

GI SPECIAL 2#C48



October, 2004. Samarra. This infantryman rests in the sitting room of an Iraqi family whose house he has just raided. He, along with hundreds of other soldiers, had just completed a 36-hour sweep of some 1,000 houses across Southern Samarra. The raids were part of a mission to capture or kill insurgents and destroy their weapons. The engraved band on the soldier's wrist is worn by many U.S. troops to commemorate friends killed in action. Photo by Ashley Gilbertson—Aurora

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

One Marine Killed In Action In Al Anbar Province

12/12/04 Cjtf7 Release #0412012m

One Marine assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action today, **December 12**, while conducting security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar Province.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regards to their tactics, techniques and procedures. The release of more details about the incident could place our personnel at greater risk. **[This lame bullshit was gone for awhile. Now it's back. As if the resistance doesn't know. And what are they saying, that the Army command, which releases information, are traitors? Maybe so, but not for that reason. They probably got a computer churning out this shit.]**

One Marine Killed In Action In Al Anbar Province

12/12/04 Cjtf7 Release #0412012a

Al Anbar Province, Iraq – One Marine assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action on **Dec. 11** while conducting security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar Province.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regards to their tactics, techniques and procedures. The release of more details about the incident could place our personnel at greater risk.

One Ambassador Wounded In Action In Baghdad

12/12/2005 Cjtf7 Release #1412712b

One American ambassador assigned to Baghdad was wounded in action on Dec. 11 while conducting security, stabilization and evacuation operations on the roof of the U.S. Embassy.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regards to their tactics, techniques and procedures. The release of more details about the incident could place our personnel at greater risk.

The name of the ambassador is being withheld pending next of kin notification.

Fighting Rages In Falluja

12 December 2004 Aljazeera.Net & Paul Garwood, The Associated Press

An Iraqi journalist, Fadil al-Badrani, described the fighting as the fiercest in two weeks.

The bombing came after clashes erupted between US forces and fighters in the eastern parts of Falluja.

Columns of smoke have been seen rising from the areas of al-Askari, al-Shuhada, al-Sinai and al-Jubail, the journalist told Aljazeera.

Al-Badrani said explosions have also been heard in several areas of the city.

Fallujah resident Abdullah Ahmed said the fighting started after U.S. soldiers brought 700-800 men into the city to clear rubble from damage caused by November's offensive.

"The clashes started as soon as the young men entered the city," Ahmed said. "The American troops were surprised and decided to launch military operations."

One Task Force Baghdad Soldier Killed In Attack, 3 Wounded

12/12/04 Cjtf7 Release #0412012h

Baghdad, Iraq — **One Task Force Baghdad Soldier died from wounds after a patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device at approximately 10 a.m., Dec. 11 in northern Baghdad.** The Soldier was evacuated to a medical facility and died at approximately 1:30 p.m. Three other Soldiers were wounded in the attack and were returned to duty.

Four U.S. Soldiers Wounded In Bomb Attacks At Beiji & Hawija

December 12, 2004 (AP)

In northern Iraq, **a suspected suicide car bomber** wounded two U.S. soldiers in Beiji. **[What the fuck is a "suspected" suicide car bomber? Car bomb or not, driver in it or not, what's to "suspect." Unless nobody wanted to hang out in the location long enough to check, which would be very wise.]**

Two more U.S. soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb outside Hawija, near Kirkuk.

Retrograde Movements

12.13.04 Army Times

#1

U.S. Command Blows Up Bridges, Routes Blocked

Nearly every night since the toppling of Saddam Hussein, insurgents have been using roads in southern Baghdad's farming lands to launch attacks.

To deny those roads and essentially channel the insurgents into "kill zones," several of the roads and bridges the insurgents used were destroyed by combat engineers from 8th Engineers 458th Engineer Battalion over several days in late November. They called it "Operation Thunderstruck." The operation got underway Nov. 27.

#2

Taking Troops Offroad

With the constant threat of roadside bombs and ambushes making Iraq's roads a perilous way to travel, a Mississippi National Guard unit has developed a program to transport soldiers and cargo through the skies.

Col. Bradly MacNealy, commander of the Jackson-based Task Force 185th Aviation Group, discussed the program Nov. 28 in an e-mail from the unit's base near Balad, Iraq.

"As you know, travel around this country can be very dangerous, especially on the roads because of the improvised explosive devices," he wrote.

MacNealy said the 185th noticed that there was extra space on hundreds of airplane and helicopter missions throughout Iraq each day.

"So we decided to start a Space Available (Space-A) program where we would allow soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and contractors to catch a ride in our aircraft," MacNealy said. **"Thanks to Space-A movement, hundreds of thousands of personnel and millions of tons of cargo and equipment have moved safely off the dangerous roads and highways."**

The Army estimates that about 6,000 people a month use the program. The Space-A operation has grown so large that employees of KBR Inc. took over the operation this month under the supervision of the 185th, according to the Army's Web site. KBR, a subsidiary of Houston-based Halliburton Corp., provides engineering, construction, logistics and other services in Iraq for the U.S. government.



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**"Mourn the dead,
but fight like hell
for the living!"**

— Mother Jones



Dear friend,

This sage advice applies to our situation today. George W won re-election in part because he convinced a majority of voters that his invasion of Iraq was necessary to fight terrorism. Although thousands of Americans and Iraqis have already been killed or wounded, insurrectionary forces are stronger than ever.

Bush regards his election as a mandate to press on with our occupation of Iraq. His new GOP majorities in both houses will ensure that little Congressional opposition will be heard--no matter how bad things get.

There is a growing dissent within the enlisted ranks and Citizen Soldier is playing a leading role by supporting GIs who oppose this illegal war. Our defense of Sgt. Camilo Mejia, the first veteran refusenik, helped make his case known around the world. His courage will inspire other soldiers to follow his example.

As always, you can rely on Citizen Soldier to stand in defense of GI resisters. We are in contact with members of the 343d Quartermaster unit who refused a suicidal convoy mission and have offered them legal assistance if they're prosecuted.

We believe that a powerful antiwar movement, led by GIs and veterans who speak out against this war can eventually turn American opinion against Bush's plans to dominate Iraq. For 35 years, Citizen Soldier has defended soldiers who've challenged illegal orders or command-sanctioned sexism, racism, or homophobia.

It's more important than ever that we have your support if the following projects are to succeed:

- Counselling and legal defense of GIs who question participating in the Iraq war. Our message — that the best way to support our troops is to bring them home — is steadily gaining acceptance.
- Continuing our advocacy for thousands of ailing veterans from Gulf War One and Two who need treatment and disability support. A federal panel recently acknowledged that thousands of these vets suffered neurological damage while serving in the Gulf.
- Coordinating a broad campaign against the resumption of the Draft. Despite Bush's denials, he will renew conscription if the Pentagon can't enlist enough volunteers.
- Our struggle against Bush's war is more important than ever! Our defense work constitutes a key ingredient in the antiwar movement. Since we rely on your individual gifts for 85% of our budget, your gift will have an immediate impact.

Yours truly,



Tod Ensign, Director, CS

p.s. all gifts are tax deductible

TROOP NEWS



ArchAngel Reports: Letter To Spc. Barron's CSM Sgt. Maj. McMurtrie

From: ArchAngel1BL@aol.com

To: GI Special

Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2004 8:40 PM

Subject: ArchAngel Reports

Why is the Army treating my husband in an unfair and unjust way? My fellow supporters and I want answers, and want them now!

This letter was written in response to the help that Spc. Barron's CSM has replied to from his wife in a request for help.

CSM McMurtrie,

I am writing to you to convey my concern over the condition of my husbands, SPC Patrick G Barron, knees.

He has been diagnosed with Chondromalacia Pattelar, a degenerative condition in which cartilage behind the kneecap wears down and causes great pain. Since Pat has been mobilized his pain has increased and when I have the chance to see him I notice that his limp has become more pronounced.

I am concerned that some of the limits placed on his profile will prevent him from doing his job as a soldier in a hostile environment. Some of these limits are: No 5 second

rushes under direct or indirect fire, no lifting/carrying more than forty pounds, no walking/running on uneven surfaces.

Now I ask you sir, do these sound like the limits of a soldier charged with watching YOUR back? I feel that this not only puts him in a grave situation but the rest of his unit will be burdened as well.

Let me take the opportunity now to add that neither Pat nor myself have a problem with deployment in itself, as long as there are not any undue risks. I am not against the Army or it's soldiers fighting for this great Country.

I might also add that I am against using medically unfit soldiers to fill Validation. I feel this will not accomplish the mission put forth, but will most certainly cost more lives and money than deemed necessary.

Now back to the subject of my husband.

He had an accident on 06 Dec 2004, he fell while getting out of the back of a hummer, a medic standing near-by witnessed this and even heard his knee give out.

He checked Pat and gave him Tylenol for the pain and that was the extent of the treatment. Even though my husband expressed his wishes to go to the hospital and be examined by a Doctor he was denied this. And today, 09 Dec 04 he still had not been seen by a real doctor nor has he had an x-ray to determine if the fall has caused further damage to the underlying cartilage in his knee, it took two days to initiate a LOC, why is this?

Why did this soldier not get the care he was entitled to? Because he is National Guard. Apparently the Army feels that civilian soldiers don't need as much care as their full time brothers and sisters.

I feel that his condition has deteriorated because he is getting inadequate care. I feel this way for a number of reasons. The first being the fact that upon SRT way back in July he brought a note from his civilian doctor the specifically stated that Physical Therapy was not best indicated for his particular case, why then has he had to undergo Physical Therapy for the past several months, when clearly this condition is caused by normal use and expediated by overuse?

Is this because the doctors at Fort Hood know better than his own personal doctor how best to treat his condition? Is it because they didn't thoroughly read the note, or is it, and I think that this may be the best answer, because my husbands service as a National Guardsman doesn't warrant the best that the Army can provide?

I feel that the Army will provide the best only to those who are Active Duty, full time Soldiers. I know that I am not the only person with such a feeling. There are an increasing number of civilians, as well as Part Time soldiers who feel that they are being discriminated against. Why is this? I thought that once called-up, that ALL of our soldiers are active-duty.

When my husband reports to sick call he is treated with pain relievers, why is it that they will treat the symptoms and not the problem causing the symptoms?

Personally, again this is only my personal feeling, but I think unfit soldiers are being pushed through, regardless of their condition, to fill a quota. Case in point, two spouses that I have been speaking with have had similar problems, one was rubber-stamped as NON-DEPLOYABLE, yet his commander sent him to Iraq anyway, only to have the soldier re-deploy at tax-payers expense, when this was uncovered.

Another spouse I've spoken with had her soldier mobilized, the man has more metal in his foot than he has bone, he's since been sent home because she made a doctor there actually look at his most recent x-ray, and that took the intervention of Congress and others to finally see that this man had a real problem.

Now I'm not talking about the GI's that don't want to deploy, I know that there are some out there that will use a tactic such as feigning a medical condition. I am talking about good Patriotic men and women that want to, but cannot defend their Country in the way the Army sees fit. I think that these men and women should be taken into account, and dealt with on a case by case basis at the time of injury, not waiting until their country calls upon them and then its to late, if they need care, get them the care, if the Army cannot best provide the care then let them go to a medical board and be discharged. This whole issue could be avoided if the Army cared about it's soldiers, as much as these soldiers care about this Country.

I have spoken with 1st Sgt Mosely and forwarded all records he required to look into Pat's case. He feels that Pat has a valid case and I understand that he has scheduled a visit consisting of himself, case-workers from two senate offices, as well as two members of the media, he also feels that Pats case should be reviewed and Pat be REFRAD if indeed Pat has a condition that warrants it.

I also feel that this is all unfortunate, that this could be avoided if anyone cares enough to help a soldier in need. Pat feels that the Army to whom he has willingly given twelve years to has turned it's back on him when something goes wrong. Unfortunately, again I feel that this will put the Army in general, Fort Hood in particular, in a bad light.

I am prepared to continue my relentless pursuit for justice for these soldiers, my own and any that may need my help, I have joined forces with other spouses in similar problems and discovered that we were not alone in our battle. Together we have begun the process of seeking reform in the way the Army deals with medical issues.

We have been in contact with several Senators and Congressmen such as Sen. Landioux(LA), Congressman McCreery(LA) Senator Cornyn(TX), Rep Bonilla (TX) Sen. Hutchison(TX) Sen. DeMint (SC) and Sen. Luger(IN) as well as several media outlets (i.e. Television, Newspapers, Radio) as well as Internet Newsletters.

The Congress members have conveyed an interest and the media have shown an extreme interest, some have asked is it is possible to do a satellite interview with myself

and two of the spouses in our group. I have asked that they please wait until I speak with you as well as several other commanders throughout the country.

I was able to speak with my husband a few days ago and was informed, now that I have been making an inquiry on this subject, he is now getting immediate medical attention whenever he complains of pain which he goes through every day.

What I want to know is why did it have to come to me requesting assistance for my husband to get medical attention?

It should have never come to this, and would not have if the Army would just do what is right and stop "RUBBER STAMPING" medically unfit Soldiers fit for deployment to war.

What say you?
Regards,
Kimberly A Barron

“They Cannot Control What Their Troops Are Hearing”

From: LEFT FACE: Soldier Unions and Resistance Movements in Modern Armies, by DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX WATTS: Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107, GREENWOOD PRESS, New York • Westport, Connecticut • London

Some explain soldier resistance as a product of the media.

Social observers like Marshall McLuhan and Zbigniew Brzezinski have claimed that television and the electronic media alter consciousness and change social values.

According to this view, young people are more restless today because the constant bombardment of media information they receive alters their behavior and makes them more skeptical of authority.

We believe there is something to this argument.

We need not accept all of McLuhan or Brzezinski to see that the explosion of information in today' society is important to the armed forces.

Commanders no longer have a monopoly of information; they cannot control what their troops are hearing. Soldiers cannot be easily persuaded that a particular mission is one thing if they see on television that it is quite another. Even the most persistent “command information” programs will not prevent soldiers from obtaining most of their knowledge outside of the military. Traditional efforts to isolate and indoctrinate soldiers are thus less effective in highly capitalized countries.

An interesting example of the powerful impact that the diffusion of media can have on an army is the experience of the French army in Algeria In1961.

In April of that year four generals led a putsch to take command of the large French force in Algeria and attempted to overthrow the government of General de Gaulle, an operation similar to the one in May 1958 that installed de Gaulle and his Fifth Republic.

The four generals made a concerted attempt to confiscate transistor radios to block communications with France proper, but they were unsuccessful. In almost every barracks soldiers heard the appeal of their commander-in-chief, de Gaulle, and were moved by his impassioned plea to refuse obedience to the “felon” generals. De Gaulle’s appeal worked, and French soldiers responded with a mass wave of noncooperation and resistance--a grand tribute to the Good Soldier Schweik. The putsch broke down within four days not because greater military force was brought against it, but simply through total disorganization and resistance from within. The media, in this case transistor radios in the hands of soldiers, clearly had a potent effect.

Obviously the expansion of media is a factor in bolstering soldier resistance. Knowledge is power, and the weakening of command control over information dilutes military authority.

However, the influence of the media is not in itself a sufficient explanation of the causes of resistance in the army. Nor can the diffusion of information about soldier struggles in one army create resistance in another. Resistance cannot be implanted from the outside if conditions within are not right for its development.

Soldiers resist because of conditions in their own army, not because of the example of foreign soldiers. They accept foreign information only to the extent that it corresponds to their own reality.

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)

Soldiers Refuse To “Yes” The Col. As Resistance Wins War Games

12.8.04 Wall St. Journal

In past war games, Army commanders assumed locals in the Middle Eastern country where the game was set would be supportive or neutral toward the U.S. assault. This year, Gen. Fastabend brought in cultural experts to advise on what local reactions would be.

They said that even citizens hostile to the enemy regime would be driven by nationalism to resist a U.S. invasion.

“I had soldiers stand up and shout at me and storm out of the room when I suggested this,” says Jo-Ann Hart, a professor at Brown University and Middle East scholar. **“The military has such a strong belief in the purity of its purposes, it has a hard time understanding why others wouldn’t take the same view.”**

The game ended with U.S. forces scattered piecemeal throughout the country, controlling only the small bases on which they sat. “The game looked an awful lot like Iraq right now. And I say that with great pain as someone who has two sons over there,” says Mr. Phillips, a senior official in the intelligence section of the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command.

Col. McMaster gave his troops a quick pep talk, noting how their months of training were preparing them. “Can you feel it building?” he asked.

The exhausted soldiers stared straight ahead. A few nodded yes. Then they climbed into their sleeping bags for a few hours of sleep. A new set of practice raids and meetings began at dawn. [Col. has a problem. They’re not buying the bullshit any more. Col. better not sleep too sound. Never know what could be coming through the tent flap.]

A Visit To The Humvee Graveyard

December 12, 2004 By Bruce Wallace, Los Angeles Times

Marines continue to be ferried on patrol or into battle in open-topped vehicles with little more than thin steel plating welded to the sides and instructions to keep their heads low.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq — This is a graveyard for Humvees, the final resting place for the hulking vehicles felled by insurgents' roadside bombs.

In a parking lot, the U.S. military's most common personnel carriers lie flattened with noses down in the mud. Their metal carcasses are barely recognizable. Tires have been splayed to the sides or blown away entirely. Shrapnel has burst holes in some unprotected parts of the vehicles, as if they were tinfoil.

The nine mangled Humvees here have been destroyed by improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, as the military calls them.

"Now this one here, you can see the IED tore the whole back end off the vehicle. It's just gone," said Sgt. Patrick Parchment of 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which operates south of Baghdad.

"The front is sitting cockeyed. And that's steel," he said, showing another severed vehicle.

The blasted remains do not offer much optimism about the fate of the Marines who had been riding in them.

Sixteen Marines of the 24th MEU have died since arriving here in July; 259 more have been wounded. The majority of the casualties resulted from IEDs, as Marines must run a daily gantlet of the roadside bombs on highways and dirt roads that cut through farms.

The Marines and Army have almost 20,000 Humvees in Iraq, according to the Pentagon. **But a quarter of them lack proper shields.**

Marines here say they are at risk every time they drive out the gate of their base to make supply runs or conduct patrols. Surveying the mangled Humvee frames, they shake their heads when they talk about some of the blasts they have survived.

Humvees fitted with steel plating provide the best protection, the Marines say. **But they point out that many Humvees on this base are being driven with jury-rigged armor that offers only limited defense against shrapnel.**

Marines and soldiers continue to die almost daily from IEDs, the Iraq war's contribution to the world's catalog of effective low-tech weapons. The term "improvised" seems misleading because the explosive is typically a factory-produced 155 mm artillery shell.

The shells are usually propped against a post or hidden under mounds of garbage at roadside. The destructive power of shrapnel detonated in the open-air has left U.S. troops with record rates of head and neck wounds, and double the rate of limb amputations compared to previous wars.

On dangerous roads such as the main highway leading from Baghdad's airport to this base 25 miles south, the military has torn down guardrails that served as hiding spots for the shells.

The short posts that supported those guardrails remain. IEDs are frequently rested against them and detonated either by cellphone or by having a hired triggerman simply touch two wires when the target passes.

Many Marines want the posts taken down and other hidings places bulldozed.

"On an open road it's usually easier to see but often you usually don't recognize the trouble until you go by it and then you say, 'Hmm, that looks suspicious,' " said Lance Cpl. Edward Jay Messer, 23, of Mansfield, Ohio, who drives supply trucks down the highway.

This unit of 2,200 Marines alone is being hit at a rate of two IEDs a day, with an average of four discovered each day.

"IED" has become a verb to the Marines, as in "some of us have been IED'd five or six times," said Messer.

Many are aimed at the 7-ton supply trucks that ply the highways, as the shrapnel pocked fleet sitting in the parking lot of the 24th MEU shows. The Marines try to avoid putting anyone in the unprotected back of the trucks, pushing everyone into the armored cabs where "you're fairly well protected," Parchment said.

Marines continue to be ferried on patrol or into battle in open-topped vehicles with little more than thin steel plating welded to the sides and instructions to keep their heads low.

Messer recently drove into the base here with a damaged Humvee in tow.

Partially armored, the disabled Humvee does not look ready for the graveyard. Its frame is unbent; its wheels roll cleanly.

The only visible damage is a streak of jagged rips along the driver's side where shrapnel has strafed the Humvee. The punctures start just above the front tire and rise toward the driver's seat, slicing between the armored side of the hood and the armored door.

"Look at the dashboard if you want to see what happened," Messer said. The gauges are covered with large drops of dried blood. The Marines did not know if the driver survived.

"At the end of the day you just have to trust the hairs on the back of your neck to drive these roads. That, and say your prayers every morning," he said with a wry smile. "And every afternoon," he continued. "And every night."

Local Soldier Wounded



121.12.04 Channel 10 News

NEWS 10NBC has learned that another local soldier has been injured in Iraq. Army PFC Harold Peckenpaugh Junior was seriously injured last weekend when his Humvee was attacked.

The Daily News reports the 19-year-old suffered shrapnel wounds and permanent damage to the main artery in his neck. Officials at Walter Reed Medical Center tell News 10 NBC Peckenpaugh is in stable condition.

REALITY CHECK: WHY THE U.S. RULING CLASS HATES THE DRAFT

From: **SOLDIERS IN REVOLT**: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975

In addition to encountering defiance of its orders, the draft system became the target of an increasing number of violent attacks—what amounted to a small-scale, guerrilla war.

Draft Director Curtis Tarr's first semiannual report opened with a description of "systematic" attacks in June of 1970 that nearly destroyed all the records necessary to maintain the draft in the states of Delaware and Rhode Island.

It's no wonder that the Nixon administration moved promptly to eliminate the draft as a principia means of fulfilling its promise to pacify America.

The draft has never been popular in America, but Vietnam sparked the largest eruption of public outrage since the Civil War, nearly crippling the Selective Service System and creating widespread social upheaval.

One measure of this was a sharp jump in the number of conscientious-objector registrations, which reached a record total of over sixty-one thousand in fiscal year 1971; the last three years of conscription witnessed nearly 145,000 successful C.O. claims. **In fiscal year 1972, in fact, there were actually more conscientious objectors than draftees.**

These figures do not include the far greater number who attempted but failed to qualify as objectors (approximately 125,000 applied during fiscal 1971).

In addition, many hundred thousands more swamped the system with draft-classification appeals to state or presidential review boards (over 168,000 such appeals in fiscal 1969).

And millions of others obtained phantom disabilities, flocked to exempt occupations and schools, or employed any one of a hundred other means of dodging the draft. An entire generation seemed absorbed in just one overriding concern: to escape the clutches of Uncle Sam.

The most visible and effective form of opposition to Selective Service was overt resistance.

The Chicago Area Draft Resisters (Cadre) has estimated that by early 1971 total induction refusals exceeded fifteen thousand and the number of people failing to report approached one hundred thousand.

By the latter years of the war, nearly every major city faced a huge backlog of induction-refusal court cases. In New York, for example, the eastern-district federal court listed 2,162 complaints of Selective Service violations in fiscal year 1970.

The Oakland, California, area experienced particularly high levels of draft resistance: In a six-month period ending in March 1970, 50 per cent of those called failed to report, and 11 per cent of those that did show refused induction.

In Chicago, the number of reported draft delinquencies tripled in three years, from 1,495 at the end of 1966 to 4,324 in December 1969. During fiscal year 1969, Selective Service officials listed 31,831 delinquency investigations. **For the entire Vietnam War era, 206,000 persons were reported delinquent to the Justice Department by Selective Service.**

In addition to encountering defiance of its orders, the draft system became the target of an increasing number of violent attacks—what amounted to a small-scale, guerrilla war.

By September 1969, sixty-five of the nation's four thousand local boards had been attacked or harassed, including eleven incidents of burning or mutilation of records.

Draft Director Curtis Tarr's first semiannual report opened with a description of "systematic" attacks in June of 1970 that nearly destroyed all the records necessary to maintain the draft in the states of Delaware and Rhode island.

In the same report, Tarr went on to lament "a long list of attacks against Selective Service operations," including bullet holes in the Marysville, California, office and assaults so frequent in Berkeley that the windows of the local board had to be replaced with plywood.

A later report stated that "a survey of disruptions at local boards showed almost 300 incidents from January through September, 1970."

Selective Service headquarters in 1972 furnished the House Internal Security Committee a copy of its "events log" covering the period January 1971 through March 17, 1972.

Occupying twenty pages of Congressional testimony, the remarkable document lists 196 acts of disruption directed against the draft during those months.

It's no wonder that the Nixon administration moved promptly to eliminate the draft as a principal means of fulfilling its promise to pacify America.

[This doesn't mean they'll never use it again. It explains why Rumsfeld and the overwhelming majority of those in the Bush regime oppose it. They also know that the money to pay for new troops has to come out of the high-tech weapons budget, which feeds the war-profiteers building all those goodies. They also know that even if the draft started tomorrow, it would take several years to put the armed forces support structure in place to handle a massive increase in troop levels. Iraq won't wait. Kerry and his stooges tried to whip up the issue to get "the youth vote" instead of condemning the war, which is hardly a surprise, given the Democratic Party's eternal and unchanging love of and commitment to the Empire.]

Marine Gives Up Finger To Save Wedding Ring: Ring Gets Lost

December 12, 2004 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (AP) -- When Marine Lance Cpl. David Battle learned he'd either have to sacrifice his ring finger or the wedding band he wore, he told doctors at a field hospital in Iraq to cut off the finger.

The 19-year-old former high school football star suffered a mangled left hand and serious wounds to his legs in a Nov. 13 fire fight in Fallujah. Battle, who is recovering at his parents' home in this desert city 80 miles northeast of Los Angeles, came under attack as he and fellow Marines entered a building. Eleven other Marines were wounded.

Doctors were preparing to cut off Battle's ring to save as much of his finger as they could.

"But that would mean destroying my wedding ring," he said. "My wife is the strongest woman I know. She's basically running two people's lives since I've been gone. I don't think I could ever repay her or show her how grateful ... how much I love my wife, my soul mate."

With his approval, doctors severed his finger, but somehow in the chaos that followed, they lost his ring.

The couple, who met in the eighth grade, were married in June, just two weeks before Battle left for Iraq. He hopes to eventually return to the Marines, and to replace his wedding ring, but that will have to wait until he recovers.

[1. It is possible to replace a ring. 2. It is not possible to replace a finger. 3. He ends up losing the finger and the ring. 4. Make no decisions of consequence under the influence of battlefield pain medications.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Insurgents Target Oil Wells & Pipelines: 27 Attacks Last Month; Occupation Losing Supplies For Baghdad Area

13dec04 By ROUBA KABBARA in Baghdad, Advertiser Newspapers Pty

IRAQI insurgents are sabotaging oil wells and pipelines.

There were 27 such attacks last month, oil minister Thamer Abbas Ghadbane said.

Already, fuel shortages force Iraqis to queue for hours at Baghdad service stations or buy their petrol on the black market, where fuel costs have soared to more than 20 times the normal price.

"This sabotage increased last month and concentrated in the region of Baghdad, causing the stoppage several times of the Doura refinery," he said, referring to the only refinery supplying petroleum to the capital.

Resistance Captures Baiji Oil Industry Security Chief

December 12, 2004 From correspondents in Samarra, AFP & Aljazeera

ARMED men abducted an executive from the state-run Northern Oil Company as he was inspecting a sabotaged pipeline in northern Iraq, officials said today.

Fahmi Saber, **who is in charge of security of the oil pipeline network for the Baiji area**, was captured on Saturday by 10 armed men.

Saber was taken near Samarra.

The insurgents told Saber's driver that they were abducting the executive because "he was helping (Prime Minister Iyad) Allawi steal public goods," he added.

MORE:

After Month Shutdown To Repair Pipeline, Oil Flow Resumes In Area Where Security Chief Was Captured Today (OOPS)

Dec. 12, 2004 Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq - Exports from Iraq's northern oil fields resumed Saturday after insurgents last month blew up part of the main pipeline carrying Iraqi crude to Turkey, an official from the state-run Northern Oil Co. said.

An official for the company, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 500,000 barrels of crude will be pumped daily from oil fields in northern Iraq to Turkish port of Ceyhan.

"Pumping started today and we will try to increase exports *if no sabotage happens*," he said. [Anybody want to take bets on this one?]

On Nov. 15, saboteurs blew up the pipeline, which connects the Kirkuk oil field with Ceyhan.

The attack, in the Safra area, 40 miles southwest of Kirkuk, shut down Iraqi oil exports from the north. The exports pipeline runs from Kirkuk, **going south to Beiji** before connecting to a storage station called IT1, near the city of Mosul. Insurgents also set fire to a storage and pumping station.

The Oil Ministry said that between August and October, Iraq **[translation: the Occupation] lost \$7 billion in potential revenues due to sabotage** against the country's oil infrastructure.

MORE:

Power Plant Burned, Iraq Goes Dark

December 12, 2004 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) _ Electricity is out across a wide region of Iraq after a fire broke out in a power plant north of Baghdad.

The capital went dark in the late afternoon, and power was still out three hours later. The only lights are in the Green Zone and the few other place with their own generators.

Witnesses in several other parts of the country -- including Basra to the south and Najaf to the southwest -- also are reporting blackouts.

10 Occupation Guards Killed In Hiyt; Zab Zapped

12 December 2004 Aljazeera.Net

10 Iraqi national guardsmen were killed and another two wounded when fighters attacked the bus they were travelling in through the Iraqi town of Hiyt, Aljazeera has learned.

Also, Iraqi police found seven bodies of African description near the Ain al-Asad base in the town of Haditha, west of Baghdad.

A bomb damaged an office for election workers in the town of Zab, southwest of Kirkuk, wounding a civilian, police said.

The guerrillas regard the elections as an effort to legitimize a puppet government that will serve U.S. interests. [How could anybody possibly think such a thing?]

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Rebelliousness Of Modern Soldiers.

From: LEFT FACE: Soldier Unions and Resistance Movements in Modern Armies, by DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX WATTS: Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107, GREENWOOD PRESS, New York • Westport, Connecticut • London

Veterans of army service from earlier generations are often puzzled at the rebelliousness of modern soldiers. They find it curious that the rank-and-file today object to conditions that they would have considered idyllic.

"What's going on?" the older generation asks. "Why aren't today's soldiers more grateful?" The pay is better, discipline is less harsh and conditions are more relaxed. What's the problem?

The soldiers themselves are not impressed. It may be true that conditions in the army are better now than they were generations ago, but this is irrelevant to today's enlistee. He or she is not comparing army life with what it was forty years ago. The key contrast is between barracks life today and civilian life a year or two earlier. It is here, we believe, where the explanations of soldier resistance are to be found.

The steady improvement in the mass standard of living that has occurred in certain nations in recent decades has brought with it a change in life experience and consciousness. **The material conditions of life for the vast majority of the population have progressed to a point where the restrictions of military life become less acceptable.**

Young people today have experienced a greater degree of personal independence and affluence and are more educated than earlier generations. They have new expectations and needs that the military cannot meet.

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 inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

Jamming The Green Machine: The Grandparents Brigade

[An exchange of views from Veterans For Peace:]

From: David H
To: Veterans For Peace
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2004 1:55 PM
Subject: JAMMING THE GREEN MACHINE

While recently doing some housecleaning I came across a manila folder labeled "Military Bullshit."

Among the DD 214 copies, service school transcripts, and security clearances I found my notice of "Reserve Obligation Fulfilled" from 1978. **Among the militarese wording was the phrase "It is imperative that you keep the commanding officer of this center informed of your current address that you may be kept informed of any change in your legal reserve obligation or status."**

Gee, what are the chances that the current Army is so desperate that they would need an ex-sergeant E-5 type three weeks from his 50th birthday?

Would my primary MOS of 91C30 Clinical Specialist, or my secondary MOS of 54E20 NBC Warfare Specialist still make me a desirable cog in the green machine, inspite of my battered knees from dumping a long ago motorcycle that do not permit me to jog more than half a block? Would inability to pass a physical exam, or a PT test render me unfit for service?

Maybe not.

The guy next to me in the cattle pen for induction physicals was passed inspite of "bilateral perforated tympanic membranes." (Broken ear drums, both sides.)

The thought occurred to me, what if I update them, AND THEY CALL ME?

Wouldn't the press have a field day shaming the pentagon for the desperate scraping of the bottom of the manpower barrel? Wouldn't the ACLU be willing to add my name to the list of those engaged in stop loss class actions?

WHAT IF thousands of veterans with long ago fulfilled obligations were suddenly fighting the desperately silly attempts of the military to recall them? Could we gum up the works of the green machine and generate enough adverse publicity to cause them problems?

Gotta go now.

I have a change of address notification to send to: Department of the Army, Office of the Adjutant General, RCPAC, St. Louis, MO, 63132.

REPLY:

Diane R wrote:

David,

I guess you didn't see 60 Minutes last Sunday.

- 1. a 55-year old female Warrant Officer has been called back. they showed her qualifying at the rifle range.**
- 2. A man driving a vehicle with "Disabled Veteran" tags was called back. He has bad knees, and a pin in his arm. He can't run or lift anything. As of the time the show was prepared, the military was still expecting him to report.**

Goes to show you how totally desperate they are to fill the ranks.

Although not related to your situation, an ex-officer who had resigned his commission was called back. He was told that in accepting his resignation (I think in 1998), there had been a "clerical error," and it should not have been done. they were still expecting him to report.

Draft - what draft?

REPLY:

From: David H
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2004 5:54 PM
Subject: Re: JAMMING THE GREEN MACHINE

Yeah, there is a risk to be considered by everyone for everything.

In my own case, IF I even reported in rather than refusing, running the risk of skipping my high blood pressure meds for a day prior to the physical exam would likely result in my being sent to the ER rather than a military assignment.

That would be plan B after first getting the press involved in pointing out the lying politicians on the one hand claiming no need for a draft and more troops in Iraq, and at the same time trying to induct a brigade of grandparents.

Received:

Organizing In The Military

To: GI Special
12.11.04
From: John Catalinotto

Organizing in the military and among military families was my strongest emotional and most dynamic experience in progressive organizing, when I was a civilian organizer with the American Servicemen's Union from 1967-1970 and a supporter until 1974, when it ceased activity.

Now I'm an editor of Workers World newspaper -- I've been a WWP member since the end of 1962. Some recent discussions about organizing in the armed forces reminded me of the first time we got an inkling of what was happening inside the U.S. Armed Forces.

At the beginning of 1967, WW newspaper received a letter signed by three soldiers at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. I still have an image of the comrade who handled the mail leaning over the table as he pointed out the letter to me. It seemed outrageously ultra-left, ending with something like "Long live the National Liberation Front [of Vietnam]" and "For the world revolution." We didn't know whether to be suspicious it was a provocation, amused, or to treat it seriously. The comrade decided to treat it as if it was serious; after all, it was signed by three soldiers complete with their ranks: Sp. 4's Dick Wheaton and Paul Gaedtke, and Pvt. Andy Stapp.

It was good that we did. A few months later Stapp was up on charges of refusing orders to open his footlocker and we (in Youth Against War and Fascism) were defending him.

YAWF members drove 1,800 miles to Oklahoma to be in court and two civilian organizers each served six-month jail sentences arising from this support work. By the end of 1967, the ASU had started; the three GIs above were its early members. I won't try to retell the ASU story, but the moral of this story is that you can be surprised by how rapidly political development takes place when people are faced with life-and-death choices.

This was not only in the area of words, by the way. There were plenty of times that the young troops took action that, while foolish and dangerous for themselves, was not a provocation in the sense that it wasn't provoked by police agencies. This wouldn't necessarily be an act by the same people who declared solidarity with the NLF; it might be by someone who considered himself a patriot but against this stupid war, or someone who hated his "pig of the month" non-com officer.

The troops and their families share the same ideas that are foisted on 99+% of the working class in this country by the powerful media and educational system under control of the imperialist bourgeoisie. Is there any wonder very few of them will sympathize with Iraqi resistance fighters or Palestinian revolutionaries?

We should be aware of what they are thinking, how they see the world. That doesn't mean, however, that political organizers should mistake these thoughts for something that people come to from their own experiences or that accommodating to these ideas is more democratic than some other way of dealing with them.

The GIs are thrown into a horrible situation in Iraq. As Stan Goff wrote (was it a year ago?) in his excellent open letter to the troops, they are being almost forced to kill civilians, to commit war crimes.

And they are themselves in terrible danger. The news this week - the lip they gave to Rumsfeld, the suit against stop-loss tactics, the relatively mild punishment for the 343rd Quartermaster Company that refused to drive their trucks - show that something is happening inside. Then there are the individual cases like Jeremy Kinzman's applying for asylum in Canada or Carlos Mejia or sailor Pablo Paredes in San Diego refusing to go.

It starts to add up. Now I think the Military Families organization was a great idea and has connected with the families and made a contribution to the movement. I think GI Special and SNAFU have both made excellent attempts to reach the troops - yet it's true that they haven't connected the way Vietnam GI and The Bond did in 1968. That doesn't necessarily mean they are doing something wrong. The situation might just not have matured yet.

It seems closer to maturity now. And I think the people working on all these fronts should be thinking: "Is there some way we can cooperate to assist the struggle of the troops and their families against this war, to get them home safe and without turning them into murderers?"

If the answer is no, the groups can keep working separately and wish each other well. If the answer is yes, the organizers should figure out how, because this area of the struggle against imperialist war may be the first - as the late Dave Dellinger said in the fall of 1967 - to move from "dissent to resistance."

John Catalinotto

Received:

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

From: D
To: GI Special
Sent: December 12, 2004
Subject: re: Latest GI Special, oil

"The United States doesn't want to absorb Iraq or take direct possession of its oil. That's not the way of empire today; it's about control over the flow of oil and oil profits, not ownership. (Robert Jensen)"

T, I've heard everyone say this, but **I've never read anyone really spell out what it actually means to control the flow of oil--to have leverage over Europe and Asia.**

Does this simply mean getting US-owned oil companies to dominate in Iraq? The companies don't own the actual oil in the ground, but they own the rights to pump it etc.

Economics is not my strength.

In solidarity,
D

REPLY:

Economics isn't the strength of the people who run capitalism either.

If it was, they would insure their political representatives were less offensive, since arrogant politicians give our class a powerful justification for fighting against a situation that is fundamentally based in economics, which is that the rich got nearly everything and we don't have shit, and they intend every day to take more and leave us with less.

Oil is a commodity. A very valuable one. Iraq has a huge amount of it and had a weak government under Hussein.

Sure oil companies would like to get a slice of Iraqi oil. Every oil company.

So would the Iraqi ruling class in waiting, whoever may win and grab it.

And then there are military suppliers who delight in a grand vision of the USA making the middle east a permanent profit center for arms sales, whoever is buying.

Then there are the political types with political control games up front. Ha ha, this will fuck up the French; we'll have our hands on their throat. And the Chinese will have to come begging; all the Empire theorists.

Then there are others who see a world oil supply pinch, Iraq with the second largest reserves in the world, and Iraqi oil sitting in the ground because the sanctions blunder crippled the ability of Iraq to increase production. Big fuck up: U.S. politicians couldn't scrap the sanctions and develop the oil with Hussein in place without looking like idiots for keeping them there for all those years.

Etc. etc. etc. All kinds of ruling class types with all kinds of money and power to gain picking Iraq's' bones.

It doesn't matter anymore because they were wrong.

They can't get Iraq. The Iraqi won't let them have Iraq, and people here won't tolerate what it would take in human and material loss to really get Iraq, like an army of 5 million and ever-growing heaps of dead.

And they don't know how to get out without severe damage.

And they can't stay without severe damage, at a time when the balance of payments issues are about to send the dollar the way of the currency of the Confederate States Of America.

At some point, somebody will try make a deal.

The power brokers will try to find some solution, like closing down a money losing corporation. The war is a huge loss center for U.S. capital. A horrible money pit. And the dollar is very very shaky. Once it was called the "almighty" dollar. Nobody could say that today outside of a comedy show.

We'll see whether or not the U.S.A. is too big to fail. But the war is a catastrophic drain.

PS. In some situations, oil companies do own the oil in the ground. If you buy a certain amount of land someplace, and you own the land, along with the deed goes the mineral rights, unless you stupidly sign a deed that left the mineral rights out of the deal.

Owning the land, you own the oil or gold or whatever under it, just like a farmer owns the corn that comes up out of it.

Or, you can lease an oil field from the owner, paying so much per year, and/or so much per year + so much per barrel of oil.

Or, like in many countries, the government owns the oil fields, and hires you to come get the oil out of the ground, refine it, whatever. You get a split, maybe you get 30%.

Of course Imperialism is still busy. If you are the Government of Grometia, an Imperial power can tell you that we can work something out, a reasonable split on your oil, and fuck your people, they can all starve and run around in rags. Neither of us really care about that.

But if you freeze out my people, I'll find one way or another to bring pressure on your regime, and it might have fatal consequences for you. So what's the smart business decision going to be?

Bush's decision to just go grab it was a very very dumb business decision. The Enron of government decisions, and is also likely to end in bankruptcy. Literally. T

Received:

Will They Bring Themselves Home?

From: "ZC"
To: GI Special
Sent: December 12

Will they bring themselves home?

Stuck in an endless, bloody war troops will sometimes simply pull up the proverbial stakes and go on home. In 1917, Tsar Nicholas' troops told him in effect to go screw himself (or Alexandra, or Rasputin, or whomever) and headed back to their towns and villages.

Is it conceivable that something similar will happen in the current so-called 'War on Terror?' Despite the ubiquitous danger, troops in the battle zones have sufficient time to reflect and to realize that 1) they're trapped in a war that's based on lies, 2) they've been made to destroy the lives of many innocent people, and 3) they're stirring up a lot of hatred that isn't doing themselves or their country's reputation any good.

One school of thought justifies staying on by saying: "We broke it, we own it." This is mercantile logic which overlooks the crucial fact that the invaded country was not a store item waiting to be sold. **The other pretext for staying on runs something like this: "Whether or not it was wrong to invade, we're here now and it would be irresponsible to leave."** This calls to mind some of the Japanese war promoters of 65 years ago who solemnly declared that it would be as irresponsible for Japan's troops to leave China as it would be for a man to leave a woman after having made her pregnant.

So the troops now face a momentous choice. On the one hand, they can persist in a stubborn attempt to impose "freedom and democracy"—i.e. fiefdom and plutocracy—on recalcitrant and understandably ungrateful people. **This will entail interminable battles, constructing and guarding widely resented colonial fortresses, and much killing and dying for years and years to come.**

Or they can decide that their CIC—more correctly known as ICI, Internationally Certified Idiot—can in effect go screw himself (or Condi, or Rumsfeld, or whomever) and they can head on back to their cities and towns. If the soldiers in significant numbers resolve to bring themselves home, who will be able to stop them? Once the rank and file start to move, the wiser officer are likely to join the happy exodus.

So, who knows?

Some day soon, having put up with all that they're willing to put up with, the troops may just pile into their vehicles (the ones still functioning), decorate them with bilingual signs saying "No RPGs please, we're leaving!" and head for the border. The stateside population will surely support them, and many of the local people may even shower them at last not with bullets but rather with those long-awaited flowers. [And provide them with gasoline, food, and an armed escort to make sure nobody fucks with them on the way home. That's one convoy that would not have to worry about IEDs or car bombs.]

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.

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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