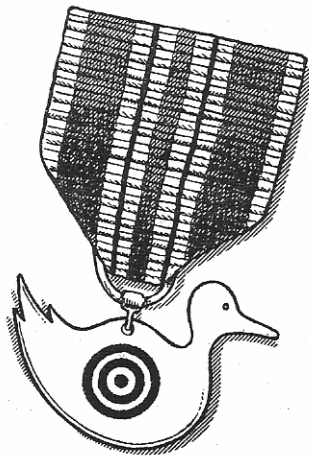


GI SPECIAL 2#C19

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL, IRAQI SECURITY FORCES



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Army Times 11.15.04

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

U.S. Continues Hiding Falluja Casualties

November 10, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-11-09C

Due to operational security in order to prevent the anti-Iraqi forces and other terrorist elements from gaining useful battlefield intelligence, there could be delays in announcements of battlefield casualties. [The anti-Iraqi forces are under the command of George W. Bush, and all this shows is that those anti-Iraqi forces who run the Pentagon and the government in general are pissing their pants. Typical of the cowards who command Empires.]

SOLDIER IN BAGHDAD KILLED BY INSURGENT SMALL ARMS FIRE

November 10, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
Release Number: 04-11-10C

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- An insurgent attack on a Task Force Baghdad patrol killed one Soldier in southern Baghdad at about 3:35 p.m. Nov. 9.

The Soldier was medically evacuated to a military medical treatment facility, but died of wounds received in the attack.

One Soldier Killed, One Injured In Ballad IED Attack

11/10/04 cjtf7 Release #041110e

Tikrit, Iraq -- A 1st Infantry Division Soldier was killed and one injured after their combat patrol was struck by an improvised explosive device near Balad at about 4:20 a.m. on Nov 10.

The injured Soldier was taken to a Multi-National Forces medical treatment facility and is in stable condition.

The Death Of A Marine

November 10, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1126-04

Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Zapp, 20, of Houston, Texas, died Nov. 8 as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Command Sgt. Major Killed In Falluja

November 10, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1128

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven W. Faulkenburg, 45, of Huntingburg, Ind., died Nov. 9 in Fallujah, Iraq, when he came under small arms fire while conducting combat operations. Faulkenburg was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

Another Marine Killed In Babil

November 10, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1127

Cpl. Robert P. Warns II, 23, of Waukesha, Wis., died Nov. 8 as a result of enemy action in Babil Province, Iraq. He was assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago, Ill.

Iraqi Insurgents Take Control Over Bridge In Baghdad

10 November 2004 Focus I News

Baghdad. About 20 Iraqi masked insurgents have taken control over a bridge at one of the biggest highways in western Baghdad. A part of the city has been subjected to a blockade, reported Reuters. Witnesses say that there is a shooting in the region

Humvee Burning In Ramadi As Resistance Takes Offensive

NO JOY IN RAMADI:



US Army soldiers run for cover during fire fights with insurgents in Ramadi, 100 kms west of Baghdad. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

2004/11/10 AP & Arabic News.com

Explosions shook the center of the Sunni Triangle city of Ramadi on Wednesday and clashes took place between U.S. troops and insurgents, residents said.

Witnesses said they saw a U.S. Humvee on fire. Explosions shook the city as U.S. troops and resistance soldiers battled near the main government building.

Some of the clashes were still ongoing at sunset. Smoke was seen rising from a street in the center of the city.

Iraqi police sources and witnesses said that hundreds of insurgents gathered in the downtown of al-Ramadi and took their positions in the area, while the north west quarters of the city witnessed violent clashes and explosions were heard near one American base to the east of al-Ramadi.

Falluja; Who Do You Believe?

[While Piccoli, below, claims 70%, no other news sources agree. European reports, and BBC, say the U.S. has taken less than half the city, and report, contrary to U.S. command, that the north-west district has not been taken. BBC reports Marines were surrounded at the city police station, and had to pull back.]

Nov. 10 (AP) & November 11, 2004 News Limited

Maj. Francis Piccoli, of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said U.S. forces now control 70 percent of the city and had pushed insurgents into a narrow section flanking the main east-west highway bisecting the city.

Insurgents hit U.S. tanks with anti-armor rockets.

IRAQI rebels released a video today showing what they said were 20 Iraqi national guards they had captured in Fallujah.

The video, a copy of which was given to Reuters, showed masked rebels pointing rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers at a group of men with their backs to the camera wearing National Guard uniforms.

Resistance Reports Attack On U.S. Rear Near Falluja

Iraqi Resistance Report for events of Wednesday, 10 November 2004. Translated and/or compiled by Muhammad Abu Nasr, member editorial board The Free Arab Voice.

Al-Fallujah.

Resistance pounds US rear lines north of al-Fallujah Wednesday- Thursday night.

In a report posted at 2:40am Thursday morning, local time (1:40am Mecca time) the Mafkarat al-Islam correspondent in al-Fallujah reported that **Resistance fighters continued to carry out attacks on the rear of US troops engaged in the offensive on al-Fallujah.**

At the time of writing, the correspondent said, Resistance rocket attacks on the American rear had been under way for about three hours. During that time more than 55 rockets of various types – not counting mortar rounds – had been pumped into the American troop concentrations.

US forces had tried to keep Resistance forces pinned down in al- Karmah and as-Saqlawiyah to prevent their hitting the American rear lines in support of their brothers in al-Fallujah. But the Resistance fought back, forcing the Americans to retreat, and then unleashed their barrages on the US forces encircling al-Fallujah.

During the middle of the night, then, US forces found themselves between two sides of an Iraqi Resistance pincer – those inside the city on the one side, and those attacking their rear lines to the north, on the other.

Fierce fighting, however, was under way to the north of the al- Jawlan, al-Jaghifi, and al-Mu`allimin neighborhoods. In the southern part of the city, meanwhile, violent fighting continued in the industrial zone after major operations Wednesday morning yielded significant losses, **and some captives taken when two Humvees and their crews fell into Resistance hands.**

Outside the city, US forces turned to fight Iraqi Resistance forces in the al-Karmah area after realizing that their rear supply lines were under a severe threat from that quarter by the Resistance.

British Copter Pilot Wounded, Soldier Hit By Mortar Round

10 November, 2004 BBC

A Lynx helicopter pilot has been seriously wounded in an attack in Iraq, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

The Army Air Corps helicopter was hit by three rounds at an undisclosed location at 1120 local time.

Meanwhile, a Black Watch soldier suffered non life-threatening injuries after a mortar round was fired into the troops' base at Camp Dogwood, 20 miles (32km) from Baghdad.

An MoD spokesman said: "The pilot was wounded, but his co-pilot was unharmed and able to fly the helicopter safely back to Camp Dogwood.

The regiment, which traditionally recruits from Perthshire, Angus and Fife, is based in Warminster, Wiltshire.

STUCK IN A CORNER OF HELL BY IMPERIAL GEORGE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. Marines conduct a patrol near Falluja in western Iraq, November 8, 2004. (Eliana Aponte/Reuters)

Illinois Marines Killed

November 10, 2004 BY ANDY KRAVETZ AND JODI POSPESCHIL OF THE JOURNAL STAR

BLANDINSVILLE - A member of a Peoria County-based U.S. Marine Corps Reserve unit was killed Monday morning in Iraq when the ground beneath the Caterpillar Inc.-built D7 dozer he was driving collapsed, sending him and another man into the Euphrates River.

Cpl. Joshua D. Palmer, 24, of Blandinsville in McDonough County, was building a fighting position on the Fallujah peninsula when the ground gave way.

Also killed was Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Lam, 22, of Queens, N.Y., who was not part of the Peoria reserve unit. **The cause of death for the two men was not known, though drowning was suspected.**

Nearby, Lance Cpl. Branden Ramey, 22, of Belvidere was killed near Fallujah, one of at least 10 U.S. casualties Monday as troops pushed to retake the insurgent stronghold.

Ramey's fiancée, Stacey Lee, said the family had been notified of his death but didn't know how he died. He had proposed to her in a phone call just last week, she said. Ramey was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines G Company, based in Madison, Wis.

In Hancock County, flags in downtown LaHarpe and at the town's high school were lowered to half-staff Tuesday as word spread of Palmer's death. He was a 1999 graduate of LaHarpe High School and a native of rural Blandinsville.

One of Palmer's high school classmates, Jesse Jones, 23, of LaHarpe remembered him as a "good guy." Jones said he learned of Palmer's death Monday from a co-worker at the motorcycle shop where he works, east of LaHarpe.

"(Palmer) loved to work on motorcycles," Jones said Tuesday. "He was always there when people needed them, and he was up for anything. He was always ready to hang out with his friends."

<p>Palmer's death is the third suffered by Company C in Iraq and the second military death in Iraq connected to LaHarpe, which has fewer than 1,400 residents.</p>

"You don't even think of it happening once. But happening twice, that's what really shakes you up," said LaHarpe Mayor Kenneth Brown.

A heavy equipment operator, Palmer joined Company C in late June but the Peoria unit had no room for him. While he joined "Charlie" Company, he was attached to a similar reserve unit, Company A, 6th Engineering Support Battalion, of Battle Creek, Mich.

Based on initial reports, Palmer was driving the bulldozer and Lam was his "ground guide," one who stands in front of or behind the equipment to make sure no one gets run over. At some point, the earth gave way.

The D-7 is a standard military bulldozer, equipped with some armor but not as much as those used by the Israeli Defense Forces, Melbourne said.

The two were part of a four-man detachment crossing the 100-meter-wide canal to set up a security post on the other side.

Last year was the first time Company C was mobilized since the Korean War, when it was an infantry unit.

This year, the unit was mobilized again for its second tour of duty.

Kansas Guardsmen Killed

November 10, 2004 J-W Staff and Wire Reports, The Lawrence Journal-World

The first Kansas Army National Guard soldiers to die in combat since the Vietnam War were killed by a car bomb Monday in Baghdad, the Army said Tuesday.

Killed were Staff Sgt. Clinton Lee Wisdom, 39, of Atchison, and Spc. Don Clary, 21, of Troy, the Kansas Army National Guard said. Both soldiers were members of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery.

The 130th includes about 350 soldiers from across Kansas, including some from Lawrence.

Lawrence resident Betty Ruhlen learned about the deaths in an e-mail she received Tuesday from her son, Sgt. Jon Ruhlen, who is serving with the 130th's 2nd Battalion in Iraq.

"He just said he'd lost a friend," Ruhlen said.

Clary and Wisdom died after they positioned their vehicle between a convoy they were assigned to protect and a vehicle driven by insurgents. The insurgents' vehicle exploded, Guard officials said.

Jane Boeh, the city clerk in Troy, a small northeast Kansas town of 1,200, said she knew the families of both soldiers.

"When it hits home in a small community, you're all involved with accepting it," she said.

Clary graduated from Troy High School in 2001 and attended Benedictine College before his father became ill, said Nick Dannevick, a counselor at Troy High School. He said Clary quit school to find work and help his father, who eventually died. Clary's father and grandfather both served in the military.

"You're never ready for anybody to die, even if they are on their death bed for a month," Dannevick said. "For a young person like this, whose life was basically ahead of him, it's awful sad."

Fiji Family Mourns Soldier's Death

10th November 2004 FIJI TV

The family of 26 year old private Pita Tukutukuwaqa today are in mourning as they officially received the news of his fatal death during a black watch military raid in Southern Fallujah, Iraq. Private Tukutukuwaqa is the first Fijian military personnel to lost his life on Iraqi soil, a feat that will be reminisced by his family for the rest of their life, as Pita is no longer with them.

Lamenting on the life of her one and only son, thoughts of Private Tukutukuwaqa will now remain with his mother Bainimara Lagimiri as fond memories, since Pita will not be returning home the same way he left them.

Receiving the news of the horrific bomb explosion in South Fallujah yesterday, relatives flocked to their Manoca home this morning to pay their last respect and mourn with the family. Pita as he is affectionately known by the family was a three year old toddler when they came to know him.

Private Tukutukuwaqa joined the British Army in 2000 when he left for the United Kingdom and worked hard to join the elite Black Watch Regiment. Pita came home twice since he left and according to his uncle, his quiet nature was something they admired. Not once did he talk about difficulties on the battlefield.

Mr Lagimiri says, Pita was supposed to get married on December 9th.

Private Tukutukuwaqa's body will be flown back to Fiji for burial and until that moment, all that is left at his Manoca home is photographs he sent during his tour of duty, and sweet memories of a freedom fighter who died in action.

Street Fighting

Nov. 10, 2004 Dexter Filkins, New York Times

FALLUJAH, Iraq - After nearly 16 hours of fighting, the U.S. Marines thought they had finally won their battle on Tuesday for the green-domed mosque that insurgents had been using as a command center.

Then a car drove up behind a group of the Marines on Al Thurthar Street. Seven men bristling with weapons spilled onto the street. The Marines turned and fired and killed four of them immediately.

Three more insurgents fled. Cpl. Jason Huyghe cornered two of them in a courtyard. One of them, he suddenly realized, was wearing a belt packed with explosives.

"I saw the guy roll over and pull something on his jacket," Huyghe said, "and he exploded."

The seventh man escaped.

In the battle for Fallujah, even the messy label of urban warfare does not capture the intensity and unpredictability of this battlefield. In some places, the insurgents appear to fire and fall back, perhaps trying to tease the Marines into ambushes or dissolve into the grimy fabric of the city to fight another day. But elsewhere they hold their ground until the buildings around them are obliterated or open fire abruptly from exposed positions and are literally cut to pieces.

This fight started about 8 p.m. Monday, as the troops, from the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, worked their way toward the Muhammadia Mosque, which was about halfway to the center of the city. **Insurgents were firing from an entire row of buildings, including the mosque. Tens of thousands of rounds cracked through the air.**

At one point, 40 Marines ran across a street in front of the mosque. One fell, and Cpl. Jake Knospler rushed to drag him away.

"By the time I got to the street, two more Marines were down," Knospler said later, his pants smeared with blood. In fact, five Marines were wounded in that incident.

Later, Capt. Read Omohundro, the company commander, turned to speak to the young man who was always at his side with the radio, to find that only the man's aide was there.

"Where's Sgt. Hudson?" the captain asked.

"He's been shot, sir," came the reply.

In the end, the tanks fired at least eight rounds at the perimeter of the mosque; a dozen Howitzer shells followed.

The Marines opened the doors for Iraqi security forces to clear out the interior; it was thought better to let the Iraqis go into the holy place.

The Iraqis entered, their uniforms crisp and spotless, and fought with the insurgents and won.

TROOP NEWS

650 Troops Have Parasitic Disease: Don't Believe The Happy Talk: Your Can Die From This Infection

By Patrick Moser in Miami, November 11, 2004 AFP

MORE than 650 US troops deployed in Iraq have been infected with a fly-borne parasite that causes chronic, festering sores, officials said at a health conference in Miami.

About 660 soldiers were found to have contracted the leishmaniasis parasite since US troops launched operations in Iraq in March 2003, Colonel Naomi Arenson, an expert on the disease at the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, said.

The cases found in Iraq are all of cutaneous leishmaniasis, which is seldom lethal, and usually heals over time but can leave significant scarring.

If left untreated, simple skin sores in rare cases can spread to the nose and mouth. **[If left untreated, it can kill you, because it becomes a visceral infection, which, if left untreated, is fatal. Repeat, fatal. The reporter doesn't even mention it until the last paragraph, after all the happy talk.]**

"This is about the season when we start seeing cases," she said.

Since the parasite causes open sores the main risk is that victims could suffer secondary infections, Colonel Arenson said. **[Let's try again; the "main risk" is that if left untreated, it can become a visceral infection which is fatal, repeat, fatal. As in death.]**

Caution was particularly important in the field, where troops often cannot bathe regularly. **She said the parasite's presence also affects morale, with soldiers worried at "the concept of having parasites in their bodies". [Especially one that can kill you, which, evidently, command would prefer you not know.]**

The most severe cases from Iraq are sent to the Walter Reed hospital, just outside Washington, for treatment. But US forces have recently set up facilities for basic treatment in Baghdad and Kuwait.

Experts discussing the disease in Miami disagreed on how to treat specific cases, or even whether they should just let the disease run its course. [Any "expert" who thinks for one second that the right treatment is to "let the disease run its course" is unfit to practice medicine and should be swiftly rendered unable to do so, by any means necessary. If untreated, the disease can take the visceral form, which means your internal organs get infected by the parasite, which destroys them, and you die. Got that? Die.]

Leishmaniasis is spread by infected sand-flies, and is endemic in some tropical and subtropical areas including Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

[And now, here it is:]

So far there have been no reports of US troops in Iraq or Afghanistan being infected with visceral leishmaniasis, which can cause severe damage to some of the body's internal organs, including the spleen, liver and bone marrow.

["So far" because the visceral form does not usually show itself for a year or more after the initial infection. Sometimes a few years pass. When it does show itself, some of the damage has already been done. With prompt treatment, death is not inevitable, but if untreated, death is inevitable. Anyone infected with the skin lesion form must be tested for the presence of any remaining parasites to make

sure there is no chance for the visceral form to develop later. A physician who refuses to take these steps is guilty of malpractice, unfit to practice medicine, and if treating soldiers, merits the administration of severe corrective discipline, because that individual is a cold killer.]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

Lariam: The New Agent Orange?

*For more information on Lariam as this story continues to unfold, please check out the "Troops Issues" section of **This Is Rumor Control**.*

If science was going to design a drug not to give troops going into a war zone, it might look a lot like Mefloquine hydrochloride known by the brand name Lariam.

Ten of thousands of American troops deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq were ordered to take Lariam, a scored white pill, three times a week.

Not long after the war in Afghanistan got underway, stories of strange and violent behavior and lingering neurological side effects began emerging, many of them reported by United Press International's Mark Benjamin and Dan Olmsted. A growing anecdotal chorus born of both soldier suicides and homicides, perhaps connected to Lariam use, have some veterans and their advocates concerned that troops are victims of a drug they should never have been given in the first place.

A string of homicides by soldiers in the summer of 2002 near Fort Bragg may have been fueled by the drug, although the Army has denied it. Three soldiers involved also committed suicide. A cluster of suicides last summer in Iraq, (malaria season) had the Army scrambling to determine why our soldiers were killing themselves.

Last August, right about the time the suicide cluster in Iraq was peaking, the pharmaceutical company Roche, issued this warning in a patient information sheet: "People taking Lariam occasionally experience severe anxiety, feelings that people are against them, hallucinations, depression, unusual behavior or feeling disoriented. **Some patients taking Lariam think about killing themselves and there have been rare reports of suicides. It is not known whether Lariam was responsible for these suicides.**"

A review of the medical literature raises a number of questions about why the military would use this drug in the first place. In 1991, WHO published a paper that stated that in 1989 “serious neurological and psychiatric adverse events attributed to the drug were brought to the attention of the pharmaceutical company and of WHO.”

That paper, after looking at the science to date, noted that of the patients who had reported negative side effects, “...38 % were reported to have had neurological and psychiatric adverse events.” For those with symptoms who had taken the drug as a prophylactic, 41 % had taken only a “single 250-mg dose prior to the onset of symptoms.”

It also reported this scary statistic: “There were 22 (30%) patients whose neurological or psychiatric disorder did not resolve for many months” after they stopped taking Lariam. Some of these patients “continued to have adverse events for four or more months.”

The WHO review also discussed a number of neurological symptoms that can occur in people taking Lariam. They include:

- Seizure
- Disturbances in the level of consciousness
- Dizziness
- Vertigo
- Neuropathies
- Sensory disturbances
- Headache
- Other neurological disorders

It stated there is concern that “life-threatening trauma could arise from neurological events such as dizziness or from psychiatric disturbances. Both WHO and Roche thus continue to advise that persons involved with precision activities requiring fine coordination (such as airline pilots) should not take Mefloquine (Lariam).”

Over the years, a number of studies drew similar conclusions. In July 2002, a Dutch team reported that “In conclusion, Mefloquine-associated neuropsychiatric adverse effects were demonstrated during the run-in period of 3 weeks of the use of a prophylactic dose of 250 mg weekly.”

In September of 2002, Roche issued a “Dear Doctor” letter warning clinicians among other things that “During prophylactic use, if psychiatric symptoms such as acute anxiety, depression, restlessness or confusion occur, these may be considered prodromal (predictive) to a more serious event. In these cases the drug must be discontinued and an alternative medication should be substituted.”

Effects of Lariam on U.S. Troops

It is still to be sorted out whether the Army actually heeded any of these warnings when it ordered our soldiers to take Lariam.

Alliance for Security, in researching this issue knows of two Iraq suicide cases, young soldiers both, who were struggling with depression before they went to Iraq. Both died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds. We have not yet been able to determine if they were given Lariam. Georg-Andreas Pogany, a soldier who was charged with cowardice after reporting an anxiety attack to his commander, tells us he was not instructed to stop taking his Lariam pills, even though it's clear that it had become contraindicated.

Another suicide, of a soldier known to have taken the drug, occurred just outside of Fort Carson, three weeks after the Green Beret returned from Iraq. William Howell was a Special Forces sergeant with no history of psychiatric trouble. Even so he shot himself, after days of paranoid and delusional behavior as described by his wife.

Recently, the Naval Medical Center, in San Diego diagnosed Pogany and several other soldiers with "likely Lariam toxicity". In Pogany's case the tests showed eye and ear abnormalities and balance problems linked to brain stem damage.

In June of this year, the Veteran's Administration warned its own doctors that Lariam "may rarely be associated with certain chronic health problems that persist for weeks, months and even years after the drug is stopped."

Given that Lariam is contraindicated in people who are anxious or depressed and given that combat naturally induces those states in soldiers, one has to wonder how much thought went into the Army's Lariam decision.

Why would they choose to prescribe this drug when an alternative, doxycycline, was available? We could be watching a preventable tragedy unfold.

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. Send requests to address up top.

590 More National Guard and Reserve Mobilized For Bush's Slaughterhouse

November 10, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1123-04

This week, the Army and Air Force announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard had a decrease. The net collective result is 590 more reservists mobilized than last week.

The Great CJTF-7 Clusterfuck; Officer Confirms Command Chaos

October 11, 2004, By Sean D. Maylor, Army Times staff writer

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The march to victory in Iraq has been hamstrung by poor organization in the allied military headquarters in Baghdad and political infighting between U.S. government agencies, according to a British officer who served in the coalition headquarters.

In a critique of the allied effort in Baghdad, British Army Lt. Col. Patrick Sanders told an American military audience that officials in the headquarters were reluctant to acknowledge the growing Iraqi insurgency, and that bureaucratic turf fights had hobbled attempts to create viable Iraqi security forces.

Sanders was a political-military adviser in Combined Joint Task Force 7, which was built around the U.S. Army's V Corps headquarters and led by V Corps commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez.

Sanders' service between September 2003 and April 2004 in Baghdad gave him a fly-on-the-wall perspective on the actions and interactions of CJTF-7 and its civilian equivalent, the Coalition Provisional Authority, which was led by U.S. ambassador L. Paul Bremer.

Sanders shared his observations during a Sept. 23 address to the annual Infantry Conference here.

U.S. commanders opted for "the least efficient and least desirable way of forming a JTF," according to Sanders. Instead of basing the joint task force around a service component headquarters like Lt. Gen. David McKiernan's Coalition Forces Land Component Command with additional staff from U.S. Central Command and its Air Force and Navy component commands, the United States created something close to an "ad-hoc" headquarters with Sanchez at its head, and other staff members circulating through too quickly.

"The levels of turbulence and augmentation were extraordinary," Sanders said.

The CJTF-7 rank structure muddied the chain of command, he said. Beneath Sanchez were a pair of two-star deputy commanding generals, a two-star chief of staff and a two-star director of operations, or G-3. Their roles were unclear, Sanders said.

Sanders reserved his harshest criticism for the atmosphere of political intrigue that existed in the presidential palace, home to the CPA and to Sanchez's forward headquarters.

"The presidential palace was Washington in microcosm," with every U.S. government agency involved in Iraq represented, Sanders said. "It was an interagency soup ... (and) most of the agencies have competing agendas."

In each case, the agency representatives in Baghdad were operating at the behest of their bosses in Washington, who “expect[ed] to have a direct input into operational-level decisions” in Iraq, he said.

During the occupation’s early days, CJTF-7 and the CPA “were operating on vastly different tempos,” Sanders said. **The CPA was “hugely disparate, understaffed ... (and) incoherent,”** and the strategic objectives of the occupation were “unclear and evolving,” he said.

**A
U.S. INFANTRY
COMPANY JUST
CAME THROUGH
HERE!**

IF YOU HAD BEEN VIETNAMESE---

- We might have burned your house
- We might have shot your dog
- We might have shot you...
- ✓ We might have raped your wife and daughter
- ✓ We might have turned you over to your government for torture
- We might have taken souvenirs from your property
- We might have shot things up a bit...
- We might have done ALL these things to you
and your whole TOWN!

✓ If it doesn't bother you that American soldiers do these things every day to the Vietnamese simply because they are "Gooks", then picture YOURSELF as one of the silent VICTIMS.

✓ HELP US TO END THE WAR BEFORE THEY TURN YOUR SON INTO A BUTCHER or a corpse.

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York 10010

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraqi Railway Workers Boycott Supplies To US Troops

9 November, Iraqi Democrats Against Occupation

Iraqi Railway workers boycott supplies to US troops or forces belonging to US-appointed Allawi government. Employees of the National Iraqi Railways Company also declared that they will only agree to carry food supplies to the Iraqi people as part of the UN for food programme, and threatened national strike if forced to do otherwise. The Allawi government reacted by accusing the railway works of carrying civil disobedience.

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

As Silly U.S. Command Concentrates Forces At Fallujah, Resistance Offensive Everywhere Else Shuts Down Foreign Projects; “Things Have Got Worse Bit By Bit”

LONDON, Nov 10 (Reuters) **British firms working to rebuild Iraq have become bogged down by violence as militants step up their campaign to distract U S and Iraqi forces from their assault on Falluja, experts said today.**

Contractors say they have been hemmed into their compounds by ambushes and kidnappings, and security experts see little improvement before planned elections in January.

"The violence has slowed reconstruction yet again," said Andy Bearpark, who worked until July as the senior UK official in the Coalition Provisional Authority, the body that preceded Iraq's interim government.

"This is the only *post-war* theatre I can think of where things have got worse bit by bit, rather than better and better," Bearpark, who now works for Britain's Olive

Security, told Reuters. [Perhaps the idiot will figure out that the war never stopped, and using the term "post-war" reveals he is utterly clueless.]

Security in Iraq has become so bad that authorities have managed to spend only five per cent -- just over 1.5 billion dollars -- of the more than 30 billion dollars promised by the United States and the world community

"A lot of workers are confined to barracks," said Graham Hand, whose British Consultants and Construction Bureau represents around 30 UK firms working in Iraq. "Reconstruction ought to be charging ahead with all of that investment, but it isn't." "We can't put a percentage on it but the pace of reconstruction has been markedly reduced," he added.

The projects worst affected are the hi-tech ones that need specialist foreign contractors. Amec which is working with U S firm Fluor on 1.6 billion dollars of projects to restore power and water infrastructure, declined to comment, as did UK engineer Weir.

"You can't reconstruct a country by e-mail," said Bearpark.

"You need boots on the ground -- people connecting computers and hi-tech equipment."

Bush Can't Protect His Stooge Allawi: Relatives Captured After He Proclaims Curfew

Nov. 10 (AP) & Middle East Online & 11 Nov 2004 MARGARET NEIGHBOUR, The Scotsman

Armed men captured three relatives of Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi - his cousin, who is a businessman, the cousin's wife and their daughter-in-law - at their Baghdad home Tuesday night, al-Naqeeb said. A militant group calling itself Ansar al-Jihad claimed in a Web posting to be holding them threatened to behead them in 48 hours unless the Fallujah siege is lifted.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, had no further details about **the attack, which took place just hours after the tough-talking prime minister declared a night time curfew in Baghdad**

The latest kidnapping comes as Mr Allawi faces his biggest crisis, with the joint United States-Iraqi attack on Fallujah.

The interim Iraqi leader has yet to convince many Iraqis that his government is no mere tool of the Americans. **The 58-year-old has no significant following in Iraq, where, until recently, few had heard of him because of his decades in exile,** mostly in Britain and Jordan.

Some Iraqis distrust him as a returned exile with past links to US and British intelligence. Others are wary of his past ties to former army officers and Saddam's Baath Party, though some regard these as useful credentials.

Resistance Opens Attacks In Mosul; Mercenary, Occupation Guards Dead

Nov. 10 (AP)

In Mosul, a curfew was announced after a series of clashes including two attacks against American military convoys, U.S. Capt. Angela Bowman said. **A foreign contractor was killed in one of the attacks**, Bowman said, without giving details.

Smoke was seen rising above the rooftops as residents reported fighting in western districts. **Three Iraqi policemen and an Iraqi National Guard soldier were killed, hospital and security officials said.**

Resistance Offensive Takes 6 Cities

Iraqi Resistance Report for events of Wednesday, 10 November 2004. Translated and/or compiled by Muhammad Abu Nasr, member editorial board The Free Arab Voice.

Resistance in control of downtown areas of ar-Ramadi, Mosul, al-Hadithah, Hit, `Anah and Rawah.

Iraqi Resistance forces on Wednesday expelled US aggressor forces and imposed their control on several major cities in the country.

In a dispatch posted at 12:55am Thursday morning Baghdad time (11:55pm Wednesday, Mecca time) **The Mafkarat al-Islam correspondents in Mosul, ar-Ramadi, al-Hadithah, Hit, `Anah, and Rawah reported that those cities are in the hands of the Iraqi Resistance after Resistance forces succeeded in forcing occupation troops to flee from the urban areas to their bases outside the cities where they are now hiding.**

Occupation Cops, Guards Killed In Karbala & Balad

11.10.04 Arabic News.com

In Karbala, one police officer was killed and other 9 injured in a bomb explosion near their center on Tuesday evening. Two members of the national guards were killed in an explosion when their procession was running in Balad to the north of Baghdad.

One Liner

11.10.04 AP

A bomb killed six Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

US, Iran Politicians: The Vultures Gathering Over Iraq

Oct 29, 2004 By Ehsan Ahrari, Asia Times Online Ltd.

Iran and the United States are involved in an intense competition to make Iraq an integral part of their respective, clashing, and invariably contradictory spheres of influence.

Their chief difference in modus operandi is that the US has wrapped its designs in the multicolored covering of democracy and liberty to make it palatable to the Iraqis. Iran, on the contrary, is very quiet about using its Shi'ite ties to make Iraq a vassal.

In the election campaign ahead of January elections, these two actors will intensify their endeavors to ensure that either a pro-US or a pro-Iran government emerges in Iraq.

<p>Strangely enough, the chief wild card in this competition is the Iraqi populace, whose preferences are being blatantly ignored by both Washington and Tehran, each determined to have its particular way.</p>

In the power game that is being played in the Middle East, the most powerful ones don't necessarily emerge as the winners.

The limitation of military power becomes obvious when one examines the fact that the United States is so utterly bogged down in the Iraqi quagmire after quickly dismantling the Saddam Hussein regime. Now it can bomb the cities into rubble, but the defiance of the insurgents and their sympathizers appears well nigh invincible.

The Iraqi insurgents know that as long as they can absorb human losses the US behemoth will remain on shaky ground, for its capacity to absorb human losses is indeed quite finite. That is what is driving the insurgents....in their battles with the United States in Samarra and Fallujah.

The administration of US President George W Bush knows full well the Achilles'-heel aspect of its own involvement in Iraq. That is why it is also busy ensuring that its long-term presence or influence is not jeopardized.

The ultimate purpose of the US occupation is to ensure that Iraq remains a vassal state. Washington knows how significant it is to keep that country down for the sole purpose of sustaining its own hegemony in the Middle East.

The Bush administration has earmarked US\$40 million to help Iraqi political parties mobilize. The unstated purpose of that fund is "to counter Iran's support for its allies in the emerging race to influence" the outcome of elections come January.

What is making the Bush administration quite nervous is the fact that Iran is also dumping its own substantial resources onto the highly organized Shi'ite religious parties. This very characteristic of the Shi'ite parties provides them with an abundant edge over the struggling moderate and non-sectarian parties in Iraq. Iran remains fully focused on such religious parties as the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution (SCIRI), the Islamic Dawa party, and Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army.

The United States, on its part, is also pursuing a similar, but two-tiered, strategy.

The first tier of this strategy is to supply funds to secular parties, even though in theory US funds are available to all Iraqi parties. The second tier of the US strategy is to create a multilateral forum for Iraq in mid-November. The purpose of that forum is to bring Iraq's neighbors together, along with the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Arab League, the Group of Eight industrialized countries, and the European Union.

This forum will create a multilateral plan for the evolution of a secular democratic Iraq, with the hope that the OIC, the GCC and the Arab League would endorse such a move.

More substantially, the purpose of including Iran in this forum is to teach it "how to be a responsible neighbor".

Of course, stripped of its diplomatic twaddle, the purpose of the United States is to persuade Iran to allow the emergence of a secular democratic Iraq, an objective that is directly opposed to Iran's purpose of helping Iraq to emerge as an Islamic democracy. The inclusion of Western states in this move is not too subtle, an attempt by the US to legitimize its own continued occupation of Iraq.

Apparently, the preceding US plan is put together by the DOS. However, it is as much divorced from regional realities as any other plan that the DOD has promoted thus far.

No one is paying any heed to the following very basic questions. Why should Iran help the US in making Iraq in its (US) image, when such an objective so profoundly contradicts Iran's own goal of seeing the emergence of an Islamic Iraq? Why is it that Washington's objectives toward Iraq become so superior that all the neighboring states are to undermine their own national interests and behave "responsibly"?

Why should, by helping Iraq become a secular democratic country, Iran improve the prospects of the establishment of a permanent US hegemony, right next door to itself? **No one who is knowledgeable about the profound historic religious and cultural ties between Iraq and Iran would pursue such an objective and expect the latter to cooperate.**

Let us also candidly admit that Iran, too, wishes to see a vassal Iraq in the future.

But Iraq is much too significant a state - both from the vantage points of Islam and pan-Arab history - to become a vassal. Baghdad was the seat of the Abbasid caliphate from the 9th to the 13th century. During this era, it became the center of Islamic learning and international trade.

In the contemporary era, Iraq became the seat of the Ba'ath Party, which was the chief proponent of pan-Arabism. Only later on was that party reduced to a mouth organ of Saddam Hussein's megalomaniac rule. Even while it was under United Nations sanctions and under constant US military surveillance, the significance of Iraq as an Arab state was never reduced.

Either by being unmindful of Iraq's previous significance or by merely ignoring it, the United States is expecting to impose its own preferences over the Iraqis, first through military conquest, and then by using a multilateral forum to legitimize its long-term occupation, even in the form of permanent military bases. Iran, on the contrary, is hoping to impose its own priorities on Iraq by using historical religious and cultural linkages.

The Iraqis, despite their ethnic and sectarian differences, have thus far manifested that Iraq is likely to be a vassal of neither the United States nor Iran. Any entity inside Iraq - either the Interim Iraqi Government or the Shi'ite parties - that attempts to promote such a reality is likely to be swept aside.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. To Send 30,000 Mall Security Guards To Iraq



Above: A Brenneeman Security guard, previously employed by the Northway Mall in Phoenix, patrols a Najaf street.

WASHINGTON, DC—Pressed for additional troops to police the Iraqi general elections scheduled for January, the Pentagon announced Monday that it will dispatch 30,000 U.S. shopping-mall security guards to the troubled Sunni Triangle region.

"A force of security guards trained to protect retail stores across America will be deployed to the Persian Gulf region," said Maj. Peter Archibald, a spokesman for Central Command. "Once in Iraq, security teams will fortify ground forces and assist them in keeping the peace and quelling any horseplay."

According to Archibald, the Pentagon wanted to bolster forces in Iraq without further extending the tours of soldiers currently in the theater. The solution should offer the additional advantage, Archibald said, of potentially dispelling the public's rising concerns over a possible military draft.

"We found that mall security guards are as well-trained and ready to face danger as the coalition-trained military police," Archibald said. "They may not have the power of arrest, but real authority is only a walkie-talkie call away."

Hired by the Defense Department through a number of licensed, reputable firms, the security guards will work independent of the roughly 135,000 troops currently stationed in Iraq. The guards will receive an hourly wage from the U.S. government, and they will be eligible for health and dental benefits after six months.

A test deployment of 1,000 mall security guards to Najaf in September convinced skeptical coalition officials that private-sector security forces provide a palpable sense of order.

"Iraqi patrons of mall-guard-patrolled marketplaces—the Iraqi equivalent of our nation's food courts—reported that the guards' uniformed presence was unobtrusive or even reassuring," Archibald said. "While many Iraqis are intimidated by soldiers from the U.S., they were largely able to disregard the mall security forces."

Archibald said that casualty rates for the mall security guards were only slightly higher than those among Iraqi police forces.

Bobby Adcock, 27, of Bakersfield, CA, was rejected for military service in August 2002, due to poor eyesight and excessive weight. He was hired by A-Star Security shortly thereafter, and was surprised to find himself patrolling an Iraqi bazaar in a Ford Taurus two years later.

"The work is similar in a lot of ways," Adcock said, pausing mid-sentence to order a nearby Iraqi to pick up a candy wrapper and a blood-spattered *keffiyeh*. "I thought maybe I'd be dodging artillery fire and flushing insurgents out of hiding places, but mostly I stand around and keep my eyes peeled for trouble. Just the other day, we caught some vandals spray-painting 'Go home USA' on the side of a building. Then, there's the suspicious package sightings. Fortunately, a good number of those turn out to be false alarms."

"All in all, it's an okay assignment," Adcock said. "The food is strange, except for those lamb kebabs. Those aren't bad. The break room is just a shed out in back of a used-electronics store, but I don't want to complain. I'm getting a lot of overtime."

Dale London, 47, is employed by Five-Eagle Security, based in Ames, IA. A former Loews Cineplex security guard who spent three years as an airport metal-detector operator, London now patrols the streets of Najaf.

"I had to retrain my eye to spot the particular dangers over here in sand-land," London said. "Yesterday, this kid with a bulge down his shirtfront comes around the corner. When I ask him to undo his jacket, wouldn't you know, there's a grenade launcher. Well, I hustled his keister right behind the falafel stand and told him the next time I saw his face around here, I'd turn him over to the coalition. Then I called his mullah to come pick him up."

Added London: "I never figured out where he shoplifted the grenade launcher from, so I took it to our lost and found. If any Najaf shopkeepers out there are missing a grenade launcher, they should contact me, Dale London, at the Five-Eagle Security station. It's near the grocery where they sell that funny sesame candy."

Rebecca Chatelain, a research associate at the Institute For Defense Analysis, expressed misgivings over the use of mall security guards in Iraq.

"The situation there is extremely volatile," Chatelain said. "The guards may provide a layer of security, but it's more psychological than actual. Any determined insurgent will soon discover how easy it is to overcome a lightly armed, out-of-shape mall cop. I'd hate to see a repeat of what happened in Somalia."

Chatelain was referring to a 1993 incident in which several dozen American prom chaperones were sent to Somalia along with U.N. peacekeeping troops. All were shot by factional guerrillas within hours of their arrival.

Received:

No To Double Standards!

From: Joan Molnar
To: GI Special
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2004 11:07 PM
Subject: Comment

"The world is convinced that we people of Falluja are happy to kill the innocents, that's not true, even when we execute collaborators and people working for the Americans, I feel sad for them and sometimes cry, but this is a war."

People don't want to see the similarities -between the resistance, in W.W. 2 Europe, and Iraq. The European resistance exploded bombs that killed civilians. They also executed collaborators, without hesitation, but they were classified as heroes - not terrorists or insurgents.

The situation is the same. An illegal invader, and illegal occupation, cannot be classified differently because it's the work of "the allies" as opposed to the "Nazis". We should remember the past to understand the present. --- J.

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

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