sight of hope and of the remotest connection to the "American Dream." Life in our culture has become a nightmare and the Iraqi debacle makes that crystal clear. It's about time the American public relinquishes the privilege of naiveté that characterizes our national ideology.

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

The Immaculate Bloodless Beheading; A True Miracle In Iraq 15 Anomalies Surrounding Death Of Nick Berg

What Really Happened.com Letters 5-14-4

Arab linguists have said the man posing as the Jordanian Zarqawi did not speak with a Jordanian dialect. Others have suggested the man reading the written statement may not have been a native speaker of Arabic. Zarqawi was missing one leg and had been outfitted with an artificial leg that did not fit or function properly. He was unable to walk or stand normally with his ill-fitting limb. No man in the group showed evidence of such an infirmity.

As any surgeon will testify, the alleged beheading was a fake. A beheading would result in a tremendous amount of spurting blood. There would have been blood everywhere had an actual beheading taken place. When the executioner holds up Berg's head immediately following what is represented as an actual decapitation of a living person, there is no significant blood flow from the neck or blood splatters showing anywhere on the executioner.

Furthermore, the cut was simply too neat to have been done crudely and with such amazing speed by a man wielding a knife. Anybody who has ever carved a turkey knows there is something wrong with the supposed beheading. The suspended head looks more like Berg had been neatly beheaded by a guillotine.

The orange jumpsuit was standard US military issue to men in custody. It is unlikely Berg would have continuing wearing a US custodial uniform if he had been released by the military as they claim. The fact he was still wearing the suit is both anomalous and suggestive. One is forced to speculate as to whether there was an immediate transfer of Berg from the US military to unknown persons, thusly preventing Berg from discarding his US prison garb.

Several of the men in the film were fat by Iraqi standards. If they were Feyadeen or mujahadeen, they probably have been living underground since the first days of the occupation. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have been shown on news stories as they have marched and demonstrated. One would be hard pressed to point out a single fat man among these thousands.

Some men had what can only be described as pasty-white hands. Once again, one would be hard pressed to find Arab men with pasty-white hands.

The lack of spurting blood suggests Berg was already dead at the time of the alleged decapitation. It is possible Berg's dead body was displayed with his head already partially or totally severed. In any case, he almost certainly was killed before the staged beheading. If so, it suggests the captors had no stomach for an actual beheading of a living person, and they opted to fulfill their assignment quietly and with the least amount of gore.

The scream that is heard has been interpreted as a woman's scream by many viewers. Videotape cognoscenti have further said the scream was amateurishly added to the tape.

The U.S. government translation of one statement made on the film is: "Does al Qaeda need any further excuses?" This is a falsification. The actual statement urged fellow insurgents to get off their hind ends and do something. One assumes the translator being used by the US military is a native speaker of Arabic, so this cannot be explained as an innocent flub. This suggests the US government wanted to inject an alleged al- Qaeda group into the murder of Nick Berg.

Iraqis who have seen the videotape on Arabic news broadcasts are universally saying the men in the film are not Iraqis. Are they saying this partly because the speaker does not employ an Iraqi dialect? Where does their certainty come from?

Firearms experts have stated the AK-47 carried by one man was a "Gilal." This actually is an Israeli-made weapon that improves on the famous AK- 47. Feyadeen and other insurgents almost universally use AK-47s.

The man in the videotape who is purported to be Zarqawi is wearing a gold ring. This is absolutely proscribed by Islamic law.

The US military has stated that Berg was never in US custody and that he had been in custody of the Iraqi police. The Iraqi police adamantly deny he was ever in their custody.

On April 1, an e-mail from Beth A. Payne, the U.S. consular officer in Iraq, was sent to the family of Nick Berg. It stated that Ms. Payne had located Nick, and he was currently in custody of the US military. We have to conclude that either the email was bogus or the US military has been lying.

The chair that Berg was seated in during the filming was a standard issue military chair of the exact same kind as seen in a color photo taken at the Abu Ghraib Prison. The chances a terrorist cell would be using this same chair are minimal at best.

MORE:

PsyOps: Creating A Diversion

PaulJanaHoward 5-14-4

The Berg video is a montage of two separate videos taken from two cameras. This is apparent from the time in the lower right-hand corner, which changes as the angle of the shot changes.

Notice on the right that Berg's head has been cut off at 13:47:49 (1:47) - yet on the picture on the left, at 2:44 - nearly an hour later - he is sitting with his head intact!

In the video shown all over the world, the man in the middle (wearing all black) is the one who beheads Mr. Berg, but immediately when the head is held up, suddenly it changes to the man in the white mask.

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Torturers' Committee Convenes At Abu Gharib To Inspect Their Work



Major General Geoffrey Miller, Deputy Director of detainee operations at Abu Ghraib Prison (R), Rumsfeld and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Myers (L) tour the grounds of the jail. **Rumsfeld toured the notorious Abu Ghraib prison in a visit aimed at boosting the morale of US troops. (!)** (AFP/Pool/David Kennerly)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



5.15.04: US President George W. Bush gestures hypnotically. His overall job approval rating has fallen to 42 percent, a new poll showed. **Bush, however, told reporters that he had received a message from God Almighty early this morning informing him that if he gestures hypnotically once a day, his poll numbers will recover and his enemies “will be laid waste, even unto the land of Snarg, and they shall be confounded utterly.”** White House staff were reported working frantically to locate “the land of Snarg,” expressing the hope that Saddam Hussein’s’ missing WMDs might be located there also. (AFP/File/Luke Frazza)

Iraq War Now Costs 50% of Vietnam Charges

5.13.04 By David Rogers, Wall St. Journal

WASHINGTON—**U.S. military costs in Iraq and Afghanistan are running close to \$4.7 billion a month, and with the additional expense of replenishing worn armored vehicles, helicopters and other equipment, they could easily reach \$66 billion for fiscal 2005.**

The estimates are based on updated Pentagon calculations provided to Congress, which last night received President Bush’s request for a \$25 billion contingency reserve fund to support the two operations in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Most of the reserve is designated for Army and Marine operations, but the White House wants maximum flexibility, even as it acknowledges that the \$25 billion isn’t sufficient, given Iraq’s stepped-up insurgency.

More new funds are sure to be needed next spring, and the rising costs underscore the financial strain of the continued occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Annual costs are more than half of the inflation-adjusted spending on the Vietnam War, the last major extended conflict for the U.S. In the peak years in Vietnam—

1967 to 1969—when U.S. forces topped 500,000, the U.S. spent on average about \$117 billion a year. By comparison, U.S. forces total about 136,000 in Iraq and 14,000 in Afghanistan, and costs are expected to run about \$65 billion a year in both 2004 and 2005.

The Stale Old Lie Comes Back Again

5.13.04 Wall St. Journal

“The Iraqis know we don’t want to be here, and they know they’re not ready to take over,” says a State Department official with intimate knowledge of the Bush administration’s plans for Iraq.”

(The “intimate” State Department official apparently doesn’t bother reading the news. Polls show Iraqis want the U.S. to get the fuck out now. Considering one of the polls was commissioned by the State Department, this idiot must be living on the dark side of the moon. Or maybe “intimate” is one of those arrogant assholes infesting the Bush Administration that thinks people are too stupid to know lying spin when they hear it.)

Big Surprise; Imperial Democrats Ignored Torture

May 12, 2004 by William Pfaff, The International Herald Tribune

In the Afghanistan war it [the government] summarily shipped prisoners outside of the country, notably to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, without serious examination of their cases, and in disregard of Geneva norms concerning prisoners taken in war.

U.S. Army regulations on dealing with prisoners of war were bypassed, since these people were by presidential definition "enemy combatants," not prisoners of war.

While the administration's disregard for international, military and constitutional law was widely acknowledged at the time, there was little protest in the American press, and no effective challenge from Democratic Party leaders. There is a bipartisan responsibility for what has happened.

Nader Welcomes Conservative Endorsement From Pat Buchanan's Immigrant-Hating Fans

5.12.04 By SAM HANANEL, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - Independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader has been endorsed by the national Reform Party, giving him ballot access in eight states, including Florida and Michigan, party leaders announced Wednesday.

The party endorsed maverick conservative Pat Buchanan in the 2000 election.

Nader spokesman Kevin Zeese said Nader welcomes the support but plans to continue running as an independent.

Nader spoke to Reform Party leaders via conference call Monday night and asked for their support.

Rumsfeld Losing It; Launches Looney Rant About Cameras

May 12, 2004 Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON -- If I had my way, every enlisted man and woman in the military would be issued a digital camera.

As we have seen in the Abu Ghraib scandal where American soldiers have been accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners, the little gadgets appeared to have helped boost morale by providing the soldiers with snapshots that they could e-mail back home. The cameras also came in handy during the gathering of evidence regarding the abuse.

I like those cameras because certainly the power elites don't.

Take, for example, the contempt that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld showed for the cameras during recent hearings on Capitol Hill. His response to Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) turned into a bit of a rant:

"We're functioning in a--with peacetime restraints, with legal requirements in a wartime situation, in the Information Age, where people are running around with

digital cameras and taking these unbelievable photographs and then passing them off, against the law, to the media, to our surprise, when they had not even arrived in the Pentagon."

No, folks, it is apparently not the Bush administration's gross lack of preparation for the management of post-Saddam Hussein Iraq that is the problem, in Rummy's view. It's those pesky soldiers and their weapons of mass photography.

JCS Chief Meyers Says “No Way To Militarily Win Or Lose In Iraq”— Wants UN To Take Over: “That’s How We’re Going To Win”

May. 14, 2004 MAUREEN DOWD, New York Times, WASHINGTON

Testifying before the Senate on Wednesday, Gen. Richard Myers admitted that we're checkmated in Iraq.

"There is no way to militarily lose in Iraq," he said, describing the generals' consensus. "There is also no way to militarily win in Iraq."

Sounding like Kerry, Myers summed up: "This process has to be internationalized. The U.N. has to play the governance role. That's how we're, in my view, eventually going to win."

The administration's demented quest to conquer Arab hearts and minds has dissolved in a torrent of pornography denigrating other parts of the Arab anatomy. **Should we really be reduced to defending ourselves by saying at least we don't behead people?**

Officials blurred the lines to justify ideological decisions, calling every Iraqi who opposed us a "terrorist"; conducting rough interrogations, perhaps to find the nonexistent WMD so they would not look foolish; rolling all opposition into one **scary terrorist ball** that did not require sensitivity to the Geneva Conventions or "humanitarian do-gooders," to use the phrase of Sen. James Inhofe, a Republican.

How Out Of Touch With Reality Can You Get? Silly Kerry Thinks Rumsfeld Good For Iraq Troops Morale

5.14.04 By MIKE GLOVER, Associated Press Writer

Kerry said in a television interview Thursday he welcomed Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's trip to Baghdad.

"I'm glad the secretary of defense went there. The troop morale needs, I think, that kind of visit," Kerry said on Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes."

Powell Says Iraqis Could Like Occupation

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: Powell also announced that they have finally, after 30 years, defeated the Vietcong.)

May 14 By Cam Simpson Washington Bureau, Chicago Tribune

Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged Thursday that the majority of Iraqis want U.S. forces out of their country but suggested their opposition to the occupation would be reversed "in a minute" if security was restored.

Cops Love Kerry



Police Union Rejects Bush, Backs Kerry: Kerry is escorted by Fulton County Georgia deputy sheriff Kevin Morton, left, and Norfolk Virginia police officer Michael McKenna, right, while laying a wreath at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial May 14, 2004, in Washington. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

US Soldier Wounded In Southern Afghanistan

May 15, 2004 Xinhua News Agency (China)

KABUL - "On Thursday one US soldier suffered severe wounds after an IED exploded and hit his convoy as it was traveling about 30 km southeast of Zabul's provincial capital Qalat," Tucker Masanger told reporters at a news briefing.

The injured trooper, he said, was transported for treatment to US facilities at Bagram 50 km north of here.

In a related incident but first of its kind, a rocket fired by unknown attackers last night slammed into Bagram, the headquarters of 20,000-strong US troops in Afghanistan.

CLASS WAR NEWS

The Cost Of War Comes Home: Falling Dollar Brings Inflation

Wall St. Journal 5.13.04

Import prices rose 4.6% in April, marking the largest increase in a year.

Prices for imported industrial supplies and materials other than oil advanced by 2% in April and 11.4% for the year. Iron and steel led the way with a 9.2% increase in April.

Received:

A Soldier's Letter From Iraq

Posted 15 may 2004 at <http://www.bringthemhomenow.com/> Check it out!

May 13, 2004

Hello

i am in the military and am deployed in iraq at the present time. **due to military code of conduct and possible action from the military, i am not going to release my name or my unit. i am using my fiance's email without her knowing of my actions.**

i once believed that we were over here for a good reason. not for nuclear or biological weapons but to remove a dictator who could possibly harm my fellow americans by terroristic activity. i realize that just by removing saddam we have not made our country safer and i realize that we must make sure that the person who comes into power here in iraq is not of the same mindset that saddam and his regime were.

as i agree with these actions, i have come to realize that these people do not want nor do they deserve our help. yes, the kurdish people in the north are truly remarkable human beings and they should not have to suffer any longer, **but i realize that what is happening in the regions stretching from mosul all the way down to al nasahriyah are too great for the coalition to still have hope.**

when my fiance mentioned this site to me i was in disagreement with what she had done, but now after seeing the video of the contractor beheaded in its complete form, i have become totally immune to the hopes and feelings of these people. the video has greatly disturbed me and has given me no proper reason to want to help the people of iraq.

yes, i realize that not all iraqis hate us. but i also know that no matter who you are, you are related in some way to everybody in their tribal families. the ones that like us here know the ones causing all the problems and heartache for us. that's the truth of the matter. this country is like a very small country town. everybody knows everybody.

with this being said, i believe that since they know who's doing these works and they are not coming out with the information then they are no better than the people actually causing the problems.

another thing. the reason as to why we are having so much trouble with these people is because the violators of the coalition authority are not being punished whatsoever. people will come right up to the gates in mosul and start shooting ak rounds and mortar fire. what do the night watchers and day watchers do to these people? nothing. i'm not sure if it because they are afraid to or if they are on certain orders. i don't blame them if it's because of orders, due to everyone here must follow orders. no questions asked about that.

then we have fallujah. many soldiers died there. when we start to get people scared down there and start taking care of business, what do we do, we back off and the let the local authorities handle it. the problem with that is those local authorities are some of the ones who were in on the attacks with us. problems in fallujah will never be solved. saddam couldn't control them and obviously we couldn't either.

we're too busy messing and playing around with politics over here that these people believe and know that they can get away with anything. **the corruption in this country is unbelievable. believe me when i say this, it doesn't stop at just the iraqis. i'm not going to go any further with that issue. i am not nor will i speak out against my commander and chief, president bush, but i will say that the way things are being handled over here is definitely the wrong way to go.**

yes i want to come back home as much as anybody here, but the only problem with that is if we just hop plane and leave, then why did those fellow soldiers and americans,

british, and many other coalition supporting nations die for? i'm not speaking out against this site whatsoever nor do i believe that any more soldiers no matter what nation they are from should die, but all i'm saying is that if we just walk out and leave then it might seem to some those soldiers died for nothing. i will say this and then i'm done. we are fighting for a somewhat lost cause.

thank you for your time and i hope you can understand why i stayed anonymous throughout this email. i say again that my fiance had no recognition of what i was doing, so please do not involve her or her email address after you have received this.

Strength and Honor

From: J
To: GI Special

**For quotes from soldiers against the war in Iraq, go to
<http://www.bushpresident2004.com/troops.htm>**

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