

GI SPECIAL 2#95

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME



Mother of Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Phillip Frank kisses his casket while her husband Roy consoles her during a graveside ceremony at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois, April 2004. Frank died from hostile fire in the Al Anbar region of Iraq.
REUTERS/Frank Polich

**“Welcome To The Free
Republic Of Fallujah”
The Iraqi Resistance “In
Command”**

“No American Will Ever Enter Here Again”

03/06/2004 News.telegraph.co.uk

In Fallujah, the most restive city in the Sunni Triangle of Iraq, anti-American feeling is white-hot. Jack Fairweather is smuggled inside the city that is a no-go area for Westerners.

Wearing an American-supplied uniform and armed with a battered AK47 rifle, Abdullah lounged at the checkpoint on the outskirts of Fallujah.

A month ago he probably had his face masked by an Arab headscarf, and was launching attacks against US marines. Now, as a member of the US-sponsored Fallujah Brigade, he controls access to the city.

Such is the strange nature of the peace that has seen the Iraqi resistance take command of Fallujah, the most restive city in the Sunni Triangle of Iraq, where anti-American feeling is white-hot.

US marines pulled out last month and an Iraqi security force hastily formed from Saddam Hussein's old army moved in. The fighting was over as abruptly as it had begun, with US commanders lauding the peace deal.

"It's an Iraqi solution to an Iraqi problem," said a marine general optimistically. Fallujah has since become a model for dealing with the Shia uprising in the south.

But few on the ground share such optimism. There may be peace, but officers say Fallujah has simply been handed over to the insurgents.

A US officer said: "All we've succeeded in doing is paying off the mujahideen to stop shooting at us. There's a cauldron of hate out there and its going to boil over."

The town is currently a no-go area for US troops, and by extension, any westerner. Despite lucrative rebuilding contracts, none has entered the city since four contractors were killed and their bodies mutilated in March, prompting the American incursion.

I was driven into Fallujah with black curtains drawn around the rear seat of the car, the only way for a foreigner to enter. As soon as we passed the final US-supervised checkpoint a few miles from town centre I hid my face.

My escort, a member of the Iraqi Islamic Party, which negotiated the peace deal with the marines, warned me that he would not be able to guarantee my safety if I set foot outside the car.

The reason for such caution was obvious. Brown-shirted members of the Fallujah Brigade, most of them former resistance fighters, manned checkpoints across the city. The few residents who agreed to talk were hastily smuggled into the back of the car.

"Welcome to the free republic of Fallujah," said one resident, who would not give his name. "We run this city now and no American will ever enter here again."

A look of horror passed over the face of another man when he saw a westerner in the back of the car. "What are you doing here? I will be killed if I am seen with you. You must leave. Get out!" he said.

Many American military officials now privately accept that going into Fallujah was a mistake. Seventy marines and an estimated 800 Iraqis were killed in six weeks of clashes. The fighting inspired the Shia uprising in the south.

But officials also say that leaving the insurgents unbeaten may prove a greater problem.

"It's difficult to understand what's been achieved in Fallujah. We've got to start from scratch all over again," said a member of the civil and military affairs team outside the city.

Abdul Razzak is a civil engineer who has spent the past month assessing the war damage for compensation claims.

So far he has a bill running into the multi-millions with thousands of claimants. The US military has agreed to hand out £650 million.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Five U.S. Soldiers Killed in Baghdad Ambush

June 4, 2004 By Edward Cody and William Branigin, Washington Post Staff Writers & Associated Press & Agence France-Presse June 5, 2004

An attack killed five U.S. soldiers and wounded five others in Baghdad.

The attack killed five U.S. soldiers and wounded five others around midday in the eastern part of the capital. The deaths and injuries were attributed to an explosion from a powerful roadside bomb that destroyed the soldiers' vehicles while they were on patrol. The 10 soldiers were members of Task Force Baghdad, a unit mainly composed of troops from the 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas.

The vehicles came under attack at 1:12 p.m. on Palestine Street near the Shiite district of Sadr City. Video footage from Associated Press Television News showed the burning

wreckage of a Humvee and a huge plume of black smoke rising from the mangled vehicle.

At least three bodies, apparently of U.S. soldiers, lay on the ground nearby.

About six other American soldiers were loading the bodies onto another Humvee and guarding the site.

Witnesses said attackers fired a rocket-propelled grenade at one of the first vehicles and the convoy was rocked by a roadside bomb after it ground to a halt, a now familiar pattern of attack on US patrols.

Other witnesses said a television cameraman was wounded in the leg when soldiers fired warning shots to ward off a crowd.

The attack on the edge of the Baghdad slum known as Sadr City, a stronghold of militiamen loyal to a Shiite Muslim cleric, came several hours after a U.S. Army patrol was fired upon Friday morning in the same general area. A U.S. military official said that in the earlier incident, the U.S. soldiers exchanged fire with gunmen who attacked them with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles. The official said there were no known casualties on either side in the first incident.

Roadside Bomb Kills U.S. Soldier

6/5/2004 By Katarina Kratovac, Associated Press & Australian Broadcasting Company

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) A roadside bomb killed an American soldier and wounded three others Saturday in the second fatal attack on U.S. troops in the capital in as many days.

Moqtada al-Sadr's fighters hit one of the vehicles in a US Army convoy with a rocket propelled grenade, bringing it to a stop in Sadr City in Baghdad's eastern suburbs.

The fighters then detonated a roadside bomb.

American troops blocked off the site of the blast, which occurred as a convoy was passing along a street in eastern Baghdad.

Ahmed Saed, 25, who lives in a small cement close to where the attack happened said he believed an RPG was fired, followed by the bomb explosion.

"The military vehicle exploded and a civilian truck was on fire," he said.

Command Admits "Nightly" War In Baghdad;

Police Station Attacked; Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded

6/5/2004 By Katarina Kratovac, Associated Press & Agence France-Presse June 4, 2004

The resistance attacked an Iraqi police station guarded by American soldiers in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City. The Americans counterattacked, seizing a mortar tube abandoned by the militiamen, witnesses said.

An AFP correspondent heard gunshots in the al-Karama neighborhood and saw militiamen armed with Kalashnikovs and RPGs on the streets.

"At midnight (2000 GMT Thursday), an Iraqi police station was attacked," said U.S. Army Captain Brian O'Malley.

"We had three U.S. soldiers with minor wounds, and the enemy had some killed in action. It's a small number," he said declining to be more specific.

"It's about nightly contact between the Americans and the enemy," O'Malley said of the fighting in Sadr City.

Falluja Deal In Najaf; But Police Chief Says Cops Too Weak To Patrol

6/5/2004 By Katarina Kratovac, Associated Press

Under a deal worked out between Shiite leaders and al-Sadr's militia, his al-Mahdi Army is supposed to pull back from the Islamic shrines in the twin cities and hand over security to Iraqi police, according to Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi.

At the governor's request, the U.S. Army agreed to stay away from the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf and the mosque in Kufa where al-Sadr preaches to give Iraqi security forces a chance to end the standoff.

By midday Saturday, al-Sadr's fighters remained at the most sensitive religious sites but were no longer brandishing weapons, an aide to the cleric said.

The Najaf police chief, Sayed Ghalib al-Jazairi, told The Associated Press that he would send police in civilian clothes to the site to "assess the situation." He complained that his men were too poorly armed and equipped to take over right away.

The agreement to end fighting around Najaf and Kufa is broadly similar to the accord that ended the bloody, three-week Marine siege of Fallujah.

Foreigners Killed In Ambush

June 4, 2004 By Edward Cody and William Branigin, Washington Post Staff Writers

In an incident about 18 miles north of Baghdad, five persons were reported killed when a roadside bomb disabled their civilian vehicle and unknown assailants came up and fired into it. The five were reported to be foreigners, but their identities were not immediately known.

Ambush On Airport Road

6/5/2004 By Katarina Kratovac, Associated Press

Assailants ambushed two sport utility vehicles, favored by Western civilian contractors, on the road to Baghdad's airport. An Iraqi Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two or three people were killed but he had no further information.

TROOP NEWS

War Widow's Lament: 'He Died for Money'

June 4, 2004 By Susan B. Glasser, Washington Post Foreign Service

VINKIVTSI, Ukraine -- Irina Zlochevskaya is 19 years old, and a widow. They brought her husband's corpse home to her on May Day. Along with the body in American-issue camouflage came a new DVD player he had bought, a roll of film -- undeveloped -- and a death certificate from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

The cause of death was left blank.

But his young wife believes she knows why Yaroslav Zlochevsky died in the Iraq war launched by the faraway American superpower. Officially, she has been told he was killed in an ambush near the Iraqi city of Kut, his legs and one arm torn off his body.

In reality, she said, "he died for money."

The abandoned child of an alcoholic raised in an orphanage, Zlochevsky had tried, and failed, to continue his education after high school. He had tried, and failed, to find work in the big city, away from the poverty of the grim hamlet in western Ukraine where the young couple lived, six people crammed into her family's sour-smelling apartment.

At 23, he finally found a job.

For \$670 a month, he signed up to serve in Iraq, part of Ukraine's 1,650-member military contribution to the U.S.-led occupation. He arrived in Iraq in late February after telling his family he would be a peacekeeper, handing out humanitarian aid. "He had no idea it's a real war there," said his wife. "No idea at all."

Zlochevsky was killed on April 28. Kostyantyn Mykhalev, another son of western Ukraine, born just three days after Zlochevsky, died with him. Mykhalev had also sought education and work but found no possibilities that did not involve wielding a gun. They became the fifth and sixth Ukrainians killed while serving in Iraq, adding to a roster that now includes 109 non-American troops.

The news of the deaths of the two young men came as a jolt to a place that had largely forgotten the Iraq war. And it served as a reminder that the conflict's toll has been felt not only in the United States but in Poland and Bulgaria, Italy and Estonia. Ukraine has one of the largest contingents in Iraq after the U.S. and British forces, but **its soldiers are poorer, less adequately equipped and more uncertain about their country's mission there than the Americans whose occupation they serve.**

The last time Ukraine sent its young men to die in war, the conflict was in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the superpower waging it was the Soviet Union, of which Ukraine was a part. This time, Ukraine's soldiers went as volunteers after President Leonid Kuchma enlisted his independent but economically struggling country in the U.S.-led "coalition of the willing" for Iraq.

To a Ukrainian public that overwhelmingly opposed the war, Kuchma explained the mission as peacekeeping, while his critics accused him of signing up to rehabilitate an image tarred by accusations of illegal arms sales to Saddam Hussein before his ouster as Iraq's president. But as the sector of southern Iraq where the Ukrainians were stationed erupted into rebellion this spring, the new realities turned the job from peace to war.

In March, the Ukrainians were forced to retreat from Kut after a takeover by Shiite militiamen loyal to the rebel cleric Moqtada Sadr. One soldier was killed. In late April, the ambush that claimed the lives of Zlochevsky and Mykhalev aroused a new political debate about the troops' presence in Iraq, as Ukrainians saw the charred remains of one of their armored personnel carriers on television and heard military experts say the Ukrainian convoy had not been properly protected.

Kuchma rebuffed Communist demands for the troops' immediate withdrawal as "brazen cynicism," and the pro-presidential majority in parliament has blocked efforts for a vote. **But Kuchma's defense minister has acknowledged "frequent attacks and a worsened situation" for Ukrainian troops and pledged to provide them better equipment, communications and security.**

The families of the dead soldiers are to receive \$105,000 each in compensation -- an unprecedented sum for the Ukrainian military, which has struggled to reduce its force after the Soviet collapse but still has about 310,000 men in uniform. **Many are poorly paid conscripts who have inadequate food and housing and outdated weapons and equipment.**

Here in the green farmland of western Ukraine where Zlochevsky and Mykhalev were born, the young men's decision to go to Iraq was just another case of economic desperation. "Nobody needed a war here. Our children just wanted to live, to have a future," said Galina Korzhenevskaya, the bookkeeper for Berezivka, Mykhalev's home town on the banks of the Dnister River. "The state fell apart, the village is dying. Nobody has seen a salary here in 10 years."

Berezivka today feels more like a ghost town than a farming outpost. A decade ago, about 1,000 people lived there, most of them employed at a collective farm left over from the Soviet era. Mykhalev's mother worked feeding calves; his stepfather drove a horse-drawn cart making deliveries for the farm.

Today, most of the farm's decayed brick buildings are abandoned. The official population of Berezivka is 750 -- and unofficially much lower, according to village officials -- because anyone who is able leaves to work as an illegal migrant in Western Europe. Horses are still the standard mode of transportation. When Mykhalev graduated from high school in 1998, there were 13 in his class; this year, just three children started first grade at the town's one school.

A sports enthusiast who loved soccer and volleyball, Mykhalev went off to the regional center of Kamyianets-Podilskyi to study to be a gym teacher. His best friend since childhood, Roman Chorny, went with him to study agriculture. Both dropped out and served their mandatory military service.

With neither of his parents working and a brain-damaged epileptic younger brother in need of medical care they could not afford, Mykhalev went to the capital, Kiev, in search of a job. He found one as a security guard but was never paid the wages he was promised, said his mother, Lyudmila Mykhalevskaya. After six months, he came home.

"Kostya for that family was the only hope," said Anatoly Shevelyov, the school principal.

Last fall, Chorny came up with a plan for them -- join the Iraq-bound 6th Brigade. Both young men had to persuade skeptical parents who, despite the lure of what by local standards was an enormous salary, initially refused permission. Both then threatened to arrange fake marriages, according to their families, and get their supposed new wives to sign the necessary papers. "He said it would only cost less than \$60," said Chorny's father, Viktor.

The recruiters showed them a video in which young Ukrainian soldiers were portrayed seeing the world and placidly manning checkpoints, the families said. "They made it seem as if they were going to a health resort," said Mykhalev's mother. "Of course it was deception -- all these kids were fooled. They took them to war and they knew it."

"They were lied to," said Chorny's mother, Galina, a \$50-a-month math teacher. "They were not told the truth."

Once in Iraq, the mission became clearer. In one of his phone calls home, Mykhalev, who had been trained as a sniper, told his mother that "they shot so much in Iraq" that it was "more than in his entire two years of military service" as a conscript.

Now, the people of Berezivka are waiting to see whether Chorny will be allowed to come home early. His parents have not spoken with him since the ambush. Both said they did not blame the United States for Mykhalev's death, but rather their own country. "I have never seen America, and I will never see it," said Chorny's father. His mother added, "It's here we have trouble."

In nearby Vinkivtsi, Zlochevsky's widow, Irina, was struggling with the same questions, as their 2-year-old son Dima squirmed on the couch. Her husband was persuaded to go to Iraq by her brother Alyosha. He is still there.

"I don't have anything against America. But our authorities should just tell people the truth," she said. "Let them say we are preparing people for war, and if you want to go, you can go."

She has developed the film that came back with Zlochevsky's body and put the pictures in an album. In one photo, he is shown wielding his machine gun on top of an armored personnel carrier. In another, he is sitting in his underwear at a table with his friends, drinking a toast. At the end of the album are other pictures, of her at his funeral, dressed in black, holding a picture of Yaroslav.

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/>

A Nazi-Like Defense

Letters To The Editor
Army Times 6.7.04

In regard to the "prisoner abuse" in Iraq, the defense of "I was ordered to do it," is the Nuremberg defense. It will not work. Many Nazis were hanged using this defense.

Not only the personnel involved, including the photographer, should face courts-martial, but action should go well up the chain of command.

Stupidity is not a defense, but it was stupidity all around.

Gunnery Sgt. Donald E. Fisher
Valley Center, Calif.

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.

Cowards With Bars And Stars: Scumbag Officers Blackmailing Soldiers

June 07, 2004 By Jane McHugh, Army Times staff writer

A newly launched campaign to contact former soldiers seeking volunteers for return to duty has drawn claims that it's part of an Army push to order them back into uniform.

Army officials insist that the nationwide effort to contact the 118,000 former soldiers who comprise the Individual Ready Reserve is aimed only at seeking volunteers and to update contact information.

But that message apparently has not been clear to all recruiters carrying out the program, nor to many of the former soldiers. The IRR is composed of recently separated soldiers who still have some portion remaining of the eight-year service obligation that all military members bear.

Natalie Byars, a former Army 75B (personnel administration) specialist who separated from the Ohio National Guard on April 20 after four years' duty — leaving her four years in the IRR — said she was recently contacted by a recruiter with disturbing news.

“You have two choices,” Byars recalled him saying. “Transfer back into the Army National Guard or be mobilized with an Army Reserve unit.”

The 21-year-old mother of two said she challenged the information up the chain of command in the Ohio National Guard but the recruiter's message was only confirmed, in harsh terms.

Byars provided Army Times with a May 14 memo from the Ohio Adjutant General's Department that said IRR members would be transferred, mostly involuntarily, to Reserve units.

The memo echoed the recruiter's message to her: "Basically you have two choices," it said. "Transfer back into the Army National Guard or be mobilized with a U.S. Army Reserve unit."

Stories of IRR members being strong-armed into returning to duty have sprung up from coast to coast in recent weeks.

Rep. Peter Fazio, D-Ore., got the Army to agree to revoke numerous re-enlistment orders in his state after IRR members there said they re-enlisted only after being told they had to choose assignments in the Army Reserve or National Guard or face involuntary assignments.

A Nebraska National Guard soldier said a recruiter swore at him and warned him to sign up or face possible deployment, and the Chicago Tribune reported that a recruiter called the home of a 22-year-old soldier who had recently completed a nine-month tour in Iraq, informing him that he could be headed back there unless he enlisted in the Illinois National Guard at once.

"There is widespread confusion regarding the status and expectations for IRR soldiers," Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., ranking member of the personnel subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said

"If even one soldier is deployed as a result of re-enlisting under questionable circumstances," the statement continued, "the Pentagon isn't going to be able to handle the reaction from Congress."

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/>**

VA Won't Act To Help Homeless Vets

Army Times 6.7.04

Although there is no true measure of how many homeless veterans exist in the United States on any given day, estimates run between 200,000 and 250,000. In 2001, legislation allowed the VA to establish 10 new domiciliary care programs for homeless veterans, but so far, the VA hasn't done so.

Oops: Training Soldiers For Iraq Earns Trainers A Trip To Iraq

June 07, 2004, By Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writer

The Army has a plan to include the soldiers that run its premier desert training center into future deployment rotations to Iraq.

The Pentagon is eyeing the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment — the highly trained unit that serves as the opposing force at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. — as a source of available soldiers to draw on since the Defense Department agreed to ground commanders' requests in April for an increase of forces in Iraq, according to Army officials.

"The 11th ACR is definitely being considered for deployment," said Col. Lew Boone, a spokesman for Army Forces Command.

Increasing unrest in the country threatened to upset the planned June 30 hand-over of authority to the Iraqis, so the Army responded by extending 20,000 soldiers from the 1st Armored Division and the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in April for an additional three months on top of their promised 12-month tour.

Finding replacements for the 20,000 without upsetting the next 12-month rotation to Iraq left the Army with few options except to start looking at units that have been off limits in the past.

Public Rejects 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Bullshit

June 07, 2004 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

Gay-rights advocates are lobbying Congress to repeal the military's ban on open service by homosexuals.

Sixty-four people, most of them veterans, visited with staff members from 92 congressional offices May 25 to educate them on the "don't ask, don't tell" law and explain to them it hurts people.

Under the law, gays and lesbians may serve in the military if they conceal their sexual orientation. But **according to Steve Ralls, spokesman for the advocacy group Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, public support to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military is growing.**

<p>A December Gallup poll found 79 percent of respondents believe gays should not have to hide their sexual orientation while in the military, up from 53 percent in 1993 when "don't ask, don't tell" became law, Ralls said.</p>

SLDN hopes legislation to repeal the law will be introduced in Congress next year.

Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., who encouraged staff members to attend a reception marking the lobbying day, supports repeal of the law, a staff member said. There are no plans at this time, however, to introduce legislation because the work is focused on building the argument why the law should be repealed, the staff member said.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the issue of gays serving in the military was in the news when dozens of linguists who spoke Arabic, Korean and Farsi were discharged because they were gay, Ralls said.

Retired Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Keith Kerr, who is gay, said the law leads to emotional scars, embarrassed families and financial ruin. "We're going to end 'don't ask don't tell,'" he told supporters of the repeal, to resounding applause.

The policy puts troops in a Catch-22 that Congress did not fully understand when it created the law, said retired Army Brig. Gen. Virgil Richard, who came out publicly in December.

It's common for service members to ask colleagues what they're doing in the evenings or weekends, whom they are dating, and whom they are writing to, say supporters of the repeal. If a gay service member truthfully answers such questions, "you're outing yourself," Richard said.

"The law is used to divide and segregate people under different rules of the game," he said. "It creates another class of people who are subject to harassment and bait for abuse."

Richard met with numerous congressional staff, many of whom were not familiar with "don't ask, don't tell."

"I think they listened," Richard said. "Nobody shut the door."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Informers' Brother Killed

6/5/2004 By Katarina Kratovac, Associated Press

In the northern city of Mosul, gunmen killed the brother of the man who told American forces where to find Saddam Hussein's sons, killed by U.S. troops in July. Salah al-Zidani was assassinated by gunmen, witnesses and hospital officials said Saturday.

Al-Zidani was traveling in a car when gunmen in a passing vehicle opened fire, a hospital official said. Al-Zidani died instantly and three companions were injured, the officer said.

Attack On Mosul Recruiting Center Wounds 17

6/5/2004 By Katarina Kratovac, Associated Press

In Mosul, attackers fired a rocket-propelled grenades at an Iraqi Army recruiting center, wounding 17 people, hospital and police said.

“Mainstream” Shias Condemn U.S. For Kufa Deaths

03/06/2004 (SA)

A group of mainstream Shiite politicians and other dignitaries on Wednesday blamed US troops for the collapse of the latest ceasefire announced the previous day by provincial governor Adnan al-Zorfi.

Five civilians were killed in the central Iraqi shrine town of Kufa on Thursday as violence raged.

Fifteen civilians were also wounded in the early morning clashes between militiamen loyal to Shiite radical leader Moqtada Sadr and US troops, medics said.

The two sides differ widely over truce arrangements - US commanders insist their troops maintain the right to patrol but Sadr's Mehdi Army militia considers the mere presence of US armour in the Shiite holy cities as an aggression.

Collaborators Killed In Baquba

03/06/2004 (SA)

In Baquba, north of the capital, a policeman and a bodyguard for the local deputy governor's daughter were killed in separate attacks, witnesses and hospital sources said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

You're An Insurgent!

June 4, 2004 By CHRIS FLOYD, Counterpunch

Rumsfeld issued this stark warning to the world: the illegal invasion of Iraq is just "the beginning" of what is no longer merely a "war on terror" but is now an all-out death-struggle with what Rumsfeld called--in a major slip of the mask--"global insurgency."

Note carefully the change in rhetoric--the change in target—from "terrorism" to "insurgency." An "insurgent" is someone who rises up within a given domain to resist or overthrow the ruling power. George Washington was an insurgent; so was Pol Pot.

But a perceived "global insurgency" can only be aimed at a global power--one whose domain encompasses the entire planet. What Rumsfeld is clearly saying is that anyone anywhere who resists the world-spanning will of the American Empire will be subject to "the path of action." That's the blood-and-iron terminology that Bush himself used to describe his policies in the official "National Security Strategy" he issued--just months before killing more than 10,000 civilians in Iraq.

<p>If America controls your country and you don't like it, then you're an insurgent. If you're an American who doesn't like to control other countries, then you're an insurgent too. And the war against you is "just beginning."</p>

"Global insurgency.. The path of action. Anything that flies on anything that moves." They should chisel these words on the Capital Dome, spraypaint them across the pristine walls of the White House walls, teach them in every classroom across the land--for this is the system, this is the true constitution of the National Security State, this is the authentic voice of the American Establishment, the great and the good, the best and brightest. **This is what they do, what they've always done. From the Indians to the Iraqis, anyone who gets in the way of their power and privilege--individuals, tribes, whole nations--gets trampled, broken, ruined, slaughtered. "Anything that flies on anything that moves."**

Then again, there's nothing uniquely "American" about these criminal policies, and the hypocrisy that attends them. It's how elites have behaved from time immemorial, baring their teeth and pounding their chests, ruling through fear and violence, beating, biting, raping, killing--whatever it takes to maintain their perch at the top of the tree. They disguise their savagery--even from themselves--with masks of pomp and piety, with earnest protestations of their "good hearts," their nobility, their enlightenment, their altruism.

What should we do with such dangerous creatures in a civilized society? Why, put them in a cage, of course.

Blood In The Water

June 5, 2004 By Carl Bloice, Published by portside

What were the real reasons for Tenet's departure? We will eventually find out, but it is clear that the long knives have been drawn and the bloodletting isn't over by a long shot.

In the Mel Gibson movie "A Year of Living Dangerously," about the 1965 overthrow of the Sukarno government in Indonesia, "one theme is a particular type of hand puppet that held up to a light, casts a shadow that the audience witnesses. What we see, it says, is only a reflection of what is; only the people pulling the levers really know what is going on.

As syndicated columnist Molly Ivins put it (before the Tenet resignation): "So now what we're looking at is one of those underwater struggles among various bureaucratic behemoths involved in some hideous internecine conflict of which we can see nothing except roiled water, as though several Loch Ness monsters were going at it deep out of sight."

Cows Not Under Attack

6.3.04 Wall St. Journal, Jan E. Hilsenrath

Michael Lewis, head of commodity research at Deutsche Bank in London, contends that by various measures oil isn't so expensive. Oil would have to climb to above \$50 a barrel to match where it stood during the 1990-1991 Gulf War, in inflation-adjusted terms, he says. And relative to incomes, oil prices would have to rise to just over \$80 a barrel to bring them into line with the 1974-to-1985 period" he says.

He also calls oil cheap when compared to other staples. He points out that in Safeway Inc. supermarkets in Maryland, if shoppers wanted a barrel of milk, they'd pay \$138 a barrel at current prices. A barrel of orange juice would be \$192 and a barrel of Evian mineral water would be \$246. But oranges grow on trees; oil doesn't. SUVs don't run on mineral water.

And, Mr. Lewis acknowledges, "Nobody's blowing up cows."

OCCUPATION REPORT

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>



REUTERS/Aki Jasim

Ashcroft Hired Prison Managers Fired For Torture And Sex Predation Incidents To Set Up Iraqi Prison System

June 4, 2004 (AP)

Four former state prison officials hired by the Justice Department to help set up Iraq's prison system have backgrounds that should have precluded them from the private contracting jobs, a senator said Wednesday.

Three of them visited various Iraqi prisons over a period of about four months in 2003 and worked to get them operating. A fourth was given a supervisory position in the newly reconstituted prison system. The four officials were part of a 25-member team.

One of the four, Terry Stewart, was sued by the Justice Department in 1997, when he ran Arizona's Corrections Department. The lawsuit charged that at least 14 female inmates were repeatedly raped, sexually assaulted and watched by corrections workers as they dressed, showered and used the bathroom.

At the time, officials also charged prison authorities had denied investigators access to staff and prisoners to examine abuse complaints.

John Armstrong, who left as Corrections Department chief in Connecticut last year after the agency was sued by female guards who alleged they were sexually harassed.

O.L. "Lane" McCotter, who resigned under fire as head of the Utah Corrections Department after a mentally ill inmate died after spending 16 hours strapped to a restraining chair.

McCotter's predecessor, Gary DeLand, who headed the agency in the late 1980s, when civil rights lawyers charged his department denied appropriate medical care to inmates.

A jury awarded nearly half a million dollars to an inmate incarcerated in 1989 when he suffered renal failure.


The jury found DeLand and other officials violated the inmate's constitutional rights by delaying medical care.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

<http://www.sfgate.com/columnists/asmussen/>

Don Asmussen

BAD REPORTER



The LIES behind the TRUTH, and the TRUTH behind those LIES that are behind that TRUTH.

'Puppet Regimes'


June 4, 8:43 a.m. — Baghdad Ceremony, Iraq

The Chronicle

BUSH DEFENDS CHOICES OF ERNIE, BERT AND GROVER FOR IRAQ GOVERNMENT

‘THEY’RE NOT U.S. PUPPETS, THEY’RE MUPPETS,’ SAYS PREZ

Bush claims the rejection of his first choice, Elmo, shows he is willing to work with Iraqis.



At today's ceremony, the new president of Iraq, named Ernie, tries to convince Iraqi citizens that he will NOT be taking orders from the man underneath him operating his mouth and hands ...

Unfortunately, Bush's "Muppet regime" in Iraq shows that few lessons have been learned from the various disastrous puppet regimes in our past. See below...

Failed U.S. Puppet Regimes
In the last 30 years, at least 54 puppets have been installed to run various volatile territories.

1963 – Lambchop in South Vietnam
President Ngo Dinh Diem, killed in a U.S.-sanctioned coup, is replaced by Lambchop, whose grating voice and twee manner end up drawing the U.S. deeper into the Vietnam War.

1973 – Topo Gigio in Chile
Richard Nixon attempts to replace socialist leader Salvador Allende with Ed Sullivan's popular but deeply flawed mouse puppet. The coup fails.

1983 – Senör Wences in Grenada
Though not technically a puppet, this hand, which formed a mouth-like shape using a thumb and index finger, would rule Grenada with an "iron mouth."

But the darkest chapter in U.S. puppetry history is certainly the Iran-Contra scandal, the first time in which covert "shadow puppets" were used...

The New York Times

ACCUSED SHADOW PUPPETS KUKLA, FRAN AND OLLIE NORTH INTERROGATED AT IRAN-CONTRA HEARING, REMAIN DEFIANT

ALL THREE PUPPETS ECHO REAGAN'S CLAIM THAT IRAN-CONTRA SCANDAL WAS MERELY A WHIMSICAL 1950s CHILDREN'S SHOW

WASHINGTON — Backing President Reagan's claim that the Iran-Contra scandal was merely a cute puppet show aimed at children, Kukla, Fran and Ollie



BONUS FUN KIDS' PANEL!

Hey kids, make your very own Sheikh Ghazi Ajil al-Yawar PUPPET with a paper bag, scissors and a blank check from Congress!



BAD REPORTER appears WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY! Send mail to ASMUSSEND@aol.com or DATEBOOK@schronicle.com

Thank You, Ralph Nader, For Solving The Mystery

(In addition to loathsome Democratic Party hacks slandering him for daring to run against Kerry, there has also been nonsense circulating that Ralph Nader is a “peace candidate” or has called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq “in six months.” But he can’t keep his mouth shut long enough to let the delusion spread. Below are his own words, making it quite clear what he wants, and it’s sure not about bringing the troops home soon, let alone now.

Why won’t he call for immediate withdrawal? Why won’t he say “Bring The Troops Home Now,” a cry that resonates throughout the anti-war movement, especially among veterans and military families?

Now we know. He says he has a plan to isolate the Iraqi resistance movement, by cutting off its support among the Iraqi people. He knows what every American general knows: guerrilla war requires the support of the population to survive. Nader thinks the resistance can be isolated and its members killed or imprisoned by U.S. soldiers, who, he makes clear, he wants to stay on, fighting, killing and dying---Bring The Troops Home Sometime Later On, But Not Yet. Of course Bush and Kerry agree wholeheartedly with that.

This “separation” of Iraqis from the resistance, he argues, will be produced by setting some *future* date for U.S. troop withdrawal, *which in other speeches he says will take six months to complete once this process starts, whenever that is*, as U.S. troops are slowly and “responsibly” replaced by other foreign occupation troops. (http://www.votenader.org/why_ralph/index.php?cid=69)

And there you have Ralph’s’ fantasy. Immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops would wreck it. So, according to him, they should stay, and the war go on. And it’s no accident he proposed it to the Council On Foreign Relations, the most elite of the elite think-tanks promoting the global interests of the U.S. Empire.

If you are for killing more American soldiers, for killing more Iraqis, and for destroying the Iraqi resistance movement against occupation of Iraq, by all means go for Nader. Nader makes it plain what he is. If not, then put your time in building a movement that can force withdrawal and stop the war, just like stopped Vietnam.

Naders’ poison may come wrapped in lots of sweet rhetoric about the evils of corporations and helping out Iraqis, who, in his racist mind, are too stupid, violent and backward to run their own country without more occupation by foreign soldiers.

But his bottom line right here, right now, is right there in your face: no withdrawal now, no troops home now, and here’s how to defeat the resistance. No amount of twisting and spinning can produce a smokescreen big enough to hide that. It’s too big and too ugly. T)

**“Waging Peace, Advancing Justice, Promoting Security”
Speaker: Ralph Nader, independent candidate for
president of the United States**

**The Council on Foreign Relations
New York, N.Y. May 24, 2004
(On Iraq:)**

How to get out of Iraq? It seems there are two futures that can be presented to the mainstream Iraqi people.

One is the future that they now see before them, which is an endless, even a permanent military and corporate occupation of their country with a puppet regime in place and with no light at the end of the tunnel. There's far more resentment in Iraq about their workers being unemployed and being unable to do the work that's being done under military contract by the Halliburtons and other companies or bringing in foreign workers while Iraqi truck drivers stand by idly. And of course, they're very concerned over the oil company takeover of their precious and almost only natural resource.

That kind of future is not going to separate mainstream Iraqis from the insurgents and the resistance. It's going to increase the sympathy of mainstream Iraqis, who are the overwhelming majority, with the insurgents and the resistance.

An alternative future that will separate them, distance them from insurgencies and the resistance, would be to **declare a set date** for a corporate and military withdrawal by the United States from Iraq--**let's say until the end of the year--with a phase-in** of international peacekeepers from neutral countries who are experienced in that effort, as well as from Islamic nations, and that that be correlated with internationally supervised elections to avoid any impression that a puppet regime is going to be put in place, with continued humanitarian assistance until the country gets back on its feet.

ANOTHER GREAT MOMENT IN ETHNIC OUTREACH

6.3.04 AL KAMEN, WASHINGTON POST

Everyone talks about how crucial the Latino vote is going to be in November. Both parties are putting out literature and Web pages in Spanish in an effort to communicate better with this huge constituency. The Republicans have a sign-up page -- called "Abriendo Caminos" or opening paths -- that promises Spanish-speaking folks that President Bush and the GOP will "send you weekly news about the topics that most interest you."

The sign-up page asks the usual stuff -- name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. You are to check which of many listed topics -- immigration, health, Social Security, corporate responsibility, crime prevention and so on -- are of most interest. Then it asks what you are.

There are four options: war veteran or retired military; teacher or educator; senior citizen; or farmer or rancher. That's it. Nothing for lawyers, doctors, engineers or corporate executives to check. Not even a box for "otro?"

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

China: June 5, 1989



Wednesday June 5 1989 | (photo: AP | Jeff Widener)

Occupied Palestine Today



(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.)

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