

GI SPECIAL 2#97

A LONELY PLACE TO DIE



BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW

“This War Is Wrong” Soldier Told Mother Just Before Death

June 8, 2004 By Sean D. Hamill and Shia Kapos, Chicago Tribune

When Army Spec. Peter G. Enos was 5, he declared he was going to be a soldier.

The declaration stunned his family, but the decision typified the kind of independent thinking that would mark Enos, 24, until he died April 9 in Bayji, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his patrol vehicle.

Just days before he died, Enos called his mother, Deborah, and told her to "go to every radio and TV station and newspaper, and you tell them this war is wrong. They don't want us here."

Enos was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, from Schweinfurt, Germany.

Growing up in South Dartmouth, Mass., Enos carved his own path, earning a black belt in karate and playing bass drum in his school's marching band. "Even when he was in the band, his goal was to be in law enforcement," said Tom Aungst, the percussion director at Dartmouth High School.

Enos and his wife, Shannon, have an 8-month-old son, Marcus.

Since his death, Enos' mother and his wife have been outspoken in their opposition to the war, a position they believe honors Enos.

"He was never pro-war, but he always felt very strongly about defending his country," his mother said.

Carballo died April 10 in Baghdad from shrapnel wounds he received that day when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, based in Ft. Hood, Texas.

"It knocked him down, but he stood back up and shot back," said his wife and high school sweetheart, Beatriz.

Carballo was raised by his father, Cesar, and stepmother. "He was proud to wear his uniform," his father said. "He was proud of his medals."

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Another Puerto Rican Soldier Killed

June 7th, 2004 Casiano Communications Inc., ARECIBO (AP)

Sgt. Melvin Mora Lopez, a 28 year-old native of Arecibo, was killed on Sunday in Iraq, joining the ranks of Puerto Rican casualties of the United States' War on Terror. Jose Pagan, local U.S. Army spokesman, said Lopez was killed when a mortar exploded near him.

"The incident occurred during a surprise attack on Camp Cooke, where the Sgt. Mora Lopez was stationed," said Pagan in a prepared statement.

Camp Cooke, which was established in the former Al Taji Air Base, is 27 km northwest of Baghdad.

According to Pagan, Sgt. Mora Lopez was single and had relocated to the United States nine years ago, where he joined the Army Reserves 245th Maintenance Company based in St. Louis, Missouri.

The victims parents, who live in Arecibo's Jarelito neighborhood, were notified on Sunday evening about the death of their son.

His father, Hermes Mora, is a maintenance worker at Cayetano Coll y Toste Hospital in Arecibo and his mother Irma Lopez is a teacher with the Department of Education.

IED Kills One Soldier, Wounds Two Others Near Iskandariyah

08jun04 Herald Sun.au

A ROADSIDE bomb killed one American soldier today and wounded two others south of Baghdad, the US command said.

The attack took place about 11am (local time) near Iskandariyah about 45 kilometres south of the capital, the command said.

Soldiers fired on suspects fleeing the scene, wounding some of them and taking them prisoner, the military said without specifying the numbers.

Soldier Drops Dead On Guard Duty

June 7, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release Number: 04-06-06C

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A Task Force Baghdad soldier died yesterday from a non-combat-related cause, according to 1st Cavalry Division medical officials.

The soldier collapsed and stopped breathing around 11 a.m. while performing guard duty. Medics attempted to resuscitate and stabilize the soldier at the scene. The soldier was later transported to a nearby aid station, and then to a military hospital.

The soldier was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Car Bomb Attack At U.S. Taji Base Kills Many And Wounds Three U.S. Troops

6.6.04 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

A car bomb outside an American base killed nine people Sunday and injured 30 others - including three U.S. soldiers.

The car-bombing occurred at the gate of the Taji air base, a former Iraqi air force facility used by the U.S. Army about 12 miles north of Baghdad. It was unclear if the explosion was a suicide attack. Ambulances, Humvees and Iraqi police rushed to evacuate the injured, while American troops secured the area.

Al-Azamiyah Base Mortared

6.7.04 (AP) Insurgents fired mortar rounds at a U.S. Army base in the mainly Sunni neighborhood of al-Azamiyah in Baghdad at around 9 pm Monday, witnesses said.

Brit Mercenaries Ambushed, One Dead

6.7.04 Newsquest (Herald & Times) Limited

A British security contractor died and three others were injured in a drive-by shooting in northern Iraq.

Craig Dickens was killed in the ambush near Mosul on Saturday, as he travelled in a civilian convoy which came under fire from gunmen.

Peter Lloyd, Stephen Baigent and David Leach, all Britons, were also hurt but are said to be recovering with non-life threatening injuries.

All four men worked for ArmorGroup, a security firm with 1000 employees in Iraq protecting official buildings and companies.

Assailants Attack Marine Camp Outside Fallujah

6.7.04 (AP)

CAMP MERCURY, Iraq (AP) - Assailants fired two rockets at a Marine base outside the restive city of Fallujah but caused no damage or casualties, Marine officers said Monday.

Gunnery Sgt. Tracy Reddish said that insurgents fired two 122mm rockets late Sunday from the main road to Fallujah, 40 miles west of the capital, Baghdad.

The projectiles targeted Camp Mercury, the base of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, which patrols the eastern suburbs of this Sunni city and also Fallujah's rural hinterland to the east.

The attack came hours after the Marines of the battalion suspended assistance and reconstruction projects in Fallujah's eastern suburb of Karma following the kidnapping of an Iraqi interpreter.

Three Mercenaries Injured By IED In Northern Iraq

6/7/2004 MOSUL, Iraq (AP)

A roadside bomb Monday wounded three civilian security contractors working in northern Iraq for the London-based firm Global Risk Strategies, the U.S. military said.

The three were taken to a U.S. Army hospital, a U.S. military spokesman in Mosul said.

The firm has about 1,100 workers on the ground in Iraq mainly armed former Nepalese and Fijian soldiers.

Mysterious Explosion Blows Up Al-Sadr Home Mosque

07jun04 Advertiser Newspapers Pty Limited, From correspondents in Kufa

AN explosion rocked the Great Mosque in Kufa, Iraq, today, where Shiite rebel leader Moqtada Sadr gives the sermon at the main weekly Muslim prayers, said US military officials.

At least nine people were wounded, said a medic from the nearby Furat al-Wasat hospital, adding that more injured were being brought in.

Some of the wounded were inside the mosque at the time of the explosion, while others were outside, the medic said.

"There was an explosion at the Great Mosque at around 11:30 am (1630 AEST). I heard the sound of a rocket land in the ammunition storage inside the mosque," said Abu Ahmed, a member of Sadr's Mehdi Army militia, outside the compound.

A statement by the US military confirmed that an explosion had taken place and that part of the mosque was on fire.

"Subsequent reports also indicate that Iraqi police who tried to render assistance were fired on by unknown attackers within the mosque," the statement said, stressing that no US troops were in the vicinity of the mosque at the time of the blast. **(Sounds like a botched raid with a very conveniently timed rocket attack to set it up. Especially since it wasn't firemen who showed up after the explosion, it was collaborator cops.)**

Ambulances sped to the scene to rescue the wounded from the shrine, built on the hallowed ground where one of the founders of the Shiite faith, Ali, was assassinated in 661 AD.

TROOP NEWS

Massachusetts Families Go To Pentagon To Demand Soldiers Come Home

Jun 7, By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - More than two dozen people, wearing yellow ribbons and pictures of relatives in the Army Reserves, took their discontent to the top Monday to protest their loved ones' extended deployments in the Iraq war zone.

"They've been deployed for a very long time. They're tired, and they feel like they've done their part," said Bob Wennerstrand of Norwood, Mass., whose son, Derek, 20, left home soon after his high school graduation and has been gone for 1 1/2 years. **"We asked the general to look into it, and the general has agreed to do that."**

Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of the Army Reserves told the families he is going to Iraq soon and will visit the unit to check on its service time. He also told them, however, that he "can't guarantee their return dates; this is war."

Family members came off their bus at the Pentagon on Monday loaded with lists of other military police units that have served and come home and talk of active duty soldiers who served one-year missions and left Iraq.

Members of the 94th have had their military missions extended twice. Should they return home in October, as currently scheduled, they will have served 685 days, just short of two years.

They came aching close to going home at Easter. Michael Lee already had mailed his personal belongings to his wife in Reading, Mass. The company's equipment was loaded, and the reservists were 10 hours from boarding a plane, when the order came to wait.

On Easter Sunday, Jennifer Lee got the call saying her husband wasn't coming home. "This unit is being completely overlooked," said Lee, who was five months pregnant when her husband left. Their daughter, Charlotte, already is 15 months old.

"The families demanded this meeting, and rightfully so," said Army Reserve spokeswoman Maj. Kristen Carle. "We need to address the families' concerns right up front."

During the long, 10-hour bus ride from Tewksbury, Mass., family members made the photo buttons they wore into the meetings. Some carried 8-by-10-inch photos of their soldiers. Some wore patriotic pins.

"It's extremely frustrating. We're really concerned about their safety," said Stephen Lapinsky, whose son Joshua is in Iraq. "But considering the emotion going through most of the people here, it was a good meeting. There was no screaming. There was a little bit of crying. People miss their soldiers."

Joshua Lapinsky sent his foot locker home at Easter, and it's still there, locked, filled with his belongings.

"We'll leave it that way until Joshua comes home to open it," his sister, Angela Lapinsky, said.

ALWAYS THE FACE AND HANDS

By David Honish, 6.7.04

TO GI Special:

This is dedicated to the men and women that sometimes wear white uniforms instead of woodland or desert camo.

PTSD is only for guys that saw a buddy trigger a booby trap, or that got shot, or spent time in a burning helicopter. It DOES NOT happen to the fortunate majority who served

in the rear with the gear. It could not possibly happen to folks that did their hitch in a nice clean air conditioned hospital, could it?

It happened again tonight. Usually it only happens while watching CNN film coverage of young men and women being slaughtered for politicians' egos or oil companies' profits.

It first happened while watching CNN coverage of Gulf War I. Maybe it was because there had been no prolonged military conflict for US troops until then? Maybe it was because the drugs of the '70's and 80's were no longer being consumed? Maybe both?

"It" is going back to the early '70's with the olfactory sense of smell. It was called ISR in those days, Institute of Surgical Research. Most folks just know it as the burn center at Brooke Army Medical Center.

It was my good fortune to just have a brief clinical rotation there as part of my training. God bless the permanently assigned staff to that place! Research papers at the time showed that permanently assigned ISR staff had significantly higher statistical incidence of both divorce and suicide. Nobody mentioned data on alcoholism. Probably because alcoholism was so common and tolerated by the Army in those days?

Tonite I smelled it again. It was just as real as it was 30 years ago. The smell is what ISR was then, a mix of burned flesh, rotting flesh, and a virucidal disinfectant called Vesphene.

The smell is not so bad. Very, very mild I suppose by PTSD standards? Much better than seeing ISR again.

Much, much better than hearing ISR again.

One would think that injections of morphine, phenergan, and ketamine all at the same time would make it impossible to stay awake, let alone scream. Words fail me to describe the screaming of the burned being lowered into the solution of a debridement tank. Pain meds for the burned helped, but not enough.

Tonite I was reading the latest GI Special. It had a segment on a former Pocatello HS student surviving a helicopter crash. SSG Jonathan Purser was injured in the crash, "burning most of his face and arms." The radiant heat of a fuel fire is terrifyingly awesome! It is ALWAYS the face and hands! Always the face and hands when they try to fight their way out of the burning vehicle. Often the face and hands when they go back to try to pull someone else out too.

God speed Staff Sergeant Jonathan Purser!

God speed and home safe soon to all the young men and women! And please God, help take away the nightmares for the special folks that work in the burn unit!

DH <http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

Brain Damaged Soldier's Family Takes It Day By Day

7 June, 2004 Michelle Tan, St. Cloud (Minn.) Times Online

It's been a long four months for Jay and Mary Vandenheuvel's family. The Pierz couple's oldest son, Jim, remains in intensive care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Maryland.

Spc. Jim Vandenheuvel was seriously wounded Feb. 12 when his patrol unit was ambushed near Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, Iraq.

A military police officer with the California National Guard, Jim Vandenheuvel was sent to Iraq on April 12, 2003. He was supposed to come home after March 12.

Jim Vandenheuvel graduated in 1999 from Pierz High School. He transferred from the Minnesota National Guard about two years ago when he moved to Manteca, Calif., to be with his girlfriend.

Jim Vandenheuvel suffered a fractured skull, a fractured left femur, severe tissue injuries on his right calf, pock marks all over his body from shrapnel, facial lacerations, cuts and abrasions.

Last week, doctors had to put Jim Vandenheuvel back on a ventilator for almost two days. They refitted his feeding tube from his stomach to his intestines because his stomach shut down, causing him to vomit, his father said.

His vocal cords are bruised from being taken off and put on the ventilator so many times. He has never been stable enough for doctors to operate on his injured leg. He still has fluid and pieces of shrapnel in his brain.

The family doesn't know the extent of brain damage Jim Vandenheuvel may have suffered, his father said.

"The brain isn't working properly, but we don't know how well the brain can still recover," Jay Vandenheuvel said. "They say the brain is a funny thing."

Mary Vandenheuvel has been at her son's side since Feb. 17. She flew to be with him at Hamburg University Hospital in Germany before flying on a military plane with him to Walter Reed, Jay Vandenheuvel said.

His wife has had some difficult times, Jay Vandenheuvel said.

"She's with that stuff every day," he said. "It wears on you."

Jay Vandenheuvel has visited Walter Reed at least twice. He stays home to tend to the family's dairy farm.

The family doesn't know when Jim Vandenheuvel will be able to come home or if he'll recover, but they continue to have faith, Jay Vandenheuvel said.

"That's all we can do, just keep plugging away and hope for the best," he said.

War Injury Brings Medal, Robs Memory; “Stay Low And Don’t Do Anything Stupid”

June 7, 2004 Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc.

PITTSFIELD A half dozen able-bodied soldiers, all in uniform, stood ready to help Sunday morning as Spc. Craig Ardry's wheelchair stopped at the bottom of his in-laws' front steps. But Ardry, his severely burned and broken left leg held together inside and out by hardware, would have none of it.

"I've got it," he said quietly, grabbing the rail with one hand and his stepfather's shoulder with the other. Then, as his well-wishers looked on in awe, the 30-year-old soldier rose on his right foot and hopped, step by step, to the top of the stairway - his breathing more labored with each eight-inch ascent.

Seven weeks have passed since Ardry, a member of the Maine Army National Guard's 133rd Engineer Battalion, barely survived an ambush on the outskirts of Mosul, Iraq. The attack by anti-occupation insurgents killed Spc. Christopher Gelineau, 23, of Portland and critically wounded Ardry, who was behind the wheel when a roadside bomb turned their armored Humvee into a twisted mass of metal.

Sunday morning, far away from the war that forever changed his life, Ardry received his Purple Heart.

Ask him how he's doing now that he's back in his hometown and Ardry will smile and say, "Good . . . I'm doing good."

Look at his leg, a mass of still-developing scar tissue over a bone that remains in so many pieces, and you begin to understand what his wife, Nanette, means when she says, "Craig is very strong-willed."

He would talk about the attack if he could. But for the life of him, Ardry remembers nothing about the nightmare that began early on the morning of April 21 while he led a four-vehicle convoy down a divided highway on the western edge of Mosul.

"I remember going to bed the night before," he said. "And the next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital in Baghdad. That's it."

He's heard and read about all the things that happened in between.

He knows that he and Gelineau were riding in the lead Humvee along with Lt. Matthew Delk of the South Carolina National Guard, who suffered his own serious burns when he pulled Ardry and Gelineau away from the burning vehicle.

He knows that moments after the bomb went off, a dozen or so snipers opened fire on the four Humvees - three of which were disabled by the explosion. He also knows that Staff Sgt. Charles Boone, also from South Carolina, shot back at the insurgents and inserted a lifesaving intravenous line into Ardry's arm even as the bullets flew all around them.

But none of this he remembers.

He worries that "it might all come back to me" at some point as his mind recovers from the horror of that day. But for now, Ardry stays focused on his still-broken body.

"There's not too many bones in my leg that are whole," he said, pointing to the metal brace that runs from his knee to his foot. "What this does is sandwich all (the bone fragments) together."

As bad as his leg still looks, Ardry has come a long way since the hours and days immediately following the attack.

Twice, as army doctors sent him first to Baghdad and then to a military hospital in Germany, he went into respiratory failure. He remained on life support even after he was transferred to the Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio - until one day he decided he'd had enough.

"He pulled the (respirator) tubes out himself," Nanette said, rolling her eyes. "They were pretty mad at him for that."

Three weeks ago, at long last, Ardry came home to Nanette and their 2-year-old son, Camden. Last week, as he passed the time in the bed that now fills their living room, the military brass called from Augusta and said his Purple Heart had finally arrived.

Ron and Georgie Farrin, Nanette's parents, volunteered their nearby home for the ceremony. Del and Carol Wyman, Craig's parents, drove up from Oakland.

Doris Ardry, Craig's grandmother, and Joyce Luzio, his aunt, came up from Connecticut. Jesse Salisbury, who went to Maine Central Institute with Craig and Nanette and now flies for the Maine Air National Guard, arrived - in uniform - from South Portland.

They packed the Farrins' living room as Col. Robert Carmichael read the Purple Heart citation. Then, to the clicking of the cameras, Salisbury leaned down and pinned the medal to his buddy's shirt. As Salisbury stepped away, the room echoed with applause.

He will not be going back to Mosul - between learning how to walk again, maybe returning to his job as a telecommunications technician and looking forward to the birth of his and Nanette's baby girl in November, he's got plenty to keep him busy here. He might even add a master's degree in civil engineering to his bachelor's degree in geology.

But a day doesn't pass that Ardry doesn't think about his fellow soldiers in northern Iraq. He recently began e-mailing a few of them - and his sign-off is always the same.

"I tell them to stay low," Ardry said. "And don't do anything stupid."

Looking down at his still-forming battle scars, Maine's latest Purple Heart recipient forced a courageous smile.

"I don't want anyone else to get hurt."

Soldiers Find Out Their Real Enemy Is The Government Of The USA: Pentagon Sending Unfit Soldiers Back To Iraq Long Before They Are Ready To Serve Again

(This was the situation two months ago. Guess what? It's worse now.)

April 03 2004 Suzanne Goldenberg in Washington, The Guardian

All Jason Gunn ever wanted was to be a soldier. He put on the uniform three days after high school graduation, and served six years with distinction. But in the last real conversation he had with his mother he swore he would never go back to Iraq.

The army specialist came within inches of death last November 15, when the Humvee he was driving hit a roadside bomb, killing his sergeant. The entire left side of Gunn's body was splattered with shrapnel, his elbow was shattered and, as he lay in the US military hospital bed in Germany, he was tortured by nightmares.

Late on March 23, Gunn told his mother, Pat, that his commanders were putting pressure on him to return to Iraq, but there was no way he was getting on that plane. A few hours later, he was airborne. This week, Gunn's distraught mother, who is herself a navy veteran, received a first official response to her demands to know why a soldier, who was being treated by military doctors for combat stress, was sent back to the war.

The note, which acknowledged Gunn suffered post-traumatic stress, said: "After discussion of his case it was determined ... this may be in his best interest mentally to overcome his fear by facing it. Therefore, he has been cleared for redeployment."

Gunn is not the only broken soldier being sent to battle. The Guardian has uncovered more than a dozen instances in which ill or injured soldiers were sent to war by a US military whose resources have been stretched near to breaking point by the simultaneous fronts in Afghanistan and Iraq. In its investigation, the Guardian learned of soldiers who were deployed with almost willful disregard to their medical histories, and with the most cursory physical examinations. Soldiers went to war with chronic illnesses such as coronary disease, mental illness, arthritis, diabetes and the nervous condition, Tourette's syndrome, or after undergoing recent surgery.

One sergeant major was shipped out two months after neck surgery, despite orders from his military doctor for six months' rest. "The nurse told me to put my hands above my head and said you are good to go," he told the Guardian. A female supply sergeant said she was sent to Kuwait under medical advice not to walk more than half a mile at a time, or carry more than 50lb. Both had to be medically evacuated within weeks; the sergeant major required surgery on his return.

In some cases, the wounded were recycled with alarming speed. A mechanic, who suffered brain damage last June when his vehicle was hit by a suicide bus, was sent back to Iraq in October despite reported blurred vision and memory loss. He returned with his unit last month, and medical evaluations showed he had continued bleeding from the original head injury.

In Gunn's case, the determination to return him to battle is puzzling. His unit, the 1-37 Armoured Division, is due to return from Iraq in May. "They are sending an injured soldier back there for seven weeks. I can't for the life of me imagine why," says Ms Gunn. "They say they want him to go back and face his fears, but I just keep thinking what this whole thing will do to a person. **What are they going to send home to us? Someone who is going to be on disability for the rest of their lives?**"

All of the injured or ill soldiers knew of other unfit troops who were sent to Iraq last year, or have recently been redeployed. Some, who like Gunn suffered combat stress after sustaining serious injury, came under enormous pressure from their commanders to return to Iraq. **Equally disturbing, a number of returning soldiers declared unfit for service told the Guardian the military had tried to force through their discharge to take them off the benefit rolls.**

15,000 soldiers who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan have filed for disability claims. Some 12,000 have sought medical treatment from facilities run by the department of veterans affairs. About 4,600 have sought psychological counselling. That demand threatens to overwhelm a veterans' healthcare system that has received no new funding since the Iraq war began.

Gunn's commanders seem adamant on keeping him. On Wednesday, Ms Gunn was forwarded a statement from her son. "It is my wish to be redeployed with my unit to finish my tour of duty with my unit here in Iraq," the statement said. "I feel that I am able to complete my mission here as well as any other duties assigned to me while on current deployment." It also said he had discontinued his prescription. **Ms Gunn is convinced the statement was coerced.**

Veterans' advocates say Gunn's saga reflects a pattern in the Pentagon's dealings with casualties of the war: send them back to battle fast or get them off the military's books before their ailments drive costs up. **"This is a particularly stressful time for the military because they have been committed far far beyond their capability, and that is the reason there is such pressure," says Stan Goff, a veterans' activist and writer. "The numbers are becoming more and more important. They have got to keep more bodies in theatre."**

Battle readiness barely registers. **Veronica Torres, a supply sergeant with 27 years service, was sent to Kuwait four months after toe surgery, and with previous injuries that restricted her movement. "Could I run? No. Could I jump in and out of trucks? No. Could I march a mile or two? No," she says.**

She was there less than a week before reporting to sick bay. After being medically evacuated last July, she was diagnosed with diabetes and fibromyalgia.

Others who were evacuated for injury or illness say their real war started on their return - with the military bureaucracy.

Gerry Mosley, 49, a first sergeant in a transportation unit, was injured jumping off a truck that came under fire. By the time he was medically retired on March 17, he was taking 56 pills a day for shoulder, back and spinal conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder, and Parkinson's which was not diagnosed when he was shipped out.

Mosley also developed an abiding anger against an institution he served for 31 years, accusing the army of trying to shirk responsibility for his condition now he was surplus to requirements.

"I went to Iraq and fought the enemy, not knowing I was going to come back to the United States and fight a bigger enemy," he says.

Family Goes On Offense To Defend GI; Say He Is Scapegoat For Higher Command

(THANKS TO PAUL D WHO EMAILED THIS IN. HE WRITES: IT appears that they are railroading him because he complained about the torture...)

June 8, 2004 By Douglas Holt, Chicago Tribune staff reporter

MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK, Md. -- While some families of soldiers accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners shun attention, the clan of Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick II has mounted a vigorous, homespun effort to defend him and generate public support.

Tacked to the outside of his father and stepmother's home in the Appalachian Mountains in far northwest Maryland is a "Free Chip Frederick" sign. When neighbors in this tightly knit community drive past, they honk and wave.

Frederick is one of seven military police officers accused of abusing Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib prison.

But his family, like defense lawyers for other accused soldiers, say he is a low-ranking fall guy and that abuses were ordered or encouraged by superiors.

The petition posted on the Chip Frederick Web site contends that the problems were caused partly by a "lack of adequate manpower" and confusion caused by an "abundance of civilian contractors and other military intelligence officers issuing orders" to military police personnel such as Frederick.

Among issues that trouble family members is the military's prosecuting soldiers on allegations that include a female soldier posing for a photograph beside the corpse of an Iraqi. **Family members ask: Who is responsible for the corpse?**

"If you believe the military, it's just these seven guys. They did everything," said Frederick's uncle, Bill Lawson, an Air Force veteran whose 23 years of service included a year in Vietnam. "But if that's true, then why aren't they being charged with murder?"

In a handwritten diary sent home months before abuses at Abu Ghraib prison were publicized in April on "60 Minutes II," Frederick wrote about a so-called ghost detainee without a number who was under the control of an "OGA," **an abbreviation for "other governmental agency" that usually refers to the CIA.**

"Back around November an OGA prisoner was brought to [cellblock] 1A," Frederick wrote his family in a letter that arrived in February, after he had been notified he was under investigation. "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 . . . 24 hours in the shower in 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. The OGA was never processed and therefore never had a number."

Another question raised by the photographs centers on the items used during the abuse. "The hoods and the chains and the neck collars--where did all that come from?" Lawson asked. He said the items suggest systematic, planned interrogation techniques, not spontaneous high jinks by a few inhumane guards.

Others representing charged soldiers have made similar claims.

Lawson says he is just doing what he can to help. But he acknowledges his family's efforts could produce anger rather than support. While the Web site has drawn many kind words via e-mail, he said, it also has provoked derisive comments from some who object to his criticism of the government. Others, whose sympathies lie with mistreated Iraqi prisoners, have sent threatening notes that Lawson said have been passed along to the FBI.

"Some people ask me, Why are you trying to hurt the president? I'm not trying to hurt the president," Lawson said. "I'm not trying to hurt anybody. I'm just trying to say these individuals I think are getting a raw deal. We're trying to get the word to the American people."

The Frederick family's strategy took shape soon after Frederick notified them he was under investigation. In handwritten notes he sent his family, Frederick said he previously had asked superiors for regulations on the treatment of prisoners but received none.

"I questioned some of the things I saw," he wrote, citing inmates left in cells without clothes, or in female underwear or handcuffed to cell doors. **Military intelligence officers, he wrote, "encouraged us and told us great job--that they were now getting positive results and information." Criminal investigators, he wrote, were "present when the military working dogs were used to intimidate prisoners at [military intelligence's] request."**

While some members of Congress expressed shock at the pictures from Abu Ghraib, the Frederick family said it had been trying to sound the alarm since February. They sent letters and e-mails to 14 members of Congress trying to alert them to abusive practices and complaining that Frederick had not been provided a lawyer.

"My nephew requested to talk with legal counsel and was turned down," Lawson wrote in a Feb. 23 letter to Sen. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), a member of the Intelligence Committee. **"He was told there were only 12 attorneys in Iraq, but he could hire a civilian attorney in Iraq, which would cost around \$200,000."**

In response, the family received nothing but form letters.

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.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Senior Shiite Collaborator Killed In Baghdad

June 7, 2004 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Gunmen killed a senior official in Iraq's largest Shiite political party Monday in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad, a party aide said.

Shahir Faisal Shahir was shot while traveling to his office, said Haitham al-Hissaini, a top party adviser for the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Shahir carried the rank of major general in the party's militia, which is known as the Badr Brigade.

The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq is the country's biggest Shiite party. It is headed by Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim.

The shooting took place only hours before Iraq's prime minister designate, Iyad Allawi, announced that nine major political parties had agreed to disband their militias in a move to assert state control before the return of sovereignty June 30.

Allawi said the Badr Brigade of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq also signed on to the deal, although representatives of the party claimed negotiations to disband had not yet begun.

Most of the militias are controlled by mainstream political movements represented in Iraq's new interim government.

Kirkuk Occupation Cop Killed, Nine Wounded

6.7.04 Ghana Review International

An Iraqi policeman and a civilian were killed and nine others offices wounded Sunday when a bomb exploded south of the northern oil city of Kirkuk, Dubai-based al-Arabia TV channel reported.

Occupation Cops Killed In Ramadi

6.6.04 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

Late Sunday, a roadside bomb exploded in Ramadi, a Sunni city west of Baghdad, killing two policemen and injuring six others, according to police Capt. Zyad al-Juburi.

Iraq Again In The Heart Of The World

by Behnam Keryo, Al-Moharer 179

Iraqis today write with their blood a new page in the history of the World, they are fighting an evil and bloodthirsty monster, which spun out of control. Its killing machine is ruthless, merciless. They are about to put down the dragon and behead its multiple heads one by one.

The dragon they are facing is worse than Hydra. Humanity can trust them, they have the experience required on how to deal with it. Didn't their forefather Enkidu flatten the monster Humbaba? (Mr. Bush, please, read this Iraqi eternal epic of Gilgamesh, and remember it goes back to the third millennium BC. Where were you?)

The Iraqis also are Saint Michael combating the greed of Lucifer. They are saint Georges saving his village from the monster crocodile that held the waters and

blackmailed simple people if it wasn't given his daily portion of naked women and children to devour.

Iraqis today, know they are about to overcome the US monster, they are writing with their precious blood a noble and magnificent page in the history of humanity just as they did thousands of years ago when they delivered to humanity the first mathematic, astronomy, and literature clay tablets..

The battle is fierce, the monster is bleeding. Iraqis, be aware of its last kick, but at the end of the day only the truth of your shining struggle will prevail.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“I Am Opposed To Every War But One”

"Capitalist wars for capitalist conquest and capitalist plunder must be fought by the capitalists themselves as far as I am concerned... No worker has any business to enlist in capitalist class war or fight a capitalist class battle. It is our duty to enlist in our own war and fight our own battle... *I have no country to fight for; my country is the earth, and I am a citizen of the world...* (Eugene Debs, 1914.)

"No, I am not opposed to all wars under all circumstances, and any declaration to the contrary would disqualify me as a revolutionist.

When I say I am opposed to all wars I mean ruling-class wars, for the ruling class is the only class that makes war...

I am opposed to every war but one; I am for that war with heart and soul, and that is the world-wide war of social revolution. In that war I am prepared to fight in any way the ruling class may make it necessary, even on the barricades. That is where I stand and I believe the Socialist Party stands, or ought to stand, on the question of war. (Eugene Debs, US Socialist Party Convention, 1918.)

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/>

The Chaos In Iraq Spreads To Washington

A recent article by US pundit Tom Englehardt noted:

“[Bush’s] administration-is beginning to fragment under him

The State Department is leaking information like a sieve meant to undermine the neocons over at the Pentagon; the military is in a state of dissension over the Pentagon civilians; officials at the CIA are panicking over its systematic torture policies; both Secretary of State Powell and CPA-head Bremer have been running up the flagpole pathetic statements indicating that if some as-yet-undetermined Iraqi government were ever foolish enough to ask us to leave, we just might have to honor their wishes — and Pentagon officials (and the President) have been shooting the suggestion down.

In short, the chaos in Iraq is spreading to Washington.”

OCCUPATION REPORT

US Bans Cleric From Iraq Elections: Dictator Bremer Says Al-Sadr Outlawed; So Much For All That “Sovereignty” Bullshit

June 8, 2004 The Guardian (UK)

Moqtada al-Sadr, the radical Shia leader whose militiamen have been fighting the US occupation forces in several Iraqi cities, was banned yesterday from standing in Iraq's forthcoming democratic elections.

Paul Bremer, the US administrator in Iraq, signed an order stating that, with immediate effect, members of illegal militias "will be barred from holding political office for three years after leaving their illegal organisation".

Even if Mr Sadr disbanded his Mahdi Army in the next few weeks it would be too late for him to join Iraq's political process and contest the elections, due in January.

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION

BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!



RECRUITING MISSION FOR THE IRAQI RESISTANCE MAKES STEADY PROGRESS

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The Boondocks ©2004 Aaron Mcgruder 6.7.04



**“John Kerry's Compromise--
Same War, Different Lies!”**

Chant at Washington DC anti-war demonstration June 5th.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

ONE U.S. SOLDIER DIES, TWO WOUNDED IN IED ATTACK NEAR DEH RAWOD

June 7, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND, Release
Number: 04-06-09C

KABUL, Afghanistan, June 7, 2004 – One U.S. Soldier was killed today and two were wounded during a patrol after their HMMWV drove onto an IED in Uruzgan Province near Deh Rawod.

All three were flown to Kandahar Air Field Hospital where the one Soldier died.

CLASS WAR NEWS

Refreshing Honesty From Media Exec

“We paid \$3 billion for these television stations,” said an executive with a Fox affiliate in Tampa.

“We decide what the news is. The news is what we tell you it is.” Hightower Report, May 2004

Received:

From: SC at J House
To: GI Special
Sent: June 07, 2004
Subject: RE: GI Special 2#96: Cheney Intern Shot

Thanks for continuing your GI special emails...the pictures and stories keep us informed..your work is very much appreciated. S

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