

GI SPECIAL 2#C31

**IF HIS LUCK HOLDS, THEY WON'T BE SENDING HIM
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**



US Marine Cpl. Joe Ryan of Boise, Idaho, Fallujah. (Scott Peterson/Getty Images)

Soldiers Flee Training Camp By “Vaulting Over Barbed Wire”

**Locked-Down Troops Say They
Face Iraq Ill-Trained:**

"We Are Going To Pay For This In Blood" "I Feel Like An Inmate With A Weapon."

Nov 25 By Scott Gold. Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

At Doña Ana, soldiers have questioned their commanders about conditions at the camp, occasionally breaking the protocol of formation drills to do so.

"Some of us are going to die there, and some of us are going to die unnecessarily because of the lack of training," he said. "So I don't care. Let them court-martial me. I want the American public to know what is going on. My men are guilty of one thing: volunteering to serve their country. And we are at the end of our rope."

Several soldiers have fled Doña Ana by vaulting over rolls of barbed wire that surround the small camp, the soldiers interviewed said. Others, they said, are contemplating going AWOL, at least temporarily, to reunite with their families for Thanksgiving.

DOÑA ANA RANGE, N.M. — Members of a California Army National Guard battalion preparing for deployment to Iraq said this week that they were under strict lockdown and being treated like prisoners rather than soldiers by Army commanders at the remote desert camp where they are training.

More troubling, a number of the soldiers said, is that the training they have received is so poor and equipment shortages so prevalent that they fear their casualty rate will be needlessly high when they arrive in Iraq early next year.

"We are going to pay for this in blood," one soldier said.

They said they believed their treatment and training reflected an institutional bias against National Guard troops by commanders in the active-duty Army, an allegation that Army commanders denied.

The 680 soldiers of the 1st Battalion of the 184th Infantry Regiment were activated in August and are preparing for deployment at Doña Ana, a **former World War II prisoner-of-war camp** 20 miles west of its large parent base, Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Members of the battalion, headquartered in Modesto, said in two dozen interviews that they were allowed no visitors or travel passes, had scant contact with their families and that morale was terrible.

"I feel like an inmate with a weapon," said Cpl. Jajuane Smith, 31, a six-year Guard veteran from Fresno who works for an armored transport company when not on active duty.

Several soldiers have fled Doña Ana by vaulting over rolls of barbed wire that surround the small camp, the soldiers interviewed said. Others, they said, are contemplating going AWOL, at least temporarily, to reunite with their families for Thanksgiving.

Army commanders said the concerns were an inevitable result of the decision to shore up the strained military by turning "citizen soldiers" into fully integrated, front-line combat troops. About 40% of the troops in Iraq are either reservists or National Guard troops.

Lt. Col. Michael Hubbard of Ft. Bliss said the military must confine the soldiers largely to Doña Ana to ensure that their training is complete before they are sent to Iraq. "A lot of these individuals are used to doing this two days a month and then going home," Hubbard said. "Now the job is 24/7. And they experience culture shock."

But many of the soldiers interviewed said the problems they cited went much deeper than culture shock.

The concerns of the Guard troops at Doña Ana represent the latest in a series of incidents involving allegations that a two-tier system has shortchanged reservist and National Guard units compared with their active-duty counterparts.

In September, a National Guard battalion undergoing accelerated training at Ft. Dix, N.J., was confined to barracks for two weeks after 13 soldiers reportedly went AWOL to see family before shipping out for Iraq.

Last month, an Army National Guard platoon at Camp Shelby, Miss., refused its orders after voicing concerns about training conditions and poor leadership.

In the most highly publicized incident, in October, more than two dozen Army reservists in Iraq refused to drive a fuel convoy to a town north of Baghdad after arguing that the trucks they had been given were not armored for combat duty.

At Doña Ana, soldiers have questioned their commanders about conditions at the camp, occasionally breaking the protocol of formation drills to do so. They said they had been told repeatedly that they could not be trusted because they were not active-duty soldiers — though many of them are former active-duty soldiers.

"I'm a cop. I've got a career, a house, a family, a college degree," said one sergeant, who lives in Southern California and spoke, like most of the soldiers, on condition of anonymity.

"I came back to the National Guard specifically to go to Baghdad, because I believed in it, believed in the mission. But I have regretted every day of it. This is demoralizing, demeaning, degrading. And we're supposed to be ambassadors to another country? We're supposed to go to war like this?"

The Guard troops at Doña Ana were scheduled to train for six months before beginning a yearlong deployment. **They recently learned, however, that the Army planned to send them overseas a month early — in January, most likely — as it speeds up troop movement to compensate for a shortage of full-time, active-duty troops.**

Hubbard, the officer at Ft. Bliss, also said conditions at Doña Ana were designed to mirror the harsh and often thankless assignments the soldiers would take on in Iraq. That was an initiative launched by Brig. Gen. Joseph Chavez, commander of the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade, which includes the 184th Regiment.

Military analysts, however, questioned whether the soldiers' concerns could be attributed entirely to the military's attempt to mirror conditions in Iraq. For example, the soldiers say that an ammunition shortage has meant that they have often conducted operations firing blanks.

"The Bush administration had over a year of planning before going to war in Iraq," said Jonathan Turley, a George Washington University law professor who has acted as a defense lawyer in military courts. "An ammunition shortage is not an exercise in tough love."

The Guard troops in New Mexico said they wanted more sophisticated training and better equipment.

They said they had been told, for example, that the vehicles they would drive in Iraq would not be armored, a common complaint among their counterparts already serving overseas.

They also said the bulk of their training had been basic, such as first aid and rifle work, and not "theater-specific" to Iraq.

They are supposed to be able to use night-vision goggles, for instance, because many patrols in Iraq take place in darkness. But one group of 200 soldiers trained for just an hour with 30 pairs of goggles, which they had to pass around quickly, soldiers said.

The soldiers said they had received little or no training for operations that they expected to undertake in Iraq, from convoy protection to guarding against insurgents' roadside bombs. **One said he has put together a diary of what he called "wasted days" of training. It lists 95 days, he said, during which the soldiers learned nothing that would prepare them for Iraq.**

The fact that the National Guardsmen have undergone largely basic training suggests that Army commanders do not trust their skills as soldiers, said David Segal, director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland. That tension underscores a divide that has long existed between "citizen soldiers" and their active-duty counterparts, he said.

"These soldiers should be getting theater-specific training," Segal said. "This should not be an area where they are getting on-the-job training. The military is just making a bad situation worse."

The soldiers also said they were risking courts-martial or other punishment by speaking publicly about their situation. But Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Dominguez, 45, one of the soldiers who allowed his identity to be revealed, said he feared that if nothing changed, men in his platoon would be killed in Iraq.

Dominguez is a father of two — including a 13-month-old son named Reagan, after the former president — and an employee of a mortgage bank in Alta Loma, Calif. A senior squad leader of his platoon, Dominguez said he had been in the National Guard for 20 years.

"Some of us are going to die there, and some of us are going to die unnecessarily because of the lack of training," he said. "So I don't care. Let them court-martial me. I want the American public to know what is going on. My men are guilty of one thing: volunteering to serve their country. And we are at the end of our rope."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

U.S. Officer Admits Resistance Controls Highways Around Ramadi After 8 Hour Battle & “Part” Of Population Supports Them

11/25/04 middle-east-online, By Pierre Celerier, RAMADI, Iraq

Insurgent attacks have been on the rise in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi after a massive US-led assault on nearby Fallujah drove many insurgents out of that city, according to US military officials.

"The escalation of attacks linked to the Ramadan (Muslim month of fasting) hasn't abated, even though the Ramadan is finished. We still register a relatively high number of attacks," said Captain Andre Takacs, from the Ramadi-based 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment.

"On November 17, we learnt of a large insurgent force coming inside the city. We had a big battle with them," said Lieutenant Colonel Justin Gubler, from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

The battle, which pitted US marines against an estimated 80 rebels lasted eight hours, he said.

There is little preventing these fighters from moving freely inside Ramadi "since we don't control the roads," he explained.

Since the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi declared a state of emergency prior to the Fallujah assault, policemen in Ramadi have abandoned their posts.

"Their fear is they'll help us, then we'll leave and then the insurgents will kill them," Gubler says, **while acknowledging that "part of the population supports the rebels"**. [This could be a first, an officer admitting Iraqis support the resistance, even if it's hedged with "part of." Try 90%.]

Insurgents Step Up Battle For Mosul; Occupation Calls In Kurds To Take Over

[What this story makes clear is that since there aren't enough U.S. Occupation troops left to hold down Mosul, and since the police and guards set up by the collaborator Allawi "government" won't fight, the U.S. has decided to turn Mosul over to Kurdish forces. What will Turkey have to say about that?]

11/25/04 Kerala News

Insurgents increased their efforts to take control of Mosul on Wednesday, ambushing a convoy of Kurdish peshmerga fighters and attacking the Kurdish deputy governor of Nineveh province.

Three peshmerga were killed and seven injured when their convoy was attacked on the main road into eastern Mosul, said Kareem Sinjari, the interior minister of the Kurdistan regional government in Irbil.

The fighters, under the command of the Kurdistan Democratic party, led by Massoud Barzani, were on their way to protect the party offices in Mosul, which have come under frequent attack since a two-day uprising this month.

The deputy governor, Khasro Gouran, a Kurd, was attacked as he was leaving his office. One of his bodyguards was killed and two people, including his brother, were wounded.

Security is now in the hands of a small unit of US soldiers, aided by Kurdish units of the Iraqi national guard, which carried out a number of limited operations in insurgent areas on Wednesday, and an elite police commando unit.

Their presence has angered many of the majority Sunni Arab community and raised the prospect of a wider conflict between Arabs and Kurds.

**WONDER WHY GEORGE ISN'T SHOWING UP TO SERVE
THE TURKEY THIS YEAR?**

BULLSHIT WAR, BULLSHIT MISSION: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry soldiers Thanksgiving in Mosul Nov. 25. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)

20,802 Wounded At Landstuhl

As of Tuesday, 20,802 troops have been treated at Landstuhl from injuries received in Iraqi and [Afghanistan.] (November 24, 2004 Ben Murray, Stars And Stripes)

Yeah, Right, Falluja “Under Control”-- Four Resistance Troops Take Out 9 Marines Monday; 24 Hour Curfew Re-Imposed

November 26, 2004 By Scott Peterson, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

The firefight brings the casualty rate in the Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) company to 1 man in 5; far less than the 60 percent reached during the battle for Vietnam's Hue City in 1968, the last urban assault before Fallujah waged by US Marines - but far higher than most modern combat operations.

After granting civilians four hours each day to visit local food-distribution centers, commanders Wednesday extended the curfew to 24 hours a day. A jobs program was put on hold; it is not clear when civilians will be allowed to return.

FALLUJAH, IRAQ – The four insurgents were heavily outnumbered and outgunned by US marines in Fallujah.

But armed with just assault rifles and grenades, the quartet locked an entire company in intense battle for hours, inflicting casualties in hand-to-hand combat and delivering a tough lesson for US forces as they deepen their hunt for an ephemeral and patient enemy that embraces martyrdom.

The climax of the firefight late Monday night could not have been more chaotic or more illuminating of the horrors of urban conflict.

When the team from Alpha Company finally entered the last redoubt of the insurgents - a burning house that had already been hammered by rockets, explosive charges, and tank rounds - they had every reason to believe any remaining gunmen were dead.

Instead, point man Lance Corp. Richard Caseras entered with his team and ran into the spray of an insurgent's AK-47 assault rifle. A second fighter then emerged, a pineapple grenade in each hand, with pins already pulled.

Eyeball to eyeball with their opponents, the marines shot them both dead; the grenades fell to the ground and exploded, blasting the Americans with shrapnel.

The result was a panicked war scene that could have been drawn from the film "Apocalypse Now." In the eerie light of the roaring flames, the wounded men were dragged back out to the street while marines targeted the house with steady gunfire.

US commanders say that such costly battles are taking place across Fallujah.

But the battle Monday, fought amid the maze of houses and alleyways in this ghost city that once held a population of 300,000, shows the difficult and dangerous task of uprooting insurgents who have hunkered down. **Protecting civilians may also prove a daunting task as marines try to locate fighters who filter quietly back in as residents return. [Surely this is satire. It can't be serious editorializing by the reporter. Everybody knows that nobody gives a flying fuck about protecting any civilians in Falluja. Well, maybe he's just reading off some script from command. That would be a less "daunting task" than reporting on the heaps of dead civilians.]**

"You are seeing individuals willing to die, and take as many Americans and Iraqis with them," says Marine Maj. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, 1st Marine Division commander in an interview. "We overwhelm them, but despite that, they put up a very stiff and determined resistance. This [assault] had to be done, because Fallujah was a sanctuary for insurgents, and now it isn't." **[The Maj. General certainly follows the propaganda line. The local traitors fighting with the U.S. are "Iraqis" but those fighting the occupation of their country are just "insurgents. And since even Occupation polls find the overwhelming majority of Iraqis want Bush's foreign fighters to get the fuck out of their country, the silly man doesn't seem to have a grip on the fact that Iraq as a whole is the "sanctuary" for "insurgents," and will always be so until the last Occupation troop goes home.]**

As the shooting lit the battlespace with muzzle flashes and noise, a lone US Navy medical corpsman jumped out to gather the wounded. This correspondent moved to help, joining in to pull the three injured men into the vehicle by their flak jackets.

"I'm so sorry! I should have used the frag[mentation] grenade, and not my M-16 [rifle]," Lance Corporal Caseras yelled to his fallen comrades as the vehicle raced toward a combat hospital at Camp Fallujah. Lance Corp. Nathan Douglass was peppered with shrapnel. Also prone in the back of the armored vehicle, on crates full of ammunition and explosives, lay Corp. Catcher Cuts the Rope (his native American name), with a tourniquet above his knee; grenade shards hit his shoulder and hands.

"Don't worry," Corporal Douglass, from Hillsboro, Ore., said consolingly. "We shot so much into that house. There shouldn't have been anybody left."

The final blow came with heavy fire from a Spectre AC-130 gunship, which destroyed four houses used by the insurgents with 40 Howitzer shells.

The toll from a brutal night: One dead marine and nine wounded, including this correspondent, who was struck in the arm by a small piece of shrapnel.

The firefight brings the casualty rate in the Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) company to 1 man in 5; far less than the 60 percent reached during the battle for Vietnam's Hue City in 1968, the last urban assault before Fallujah waged by US Marines - but far higher than most modern combat operations.

The morning after the battle, as marines returned to the site to further clear the houses, two very young boys emerged from a house across the street, waving in a friendly way at the marines. They were followed by a woman in a black shroud and an older man. A cardboard sign on the wall, invisible during the firefight the night before, read: "There is family."

After granting civilians four hours each day to visit local food-distribution centers, commanders Wednesday extended the curfew to 24 hours a day. A jobs program was put on hold; it is not clear when civilians will be allowed to return.

"It's a man-on-man fight, a classic infantry battle," says marine Col. Craig Tucker, commander of the Regimental Combat Team-7, one of two regiments fighting in Fallujah.

"If you've got a guy sitting in a house with two grenades, who knows he is going to die, we're going to root these guys out, house by house," says Colonel Tucker. "[But] you can't go into every house and knock it down, It's the difference between an organization that follows the rules of war, and one that does not. The challenge for us, is not becoming them." **[Notice here how the reporter is utterly silent on the various violations of the Geneva Conventions ordered by the U.S. command, but immediately follows with charges against the resistance. Nothing like fair and balanced reporting. See next article.]**

Such guerrilla tactics, which in the past week have included using a white surrender flag as a cover for attack, or playing dead on the street before jumping up to fire - have kept these marines on edge.

But even as US units apply overwhelming force, they are at risk from the asymmetrical threat posed by rebels - and the presence of civilians.

"I'm telling you marines, you have the authority to use lethal force," Captain Gil Juarez, the LAR commander, told his platoon chiefs when giving the order for Monday's operation. "But be advised: If you make a mistake and frag innocent civilians, there is going to be a [military lawyer] on the scene, and an investigation." "We'll win the battle, no problem," Captain Juarez continued. "But this is still a war about human relations. This is political war. Everything we do must help toward winning that war."

[This lying bullshit is, of course, for the benefit of the propagandist writing this story. For the truth, see the story below about what troops are actually instructed to do: "Dead Check In Falluja"]

A clear example of the tricky balance is Monday's battle, which started out as a typical clearing operation, in which LAR vehicles and on-foot scout teams pushed east to west between two clocks, clearing house after house.

Red Platoon began in typical fashion, with a reading the 91st Psalm from the Bible.

"Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness," read Corporal Dustin Barker of Midland, Texas. Citations from the Bible mark his helmet strap.

[Terrific news! Since this is now officially a Christian war, complete with Bible readings, ANY SOLDIER WHO IS NOT A REAL BONA-FIDE BIBLE-THUMPING CHRISTIAN, BE HE OR SHE BUDDHIST, AGNOSTIC, MUSLIM, JEW, ATHEIST, OR WHATEVER, CAN LEAVE IRAQ IMMEDIATELY AND GO HOME. RIGHT?]

The marines used explosives, axes, and even their boots to break down doors and storm houses.

They searched rooms **and destroyed food stores when they found them** to deprive insurgents moving from house to house of support. **[Hello? Geneva Convention? Destroying civilian food supplies? War crimes? Any reporters in Iraq?]**

"The problem with this, is we are opening (by breaking locks) the whole town up for terrorists to move in," said an intelligence officer with the unit. **[Typical "intelligence" officer. No, those simple childlike little Iraqis don't know how to bust a lock. PS: they don't have to "move in." The Iraqis are the resistance.]**

In one house, Red platoon found two men sitting around a heater, drinking tea. The kitchen was immaculate - except for a single bowl of beans and another of rice - and did not look as if it had been lived in for weeks. The phone's answering machine had received 61 unanswered calls, up until Nov. 5.

The men knew their own names, but little else. They couldn't identify the couple in the marriage photo above the master bed, and said they had cut it out of a magazine. They were detained.

The first contact for Alpha Company came shortly after a block away.

One marine was shot when he entered a house, and later died on his way to the combat hospital. Corp. Luiz Munoz was also shot in the leg.

The shooting launched the battle. Also wounded was Corp. Peter Mason, a veteran, like this Alpha platoon, of a battle on Nov. 13 that left 15 guerrillas dead.

On that day, he was shot four times in his armor plates and once in the helmet. Eight more bullets put holes in his trousers, but missed his legs.

Even as Corporal Mason was treated for shrapnel wounds Monday, in the gathering twilight, marines shot a second insurgent on the roof.

Then they climbed to the next building to fire three rockets. Two more hours of nighttime combat passed when the fire team entered yet another house, and ran into the rifle fire and grenade carrier.

"I don't know how we can prevent that [in the future]. We did everything right," says Lieut. Matt Bronson, the platoon commander of the teams first into the house, from Barre, Mass. "They are just hoping we don't come into their house; they are waiting for civilians to come back."

"Once those Abrams (tanks) started shooting, I thought: 'If (the insurgents) are still alive, they are going to be very (angry),' Lance Corporal Donald Blais told his wounded platoon-mates, during a visit that night at the combat hospital. [Now the (reporter) even denies the troops their right to be quoted accurately, which, considering what they've gone through, is truly (despicable.) This isn't reporting, it's puerile script writing for network TV; no naughty words allowed.]

"The living room was on fire when we went in. It still hasn't hit me yet," says Corporal Blais, his face was blackened from fire smoke and accumulated dirt of two weeks of war. He says he shot 15 magazines of ammunition that night - some 400 bullets.

"Every time I close my eyes, I see the house burn," says Blais, of Hartford, Conn. "I don't think I can sleep."

"I see the glowing of the fire," adds Douglass, a month shy of his 20th birthday, as he lay in his hospital cot.

"Then I see Cesares coming out, and the (insurgent) chasing him."

Evidence Mounts Of US War Crimes In Fallujah

NOV. 27, 2004 By Simon Assaf, Socialist Worker UK

[Do not forget. Command gives the orders for or sanctions every atrocity. See the article below “Dead Check In Falluja” on sanctioning execution of the wounded. The war crime instructions given by the U.S. command may be punishable by death or, at minimum, long imprisonment. Check out Shupp also, next story.]

Iraqi doctors have accused the US military of committing a war crime after they destroyed a neighbourhood clinic during the assault on Fallujah.

Dr Saloum Ismael of Doctors for Iraqi Society says missile attacks on the Popular Clinic on 7 November killed a number of patients, staff and two senior doctors—an orthopedic surgeon and a radiologist.

Amnesty International believes up to 20 Iraqi medical staff and dozens of civilians were killed in the attack.

Dr Ismael said, “This is a crime of the Americans in Fallujah. They have no respect for the doctors and their mission.”

The Fourth Geneva Convention classifies attacks on hospitals as a war crime.

The human rights group also claims that interim prime minister Iyad Allawi “threatened the staff of (Fallujah’s main) hospital, warning them not speak one word about what they have seen of American war crimes”.

The main hospital was raided and closed on the eve of the assault.

MORE:

Agence France Presse (AFP) reported that on November 7 US Marine Corps Colonel Michael Shupp told his troops to shoot any Iraqi civilian who approached them with raised hands because he or she might be a “suicide bomber”.

MORE:

Geneva Convention

Hospitals

The Geneva Conventions are quite clear that the bombing of hospitals constitutes a war crime:

"Article 18: **Civilian hospitals organized to give care to the wounded and sick, the infirm and maternity cases, may *in no circumstances* be the object of attack** but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict.

"Article 19: The protection to which civilian hospitals are entitled shall not cease unless they are used to commit, outside their humanitarian duties, acts harmful to the enemy. ***Protection may, however, cease only after due warning has been given, naming, in all appropriate cases, a reasonable time limit and after such warning has remained unheeded.***

The fact that sick or wounded members of the armed forces are nursed in these hospitals, or the presence of small arms and ammunition taken from such combatants and not yet been handed to the proper service, shall not be considered to be acts harmful to the enemy."

Treatment Of Prisoners & The Wounded

"Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat (out of combat) by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely."

"The following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons:

--`Violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture

-- 'The passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples."

"The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for."

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)

Street Without Joy:

Suicide Drive Down Baghdad's Airport Road

BAGHDAD, Nov 24 (AFP)

Specialist Edward Gonzales knew something was wrong when the man in the car speeding towards his patrol on Baghdad's airport road ignored warning shouts to stop and instead steered deliberately closer.

"I pulled out my weapon and, as I shot him, he blew up," said the 28-year-old.

The suicide car bomber blasted the US soldier back inside his truck, while a piece of shrapnel pierced the window of a Humvee behind, killing one of his colleagues in an all-too-familiar scene of chaos along the notorious highway.

The airport road, known as Route Irish, is the main gateway in and out of Iraq and has become a favourite hunting ground for rebels due to a stream of foreign civilians and soldiers in armoured convoys that use it.

Round-the-clock patrols along the 12-15 kilometre (7.5-10 mile) stretch have sharply reduced the insurgents' ability to plant roadside bombs and carry out drive-by shootings, which happened almost daily earlier this year, but the number of suicide attacks has risen sharply, military officers said.

"The suicide bomber is really the only way to get to a convoy now," said Lieutenant Colonel Todd Morrow, who is in charge of Alpha Battery 4-5 Air Defence Artillery, which took over responsibility for the area on September 1.

There have been 14 suicide car bombs on the road in that time, while four of Morrow's soldiers have died and 43 have been wounded, mainly from such attacks.

"They develop new ways to attack us and we develop new ways to stop them. It is a game of cat and mouse," said Captain Curran Chidester, who heads a patrol that typically comprises three Humvees and, on occasion, a tank.

Soldiers make sweeping circles of the highway, which is framed by dirty grass littered with burnt-out vehicles and twisted scraps of exploded cars.

The road itself also bears a harsh reminder of its deadly traffic, with several large holes gouged out of the cracked tarmac.

"That was yesterday's mess," said Chidester, 28, as his driver maneuvered around a deep crater, where a bomber *had ambushed a British defence ministry convoy, injuring three staff and an Iraqi passer-by.*

The patrol rushed to the scene of the attack last week to secure the area and treat the casualties, while also hunting for possible suspects.

"Unfortunately for us, it has become pretty routine," said Chidester.

His soldiers are on a high state of alert as they hunt for signs of trouble during their nerve-wracking eight-hour shift, such as a broken down vehicle that may be disguising people planting bombs or a new bit of rubbish.

"Stop!" Chidester barked at his patrol as he spotted a suspicious-looking piece of tumbleweed in the middle of the fast lane.

"We have to keep our eyes open for anything out of the ordinary. Usually it turns out to be nothing but you have to make sure," he said, as one of his men exited a Humvee to prod the offending weed off the road with his rifle.

Attacks come in bursts, with a couple of days of calm followed by mayhem.

"They mainly hit us early in the morning or in the evening right before the sun goes down," said Staff Sergeant John Stanford, 42, from Oklahoma who was driving one of the Humvees with Chidester.

"Everyone feels nervous, everyone feels scared when they come out here," he said, clutching his rifle and scanning a thin trickle of traffic as he took a break by his vehicle near the main check point to the airport.

One of the hardest tasks is going back into the firing line after the death of a colleague, the soldiers said.

Three car bombs in as many days were unleashed two weeks ago, starting with the attack on Gonzales' patrol by a clean shaven man, dressed in a white robe.

"I am still trying to get over it. I don't think there was anything else that I could have done," the soldier said, recalling that he had ordered the driver to stop and then shot at him when he failed to comply.

"That is the worse thing that has happened to me. I don't think that it can get much worse than that."

MORE:

“Forget Falluja, We’re Not Winning” The Road to BIAP

11/22/04 By DAVID CORN, The Nation

“Now what does this tell the Iraqi people? That the Americans cannot secure a small stretch of highway. It runs straight from the airport to the entrance of the Green Zone. And it's not secure. That says it all.”

Days ago, I was speaking with a security consultant freshly back from a trip to Iraq, and I asked for his prognosis. It's terrible, he said. We're not winning.

"What about Fallujah?" I inquired. "Hasn't the city been retaken?"

"Forget Falluja," this former military officer said. "All you have to know is the road to BIAP cannot be traveled safely."

BIAP--that's the Baghdad International Airport. And since the invasion this six mile stretch of road has been insecure, a hair-raising and dangerous strip of territory.

When my friend was making arrangements to travel to Baghdad--he's in search of small-scale reconstruction contracts that can be fulfilled using Iraqi workers--he jokingly told his partners in Iraq that when they pick him up at the airport they should bring an AK-47 he could use.

Well, upon his arrival at BIAP (pronounced BYE-APP), he was met by two cars packed with armed bodyguards, and someone did toss him a gun. Then off they went, practically flying down the BIAP road--which he says bears an uncanny resemblance to the Dulles airport road, which meanders through rolling hills of suburbia--at 80 miles per hour. A ride to the airport these days, he was told, can cost up to \$6000. (That's not a typo.)

He encountered no trouble. But he had in his mind an ambush that happened a few months back on the BIAP road. Two SUVs were carrying private security contractors who work for Blackwater Security Consulting.

A van came flying down an access road and pulled alongside the lead SUV. The door to van opened and machine-gun fire blasted the SUV, which came to a halt. The rear SUV was forced to a stop. A pitched battle ensued, with the Blackwater employees firing back until the fuel tanks of their vehicles exploded. At least three Blackwater employees were killed.

My source says he was told four were killed. (There was little media coverage of this incident.)

And all the insurgents escaped. "This was in the afternoon!" my friend exclaimed. "Nothing stops them from attacking. Nothing stops them from getting away. Imagine this on the road to Dulles. There must have been at least fifteen of them, pulling off a classic L-ambush.

"Now what does this tell the Iraqi people? That the Americans cannot secure a small stretch of highway. It runs straight from the airport to the entrance of the Green Zone. And it's not secure. That says it all."

British Join Effort To Recruit Soldiers For Iraqi Resistance;

Attack Civilians In Small Village With Tanks, Stun Grenades; BBC Calls Them “U.S. Forces”

25 November, 2004 BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4040689.stm>

More than 20 people have been arrested by British soldiers following a raid on suspected insurgents in central Iraq.

US and Iraqi forces raided another small village in the area. [So, according to the BBC, the Black Watch soldiers are now “U.S. forces.”]

BBC correspondent David Loyn, who is at Camp Dogwood, described how the Black Watch's Warrior tanks knocked down the walls of some houses to gain entry.

He said troops had carried out a "house-by-house" operation using stun grenades to disorientate the occupants before separating the men from the women.

There was "no fighting at all" between Black Watch troops and the suspected insurgents, but the soldiers had gone in hard, he said.

"This was very much not a 'hearts and minds' operation," he added.

More Than 2,000 Killed In Fallujah

November 25, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - More than 2,000 people have been killed so far in the U.S.-Iraqi operation against the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, an Iraqi official said Thursday.

But Qassem Dawoud, the government's national security adviser, gave no breakdown of deaths among U.S. troops, Iraqi forces, insurgents and civilians.

He also said more than 1,600 people have been arrested, Dawoud told reporters.

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

TROOP NEWS

Vietnam Vet Called To Active Duty In Iraq

November 25, 2004 Associated Press

PLEASANT UNITY – More than three decades after he was last in combat, a Vietnam veteran has been called to active duty in Iraq.

Paul Dunlap, 53, of Pleasant Unity, will leave for Fort Bliss, Texas, on Monday after being called up as part of Operation Dragoon.

Dunlap, a first sergeant in the Army National Guard Company C 28th Signal Battalion out of Torrance, Westmoreland County, hasn't been in combat since he was a 19-year-old Marine and served 11 months in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971.

Dunlap, a machinist, found out about his call-up at work in November.

Dunlap will spend about two weeks at Fort Bliss before linking with the 1st-103rd Armor in Kuwait. He is a signal systems specialist and his unit will likely handle radio retransmissions and fix equipment. **[He can also give fragging & search and evade lessons, highly skilled specialties of Vietnam troops, who knew how to stop an Imperial war.]**

He will leave behind his wife, Mary Dunlap, four children and three grandchildren.

"I know I can handle it. I'll have days when it's going to be a long day and you'll be thinking home," Dunlap said. "I'm more worried about how they'll be dealing with it because they can't visually see what I'm doing or where I'm at or if I'm OK. I think it's going to be tougher on them than it is on me."

Mary Dunlap, said that the couple's 19-year old son, Timothy James, doesn't want his father to go to Iraq.

"He prayed and prayed that (his father) wouldn't pass his physical, just like the rest of us," she said.

She said that although her husband has been a soldier since she met him, "there's a part of me that wonders, at 53 is he going to be up to doing what he needs to do over there?"

While waiting to ship out, Dunlap has been spending time with his family and went pheasant hunting on Monday.

"I've been spending a lot more time with my wife and my children," Dunlap said. "I'm going to spend every minute I can with my family."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Six Occupation Cops Wounded; Three Bomb Attacks In “Pacified” Samarra

November 25, 2004 SAMARRA, Iraq (AFP)

"We received two bodies completely burned and 13 wounded, **six of them from the police** and seven civilians," said a doctor at the general hospital, referring to a first car bomb, which police said exploded as a US-Iraqi patrol was passing.

The second attack a short time later in the west of Samarra, 120 kilometres (80 miles) north of Baghdad, was on a police station but claimed no victims except the suicide bomber, police said.

A third bomb exploded and injured an Iraqi national guard while police were inspecting the area near the suicide attack, police said.

The third blast came after US forces had used loudhailers to warn residents to stay indoors.

A series of car bomb attacks and **clashes between US and Iraq troops and insurgents in the city in early November left 36 dead, 26 of them police officers.**

The assault marked the first major offensive by US forces to reclaim a Sunni rebel bastion ahead of national elections set for January. [So much for that brilliant strategy.]



A car employed by anti-Iraqi forces burns after it was attacked by Iraqi patriots in Baghdad. (AFP 11.25.04)

Another Pipeline Whacked

Nov 25, 2004 The Canadian Press

An explosion hit a domestic pipeline Thursday that runs from northern Kirkuk to the Beiji refinery, oil officials said.

The early morning sabotage took place in the Fatha area, about 115 kilometers (70 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, said a source with the state-owned Northern Oil Company.

Two Collaborators Found Dead

25 November 2004 Khaleej Times

The bodies of two Iraqis working with the US military were found north of Baghdad, police said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Dead-Check In Falluja

November 24 - 30, 2004 by Evan Wright, The Village Voice

Evan Wright is the author of Generation Kill, about a Marine reconnaissance unit in Iraq.

"What does the American public think happens when they tell us to assault a city?" one of them said. "Marines don't shoot rainbows out of our asses. We fucking kill people."

"If the American public doesn't like the violence of war, maybe before they start the next war they shouldn't rush so much."

In April 9, 2003, the day the statue of Saddam Hussein was being toppled in Baghdad, symbolizing the promised liberation of Iraq, I was embedded with a Marine unit engaged in fierce combat about 30 miles north of the city, on the outskirts of Baquba. Late that afternoon, the Humvee I was in was following about 50 feet behind a Marine Light Armored Vehicle when it pulled alongside a Toyota pickup pushed to the side of the road, its doors riddled with bullet holes.

The head of at least one occupant was visible in the truck, but I couldn't determine if he was moving or not. Nor did I see any weapons. As our Humvee stopped behind the truck, a Marine in the vehicle ahead of us leapt out, pointed his rifle into the window of the pickup and sprayed it with gunfire. It was a cold-blooded execution.

As we continued forward, passing the truck, I glimpsed at least two corpses sprawled on the seats, the interior spattered with blood. During the brief moment I looked, I was unable to determine whether the dead men possessed weapons. None of the four Marines in our Humvee said anything.

We had been awake for more than 30 hours, much of that time under steady mortar, rifle, machine-gun, and rocket-propelled grenade fire from enemy combatants who dressed in civilian clothes and moved around on the battlefield in Toyota pickups. (To make matters even more confusing, during the height of combat farmers were racing into the surrounding fields—where enemy soldiers were shooting at us from dug-in, concealed positions—in order to rescue sheep from the gunfire.)

In the previous few minutes we had already passed more than a dozen corpses strewn by the side of the road. Some had the tops of their heads missing, expertly hit by Marine riflemen. Others were burned—still smoking, actually—having crawled out of other vehicles set ablaze by rockets fired from Marine helicopters. The execution of one or two more men wasn't worth commenting on.

I greeted the sight of dead Iraqis in the pickup with a sense of numb relief. At least they would not be trying to kill us that day. In the preceding two-and-a-half weeks, the unit I was embedded with had come under frequent enemy attack, with three Marines wounded. There were 23 bullet holes in the Humvee I rode in—miraculously, none of the five of us inside had been hit. I had developed a strange relationship with the sight of dead Iraqis. I felt safer when I saw them.

I felt especially comforted when I saw dead men by the road still clutching weapons in their hands, a common sight. Unfortunately, of the hundreds of dead people I saw on the roads leading from the Kuwait border to Baghdad, perhaps 20 percent or more were obviously civilians. I will never forget the three or four women I saw fatally shot and partially burned, still seated in a bus on the road north of Nasiriyah. Or the little girl, about four, lying by the side of the road in a pretty dress, her legs neatly and inexplicably chopped off at the knees. Mercifully, I remember thinking at the time, she was dead like all the others.

Since my return from Iraq, I have continued to watch the horror unfold on television. It's different seeing the violence decontextualized from the battlefield, now playing out in discrete video clips that run between ads for Chevys and the Olive Garden. Videos of militants staging beheadings against dungeon-like backdrops, with the perpetrators wearing masks and the victims in colorful jumpsuits, seem almost like grotesque TV shows.

One of the great ironies of the Bush administration, obsessed as it is with Christian values and the attendant crusade to punish what it deems obscene and lewd in the media (from Janet Jackson's breast to Howard Stern's speech), is that it has given us a war in which the airing of snuff films on national TV has become routine. The conflict in Iraq, as seen through news coverage, has begun to resemble the macabre underground 1980s video series *Faces of Death*. Throw in the images produced by the U.S. Army at Abu Ghraib, and the administration has put itself in the running to successfully compete with the BDSM side of the porn industry.

Just as I thought I was adjusting to the video carnage, NBC correspondent Kevin Sites, embedded with U.S. forces in Falluja, gave us last week's shocker: the video of a Marine standing over a wounded, apparently unarmed Arab sprawled on the floor of a mosque and executing him with a gunshot to the head.

It brought back memories of the April 9 episode and others I witnessed in Iraq. Yet, watching this on TV, I felt the same outrage many others have expressed. American soldiers, we like to believe, don't shoot unarmed people. Not only is this morally repugnant, but execution of wounded, unarmed combatants violates Article Three of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which states in part that "persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely."

Even to those unfamiliar with the Geneva Conventions, it seems obvious from the mosque video that a war crime was committed. The response from the administration and military officials has been unusually swift. Ambassador to Iraq John Negroponte conveyed his regrets to Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and vowed that "the individual in question will be dealt with."

The Marine in the video, whose name has been withheld, was pulled from duty, and his commanders issued a statement promising to investigate what they called "an allegation of the unlawful use of force in the death of an enemy combatant." Lieutenant General John F. Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq, added in an interview, "We follow the law of armed conflict and hold ourselves to a high standard of accountability."

One thing military officials are not saying is that the behavior of the Marine in the video closely conforms to training that is fairly standard in some units. Marines call executing wounded combatants "dead-checking."

"They teach us to do dead-checking when we're clearing rooms," an enlisted Marine recently returned from Iraq told me. "You put two bullets into the guy's chest and one in the brain. But when you enter a room where guys are wounded you might not know if they're alive or dead. So they teach us to dead-check them by pressing them in the eye with your boot, because generally a person, even if he's faking being dead, will flinch if you poke him there. If he moves, you put a bullet in the brain. You do this to keep the momentum going when you're flowing through a building. You don't want a guy popping up behind you and shooting you."

What I'd seen on that road outside of Baquba on April 9 was a dead-check. The Marine who fired into that Toyota with wounded men inside didn't want anybody shooting at us as we went past. It may have been a war crime, and had I possessed a video camera at the time and filmed it, the Marine who fired into the truck might have faced punishment. As it was, no one questioned the Marine's actions.

In fact, commanders in the Marine Corps during the period I was embedded with them in the spring of 2003 repeatedly emphasized that the men's actions would not be questioned. As one of the officers in the unit I followed used to tell his men, "You will be held accountable for the facts not as they are in hindsight but as

they appeared to you at the time. If, in your mind, you fire to protect yourself or your men, you are doing the right thing. It doesn't matter if later on we find out you wiped out a family of unarmed civilians."

Commanders didn't want their men to suffer casualties because they were overly constrained by rules of engagement. At the same time, Marines were constantly drilled in refraining from shooting their weapons, even at certain times when they came under fire. On one afternoon I recall in particular, the unit I was with was ordered to hold a position on the outskirts of a hostile town.

For six hours, insurgents fired at the Marines from rooftops and from behind piles of rubble they'd set up in streets as barricades. But the Marines I was with, unable to pinpoint the exact locations of the enemy shooters, refused to fire back for fear of hitting civilians. The 22-year-old radio operator of the team I was with had it within his power to call in an artillery strike on the corner of the town where most of the enemy forces seemed concentrated. At one point, while I was crouched in the dirt, taking cover behind the tire of the Humvee as enemy sniper rounds popped into the dust nearby, I asked him why he didn't call in a strike. He simply laughed at my display of fear.

There were other times when the enlisted men in the unit fell into violent quarrels with others whom they felt were too aggressive and risked civilian lives. In one instance, enlisted men nearly came to blows with an officer whom they accused of firing a weapon into a house that they believed contained civilians. Despite their concern, terrible mistakes were made. I was standing next to a 22-year-old Marine from the Humvee I rode in when he fired his machine gun prematurely at a civilian car approaching a roadblock, striking the driver, an unarmed man, in the eye.

The unit was subsequently ordered to drive past the car without rendering aid. I sat next to the gunner as we crept past, listening to the dying man gasp for breath. The gunner didn't talk for the next three days. A few days earlier, the youngest Marine on the team had shot a 12-year-old boy four times in the chest with his machine gun, mistakenly thinking a stick the boy had been carrying was a weapon. When the mother and grandmother of the boy later dragged him to the Marines' lines seeking medical aid, the sergeant who led the team dropped down in front of the mother and cried.

The Marines constantly debated the morality of what they were engaged in.

A sergeant in the platoon told me he had consulted with his priest about killing. The priest had told him it was all right to kill for his government so long as he didn't enjoy it.

By the time the unit reached the outskirts of Baghdad, this sergeant was certain he had already killed at least four men.

When his battalion commander praised the unit for "slaying dragons" on the way to Baghdad, the sergeant later told his men, "If we did half the shit back home we've done here, we'd be in prison." By then, the sergeant told me, he'd reconsidered what his priest had told him about killing. "Where the fuck did Jesus say it's OK to kill people for your government? Any priest who tells me that has got no credibility."

He and several other Marines recently returned from Iraq (many from their second tours) whom I've talked to about the Falluja shooting say they are not sure they would have dead-checked the wounded man in the mosque had they been in the same position.

Most say they probably would have, even though the mosque had already been cleared once. "What does the American public think happens when they tell us to assault a city?" one of them said. "Marines don't shoot rainbows out of our asses. We fucking kill people."

Another Marine in the unit I followed—a Democrat's dream, he returned home from fighting in Falluja in time to vote for Kerry—added, "Americans celebrate war in their movies. We like to see visions of evil being defeated by good. When the people at home glimpse the reality of war, that it's a bloodbath, they freak out. We are a subculture they created and programmed to fight their wars. You have to become a psycho to kill like we do. To most Marines that guy in the mosque was just someone who didn't get hit in the right place the first time we shot him. I probably would have put a bullet in his brain if I'd been there.

"If the American public doesn't like the violence of war, maybe before they start the next war they shouldn't rush so much."

The Occupation Of Iraq Is The Root Of The Problem

November 24, 2004, By RON JACOBS, Counterpunch

Most people in the world knew that there were no WMD before the US and its "coalition" invaded. In addition, they did not consider Saddam Hussein's capture worth going to war over. Many of these same people were convinced that the real reason for the US war on Iraq had a lot to do with oil, global capitalism, and Israeli plans for expansion. This perception rings truer every passing day. It is also the perception shared by most of the resistance.

That is why the Iraqi resistance is right.

They are defending their cities and towns against an invader whose primary reason for being in country is to make it safe for exploitation by foreign capital.

The resistance is right because it refuses to sit by while their country is destroyed meter by meter in the name of something called American democracy.

They are right because they oppose their places of worship and their cultural symbols being destroyed and molested by the occupiers. They are right because they refuse to allow the murders of their family members to go unanswered. **They are right because they are exercising their fundamental political right to oppose an illegal and unjust occupation.**

The Iraqi resistance is right because they know the history of Western colonialism and imperialism and they will fight any attempts to return their country back to those days when they were the colony. They are right because the United States and its allies are wrong.

If you believe that the indigenous peoples of the Americas were right to oppose the European invaders, then you should agree that the Iraqis are right to resist the US and its allies.

If you believe that the Indian and African peoples were right to oppose the European colonizers, then you should agree that the Iraqis are right to resist the US and its allies. If you believe that the Chinese were right to oppose the British and the Japanese invaders, than you should believe that the Iraqis are right to resist the US and its allies.

If you believe that the Vietnamese were right to oppose the French, and then the US invaders, then you should believe that the Iraqis are right to resist the US and its allies. If you believe that the Palestinians are right to resist the Israeli occupiers, then you should believe that the Iraqis are right to oppose the US and its allies.

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.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

UNCONQUERED. UNCONQUERABLE



[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.]

Received:

#1. Reaching Out To The Troops

From: "Ward"

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2004 12:51 PM

I met and was with Mike Hoffman and Dennis Kyne this weekend. I think it is IMPERATIVE that IVAW, MFSO, etc. lead the way, action-wise, with strong solidarity from VFP and VVAW.

SOAW was KILLER this weekend, and we vets were honored with a march to the gates of Ft. Benning to start the climax-day events. Vets from WWII through IVAW met, marched, partied, took action, and bonded. It was MOST memorable for those reasons alone.

Peace from Ward

#2. No Retreat, No Surrender

Ron is a fellow First Infantry Division veteran.....I have permission to share this letter....*peace from Ward.*

[The letter replies to somebody who wrote: "J and I are preparing to move out of this country within the next two years or sooner and now I can't pack fast enough. FOUR MORE YEARS OF INSANITY MAY BE MORE THAN THIS LAND WE FOUGHT TO PRESERVE CAN STAND."]

I'm not as erudite as some of my compatriots but I'll give it a 'go':

I understand your concern; in fact, my wife and I seriously considered becoming ex-pats ourselves in either Mexico or New Zealand.

But we awoke to the reality that we've both fought for truth & justice (in different ways) throughout our lives AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES!!! Goddamit!!! We're going to keep fighting for the America that we believe in! We are not going to succumb to this quasi-religious neo-con nationalism!

To put it bluntly, on 3/28/67, in a battle during Operation Junction City II, along the Cambodian border, I truly thought that I was a dead man.

Since then, I've taken those extra years and tried to justify the sacrifice that I didn't make (though some friends died that day).

I refuse to leave my country to the animals who wish to devour it!

A long time ago, I promised to defend America from "all enemies, both foreign and domestic."

Again, it's time for patriots to step forward and fight to expose the real enemies of our democracy. THEY ARE DOMESTIC!!!

This is the most serious time of our republic since the Revolution, notwithstanding the Civil War. Our country is being torn apart. We are alone in the world; our reputation as the nation that fights against aggression has become a subject of derision among nations.

Even those of us who initially opposed the War against Iraq, for whatever reason, must accept the fact that the United States of America has indeed joined History's ignoble fraternity of 'Aggressor Nations'. That's now an historical fact; woe is us.

Now, our mission is to fight for our ideal of America.

History is on our side, though little else is.

It may someday come to actual combat between our own citizens.

Though I sincerely pray that doesn't happen; yet the debates of a hundred and fifty years ago resemble the moral dilemma that we face today.

When a faction of our nation takes the rest of us down the road to perdition, it may well again be time to consider the dissolution of the United States into smaller and more representative governments. Otherwise, our cumulative power may eventually destroy us.

Ron Betts; 1st ID vet (Oregon)

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.

Voices in the Wilderness

From: "Kathy Kelly" kathy@vitw.org
To: GI Special
Sent: November 25
Subject: Re: Mtng. "No Retreat, No Surrender"

Just a note to thank you for continuing to send us helpful and challenging info.

Sincerely,
Kathy Kelly
Voices in the Wilderness

1460 West Carmen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640
773-784-8065

Voices in the Wilderness | <http://vitw.org>
Electronic Iraq | <http://electroniciraq.net>
Wheels of Justice | <http://justicewheels.org>
VitW Multimedia | <http://vitwmultimedia.org>

Reply: Honored to be of service.

Web Copies

For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>
The following that we know of have also posted issues:
<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/> ; www.qifightback.org ;
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>,
www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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