

GI SPECIAL 3A19:

MAJORITY DISAPPROVAL



(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

U.S. Majority Says Iraq War Not Worth Fighting

18 January 2005 AFP

Polls published on Tuesday showed most Americans think the war was a mistake and disapprove of the way their president is handling things in Iraq.

Shortly before Bush's inauguration for his second term in office, a Washington Post/ABC News poll showed that 55% of Americans felt the Iraq war was not worth fighting, against 44% who thought it was.

Respondents also disapproved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq by a 58 to 40% margin, and 57% of the 1007 adults surveyed by telephone from 12 to 16 January were not confident that the upcoming elections in Iraq would lead to a stable government.

Similarly, a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll published in the nationally distributed newspaper showed that Americans believed it was a mistake sending troops to Iraq by a 52% to 47% margin.

Bush also got majority disapproval ratings on a number of other issues in The Washington Post/ABC News poll: 52% disapproved of the way he is handling the US economy, social security (55%), the budget deficit (58%), immigration (54%) and health care (51%).

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

SOLDIER KILLED BY IED BLAST

January 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-01-27C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Task Force Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated, Jan. 18th, at approximately 8:25 a.m.

Third IMEF Soldier Dies in Al Anbar Province

01/18/05 cjt7 Release #050118i

Camp Fallujah, Iraq -- A Soldier assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force died on Jan. 17, bringing to three the number of Soldiers who died.

Local Marine Killed: Sgt. Was Just Weeks Away From Returning To His Wakefield Home

January 18, 2005 by Kimball Payne, WAVY TV-10

An explosion in Northern Iraq killed Marine Sgt. Jayton D. Patterson of Wakefield over the weekend, a few weeks before he was due to come home.

Patterson, 26, spoke with his parents on Friday night just hours before he was killed on patrol by an improvised explosive device.

He was so close to returning from the deployment that his wife, Stephanie, on Saturday received a package of things he sent home the same day that the family was told of his death.

Frank Patterson said that the elections were supposed to mark the end of the deployment and bring his son home to his wife and the couple's 15-month-old daughter, Claire. Now Claire Patterson will be a window to the past. "He left us a beautiful granddaughter," Frank Patterson said. "We can see him in her eyes."

U.S. Convoy Hit In Mosul

1.18.04 MOSUL, Iraq (AP)

Police say a car bomb has exploded near an American convoy in northern Iraq.

The blast in Mosul damaged an S-U-V and witnesses say there are some casualties.

Command Lunacy: U.S. Building Forts On Iraq Border

[Not only is this project useless, as the story shows, but a sure fire war-loser. The French tried the "string of forts" tactic in Algeria and Vietnam. They were guerrilla magnets and death traps for the troops stuck in them. Their supply lines were cut, one by one, and air drops couldn't save them. Game over. T]

Jan 18, 2005 AL WALID, Iraq, on the border with Syria (CBS); By CBS News Correspondent Cami McCormick

The U.S. military is also supervising a complex of 32 forts being built along the borders with Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. **The Marines move the Iraqis into them as quickly as possible, because in the past the forts have been looted and destroyed before they could be manned.**

U.S. officials say the number of foreign fighters they've detained has decreased in this area.

But while the order to turn back men at the al Walid checkpoint may be having some effect, military officials admit they still see evidence the Syrian-Iraqi border is being infiltrated elsewhere.

Flyovers suggest desert berms have been breached and there is evidence of "rat lines," where foreign fighters may be making their way into the country.

U.S. military officials admit supplying these outposts will be difficult and they're working with the Iraqi government to speed up deliveries. Logistics will continue to be a problem as more of the forts are built and manned. [Wow! Brilliant deduction! The convoys are getting ripped up and can't even supply Baghdad.]

Area Soldiers Wounded

January 18, 2005 By Amanda Haverstick, The News-Dispatch

Two area men with the 113th Engineering Battalion were injured last week while serving in Iraq.

Sgt. Steven Foss, Michigan City, and Spc. Michael Kieszkowski, Rolling Prairie, suffered minor injuries after their convoy was attacked north of Mosul.

Foss was hit by a piece of shrapnel that passed underneath his shoulder blade, while Kieszkowski was cut in the shin by a piece of flying glass. Both were awarded Purple Hearts and have returned to light duty.

"I don't know anything except what I read in the paper, and then I got an e-mail from a friend that said pretty much the same thing the paper did," said Foss' wife, Cynthia. **"I heard for four months he would be doing light duty and then another paper said it was 30 days."**

Cynthia said knowing Steven was hurt is stressful.

"We're hanging in there," she said. "Not having any more information is more nerve-wracking than anything else."

**Occupation Forced Off Roads;
Trying Air Supply:
"Missions Seem More Critical
Than They Did Before"**

Another load of troops and all their gear delivered out of the reach of the insurgents – at least for now.

Jan. 12, 2005 (CBS)

The C-130 transport is often called a flying truck, and that has never been truer than right now, reports CBS News National Security Correspondent David Martin.

The Air Force is flying in as many as 800 tons of cargo a day into Iraq – **up more than a third since November. Every ton in the air is a ton that doesn't have to be hauled by truck over Iraq's dangerous roads.**

Reducing the number of truck convoys is one way to reduce the number of Americans killed or wounded by roadside bombs and ambushes, which is why the U.S. military is relying more and more on airlift to supply the 150,000 troops in Iraq.

"Missions seem more critical than they did before," said Capt. Kurt Kresmer, as he prepared to fly one of those missions.

More critical and more dangerous: a C-130 makes an inviting target for the insurgents.

"They're obviously watching us fly in and out," said Kresmer. "Their tactics have changed. They're trying to get up small arms fire to hit us."

Today's mission is carrying equipment and soldiers from Kuwait into Balad, one of the airfields C-130 crews like the least. "I still get butterflies in my stomach going into certain places," said Airman Ian Hughes, a cargo handler on today's mission.

Every member of the crew who can afford to take his eyes off the instruments keeps a lookout for ground fire.

With clear skies, it's a good day for flying. But does that make it a safe day for flying? "It's a good point. The clearer it is the easier it is to see us," Kresmer said.

The best defense is flying high. "Only some of their more sophisticated weapons can reach up and touch us at this altitude," said the pilot.

When it's time to land, Kresmer handles his cargo plane like a racecar, banking sharply to become as difficult a target as possible.

Another load of troops and all their gear delivered out of the reach of the insurgents – at least for now.

TROOP NEWS

U.S. Commanders “Concerned” That Iraqi Resistance Will Never Be Defeated

[Los Angeles Times, January 18, 2005, Pg. 1]

U.S. military commanders are becoming concerned that U.S. forces will never completely defeat Iraqi insurgents and plan to reduce offensive operations, while stepping up the training of Iraqi security forces.

Martinez Back In Hospital A Slow Recovery

Jan 18, 2005 By Gretchen Fowler, The Grand Island Independent

A local Marine, who returned to Grand Island in November after being hospitalized in Bethesda, Md., is facing at least another 30 days in traction.

Lance Cpl. Marcus Martinez, 22, was seriously injured in an Oct. 12 mortar missile attack near Fallujah, Iraq. He spent more than a month at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he was treated for severe wounds to his right leg, and returned to the hospital last week.

His mother, Jennifer Martinez, said Marcus returned to Bethesda anticipating a bone graft and skin graft. Bone was to be taken from his hip and put into the part of his leg that was broken. However, a closer examination revealed that there were some problems and Marcus' wound wasn't healing properly.

Now doctors say that Marcus will have to spend at least another 30 to 40 days in traction at Bethesda before they can proceed with anything else. Mrs. Martinez said her son has remained on crutches since returning to Grand Island and has yet to have a large brace on his leg removed.

A community reception was held in Grand Island in late November to welcome him home. At that time, Marcus thanked everyone for the cards, prayers and well wishes that poured in during his first hospitalization.

Mrs. Martinez hopes people will continue to send Marcus cards and letters to let him know he isn't forgotten, now that he's at Bethesda once again. She said, "I just want to keep his spirits up."

Marcus has been a Marine Reservist for three years and is attached to the 6th Motor Transport Battalion with the First Marine Expeditionary Force. He graduated in 2000 from Central Catholic High School in Grand Island.

Propaganda Training Now Required For Iraq-Bound Soldiers: E & P Exclusive:

The News & Observer of Raleigh, N.C., noted this week that the first talking point in a slide show for troops at Fort Bragg was: "We are not an occupying force."

January 18, 2005 By Joe Strupp, Editor & Publisher

NEW YORK As the U.S. military approaches nearly two years in the Iraq conflict, media training for soldiers going into the war zone has been stepped up, becoming mandatory for Army troops since October, E&P has learned.

"Talking point" cards for military personnel, meanwhile, are being updated regularly as the war progresses -- often as much as once a week -- to keep up with the conflict's changing issues and the proximity of embedded reporters. **Among the current talking points: "We are a values-based, people-focused team that strives to uphold the dignity and respect of all."**

Such training has also included pocket cards with suggested talking points for the combatants, which advise them how best to promote the military operation and avoid awkward or confrontational interviews.

The media training consists of one or two hours of briefings by public-affairs specialists from the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md.

In the past, such training was provided only to those Army units who requested it, according to Sgt. Don Dees, an Army spokesman based at the Baghdad press center. But, since October, it has become a mandatory requirement for all deploying Army troops.

The News & Observer of Raleigh, N.C., noted this week that the first talking point in a slide show for troops at Fort Bragg was: "We are not an occupying force."

A list of "wallet-card" talking points given to a group of Marines heading to Iraq, obtained by that newspaper, included:

- **The Marine Corps is trained, resourced, and ready to accomplish its missions. We are committed to the cause and will remain in Iraq as long as we are needed.**
- **The fight in Iraq is tough, but we will remain steadfast and not lose heart.**
- **We are moving forward together with the Iraqi government as partners in building a future for the sons and daughters of Iraq.**
- **Coalition forces will help our Iraqi partners as they build their new and independent country and take their rightful place in the world community.**

- Our troopers and their families are our greatest and most treasured resource.
- The Corps is a national institution -- it has never failed to do the will of the American people.

In media training, meanwhile, soldiers are advised not to discuss classified information, to confine comments to their area of knowledge, and to stay on the record. Other advice includes talking to the interviewer, not the camera; avoiding acronyms, profanity, or a "no comment"; and not arguing or answering a question they do not want to answer.

But not everyone is supportive of the military's media preparation.

Sig Christenson, president of Military Reporters and Editors, said most of the advice is good common sense, but he said some of the talking points could lead soldiers to misrepresent the situation or even lie.

Christenson, a military-affairs writer at the San Antonio Express-News, cited the talking point about the military units being "trained, resourced, and ready." "What if it is untrue?" he asked, pointing to the recent questioning of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld by a soldier about a lack of armored protection for vehicles. "If that isn't the truth, they should make it clear that the soldiers and Marines should say so."

He also objected to having soldiers always provide a positive outlook. "If they are being told to find a way to talk about the positive, they are not talking about facts," Christenson said. He also called the suggestion to avoid acronyms or profanity "public-relations silliness."

Capt. Landis responded to such criticism by defending the promotion of positive aspect, but stressing that **no one was being asked to lie**. "These are not for use for propaganda means," he told E&P. "They are the truth."

[Yeah right. Nobody has to lie, just say there is no occupation of Iraq. Your little comment right here is called lying, Capt., or, more politely, "propaganda." And a useless waste of time. *The troops will find ways to get the truth out*, no matter what you try to do to stop them or what kind of silly bullshit cards you hand out in a classroom. And you won't like the truth. You lie for a living.]

Dramatic Increase In Army Aviation Wrecks; Warrants Say Fuck-Up Officers At Fault

January 17, 2005 By Sean D. Naylor, Army Times staff writer

The strains of war on the Army aviation community have prompted Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody to order aviation commanders to take steps to reduce the risk of accidents.

In a Dec. 22 message to the force, Cody, the Army's senior aviator, noted that Army aviation had suffered 32 Class A accidents with 21 fatalities over the previous 12 months. A Class A accident is one that results in either \$1 million or more in damage, a fatality or a permanent total disability.

The Army experienced 27 Class A accidents in fiscal 2004, which ended Sept. 30, compared with 29 in fiscal 2003 and 28 in fiscal 2002.

However, aviators have tallied eight Class A accidents in the first three months of fiscal 2005 (through Jan. 6), an increase of almost 167 percent over the equivalent period in 2002.

Warrant officers, who make up the bulk of the Army's pilot community, have long complained that some of the officers who command their formations lack the requisite skill and experience for the decisions their positions demand of them.

Pentagon Abuse Plan Lacks Confidentiality Clause

January 17, 2005 By Karen Jowers, Army Times staff writer

Confidentiality, one of the most important issues for victims of sexual assault, is missing from the Pentagon's new sexual assault policy — at least for now — as attorneys argue about whether it can be offered without requiring a change in law.

Still, David S.C. Chu, the Pentagon's personnel chief, said he is "committed" to confidential reporting for sexual assault victims and expects the issues to be resolved in a week or two.

The lack of such privacy and confidentiality often has been a "barrier" to encouraging sexual assault victims to come forward for a host of reasons, including "intimidation, embarrassment and the fear of ruining one's reputation," Chu said at a Jan. 4 Pentagon news briefing.

"We hear this from our clients, and we see this as a serious obstacle to them seeking services of any kind," said Christine Hansen, executive director of the Miles Foundation, a nonprofit advocacy, service and research group for victims of violence in the military community.

But even after the issue of confidentiality for sexual assault victims is resolved, it will continue to be lacking for victims of domestic violence — counter to the

recommendations of a separate Pentagon task force that wrapped up two years ago.

The line drawn between sexual assault and domestic violence victims “is a problem for us,” Hansen said.

“They should be considering [confidentiality] for all victims. The failure to apply a policy of confidentiality to victims of domestic violence represents a hierarchy of victims within the services — service members first, spouses and others last.”

Once the new sexual assault policy is in place, Chu said, victims will have several people to turn to in a “restricted reporting” and confidential status, to include certain health care providers and victim advocates.

This would help ensure that critical forensic evidence is promptly gathered, but the confidentiality policy will not require an investigation until the victim requests that one begin.

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)

Iraq War Vets Fight An Enemy At Home

[San Francisco Chronicle, January 17, 2005, Pg. 1]

The nation's military system is gearing up to handle one of its toughest challenges---providing GIs returning from Iraq with the help they need to deal with the stress and horrors of war. [The Chronicle headline is a little early. The enemy is the government, and the people who own it. That fight is only getting started.]

No Rules, No Shame

[Miami Herald, January 17, 2005]

The Pentagon has little to show for its troubles---not one detainee at Guantanamo has been convicted of anything and suspects one described as the “worst of the worst” are being released to home countries unlikely to jail them. The public needs to know who authorized the detention of prisoners who were not given access to legal remedies.

While He's Fighting For U.S., Sailor's Mother And Grandmother Kicked Off Disability

"All I want to do is help them out," Seaman Kolesnikov said in a recent call from his ship, the Nashville, after visiting his sick mother and 65-year-old grandmother, who have had to go on public assistance and are unable to cover food and rent without loans.

"I'm doing everything for this country, but this country doesn't want to help me."

15 January 2005 By Nina Bernstein, The New York Times

Vladislav Kolesnikov was 12 when he came to America, and only 17 in 2003, when he enlisted in the United States Navy just in time to serve in the start of the Iraq war. He was eager to protect the country that had given his family refuge from persecution in Russia, he said, and grateful for government aid to his mother, who is paralyzed by multiple sclerosis.

The Navy was happy to accept his service, which made him eligible for a fast track to citizenship and all its benefits. But after his ship returned to its base in Norfolk, Va., the sailor, now 19, learned that the government was far less eager to help refugees it was not trying to recruit. Back home in Brooklyn, his mother and grandmother had been cut from their disability payments, solely because they - like him - are not yet citizens.

"All I want to do is help them out," Seaman Kolesnikov said in a recent call from his ship, the Nashville, after visiting his sick mother and 65-year-old grandmother, who have had to go on public assistance and are unable to cover food and rent without loans.

"I'm doing everything for this country, but this country doesn't want to help me."

In a windswept low-income housing project in Brighton Beach, the sailor's grandmother, Mina Gorenshteyn, remains unshakably grateful for that protection, despite her financial straits.

"God bless America," she said in heavily accented English, putting a hand on her heart. She gestured at the special equipment, adult diapers and hospital-style bed provided by Medicaid for the care of her daughter, Viktoriya Khudaya, 42, who can no longer speak.

Vladislav Kolesnikov was only 5 and his sister, Elizabeth 7 when their mother became ill and their father left them in North Ossetia, a region now known for the schoolhouse hostage siege in which hundreds died. It was their grandmother, working three jobs as a

bookkeeper, who supported the family, they said, and who eventually determined that they should flee the province's resurgent anti-Semitism.

Refugees are eligible to apply for green cards a year after their arrival, and for citizenship five years after they obtain lawful permanent residence. But even though the four all applied for green cards in 1998, as soon as the law allowed, so far only Elizabeth, now a 22-year-old nursing student, has managed to become a citizen.

"I got lucky," she said.

In Ms. Khudaya's case, a green card interview was delayed for years because her illness kept her from going to 26 Federal Plaza in downtown Manhattan for fingerprinting. Though the rules allow for a home visit by an immigration officer in such circumstances, the visit was not scheduled until last February, even after her congressman, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, intervened on her behalf in October 2002.

She was finally approved for a green card last summer, but it never arrived. Aides to Mr. Nadler said they eventually determined that the card had been mailed to the wrong address. In October, when her seven-year limit ran out, Ms. Khudaya's disability benefits stopped. So did old-age benefits for Ms. Gorenshteyn, who has received her green card, but is still waiting for naturalization as she struggles to learn English and to care for her daughter with the help of a home attendant.

For years, Seaman Kolesnikov himself has been caught in the backlog. Even as he served on a ship carrying marines to a war zone, immigration officials were waiting for security clearance of his fingerprints before scheduling a green card interview, counselors at HIAS said. Last month, Christopher Bentley, a spokesman for Citizenship and Immigration Services in Washington, recommended that the sailor drop his stalled application and apply directly for expedited citizenship based on his wartime service.

But when aides to Mr. Nadler tried to pursue the suggestion, they said, officials at the Nebraska Service Center who process the military applications insisted that Mr. Bentley was wrong: Even those in the service need a green card before they can enter the fast track to naturalization, unless they are killed in combat and awarded citizenship posthumously.

All the inquiries suddenly bore fruit after authorities realized that the case would be the subject of an article in The New York Times. Seaman Kolesnikov was summoned for a green card interview at 26 Federal Plaza on Monday and approved on the spot. **But the change in the sailor's status does not help the two women he refers to as his parents.**

"Even if I get my green card, my parents are still going to be cut off of everything," he said. "My mother right now, she's very sick, even worse than when I left. And now they get all their stuff cut off just because they're not citizens. I don't think that's fair."

**"I'd much rather be doing this than fighting a war."
- Lt. Commander William Whitsett, USNavy**



**JUST THINK...if ALL the soldiers, ALL the
helicopters, ALL the elephants, ALL the medics,
ALL the ships, ALL the dollars, euros, and dinars
were deployed against the tsunami...**



**Recruiting Russian Style:
Agents Raid Dormitories And Grab
Students For Army**

January 12, 2005 By BRYON MACWILLIAMS, The Chronicle of Higher Education

The Russian military raided college dormitories in the nation's capital on Tuesday, in many cases rousing male students from their beds, in a surprise move to collect fresh conscripts following the end to deferments from mandatory service.

Agents of the city's office of military registration and enlistment fanned out among dorms across Moscow the day after the conclusion of the New Year's-Old Christmas holiday period, during which the government announced that all draft deferrals would be canceled.

The raids were intended to catch students unawares. Recruitment officers, each accompanied by two police officers, sometimes literally dragged students from their beds, according to a newspaper, Versiya.

Some students were taken directly to medical clinics to undergo physical examinations, reportedly in violation of a federal law that requires supporting documents from the place of study and allows young men up to three days to contest their conscription.

Konstantin Kudryavtsev, an assistant dean in the chemistry department at Moscow State University, said in an open letter that two students had been awakened at 7 a.m. and taken under guard for physicals even though they had been enrolled in the university's military courses -- a status that, by law, entitles them to deferments.

Only 9.5 percent of the 176,000 men eligible for the draft last fall are serving in the military. In 1994 some 27 percent of men between the ages of 18 and 27 served, according to the general staff of the armed forces of Russia. **The military, comprising some 1.2 million troops, reportedly was short last fall by more than 31,000 recruits.**

Human-rights groups have reported that beatings and violence, often in hazing rituals, kill hundreds of conscripts annually.

Desertion and even suicide are endemic and well documented. But parents fear most that their sons will be sent to fight in the war-torn republic of Chechnya.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Fighting In Baghdad Doura Neighborhood

January 18, 2005 By Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Bursts of heavy machine-gun fire were heard coming from southern Baghdad on Tuesday, and witnesses said Iraqi National Guard units were battling insurgents there.

Sustained bursts of fire, punctuated by small explosions, persisted for about 30 minutes. Two U.S. military Apache attack helicopters hovered over the area near the bend in the Tigris River flowing through the center of the capital.

There was no report from Iraqi or U.S. military officials. But witnesses contacted by telephone said Iraqi military units clashed with insurgents in the Doura area of southern Baghdad.

Clashes were reported in the same area earlier Tuesday.

Resistance Attacks Spread; Allawi Candidates Dead

Jan 18, 2005 BAGHDAD (Reuters) & By BASSEM MROUE, AP

A car bomber attacked a Baghdad office used by a major Shi'ite party.

Iraqi police officials reported the bomber and two others were dead and nine people were injured, including three police, by the blast outside the office used by the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

A leading SCIRI official said the dead man was one of the guards at the building.

The attack occurred in the capital's Jadriyah district and left the two vehicles in flames. Shredded debris and flesh were scattered in front of the SCIRI offices.

The attacker drove his vehicle to a checkpoint in front of offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, known as SCIRI, and claimed to be one of the party's security guards.

"The guards did not recognize him and the driver stepped back and detonated his car," Lt. Col. Kendall Penn told reporters at the scene.

Assailants in southern Iraq gunned down two candidates running in the Jan. 30 elections for the political coalition of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a member of the group said Tuesday.

Alaa Hamid, who was running on Allawi's slate of candidates for the 275-member National Assembly, was shot dead Monday in the southern port city of Basra in front of his family, a member of Allawi's Iraqi National Accord said. Hamid was also the deputy chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee in Basra.

The other slain candidate was Riad Radi, who was running in the local race for Basra's provincial council on a list supported by Allawi's INC, the official said on condition of

anonymity. Masked guerrillas fired on his car Sunday as he was driving with his family, the official said.

Insurgents also attacked police stations in Sharqat, 260 km (160 miles) north of Baghdad, and Dour, a Sunni village near Saddam's home town in Tikrit. Two policemen were killed and four injured in the two attacks.

In Baghdad on Monday, masked guerrillas shot dead another candidate, Shaker Jabbar Sahla, a Shiite Muslim who was running in the National Assembly election for the Constitutional Monarchy Movement. The party is headed by Sharif Ali bin Hussein, a cousin of Iraq's last king.

8 Occupation Workers From China Captured

Jan 18, 2005 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

In another high-profile kidnapping, insurgents released a video of eight hostages they said were Chinese and threatened to kill them in 48 hours

The latest video released showed eight Chinese-looking men standing silently in front of a wall, holding up passports.

China's official Xinhua news agency confirmed eight Chinese nationals had been abducted in Iraq, citing the Chinese embassy in Baghdad. It said diplomats were "making all efforts to rescue the eight hostages."

The militants, who said they were from the Nuamaan Brigade of the Islamic Resistance, pointed rifles at them: **"We captured these Chinese working with one of the Chinese companies helping to build American facilities in Iraq at a time when the position of the Chinese government toward our cause was clear -- not taking part in invasion forces and their aggression against our country,"** said the voice.

Xinhua said the Chinese workers were from China's southeastern province of Fujian and had been rebuilding an Iraqi plant. It gave no further details.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"Born in the USA".

Bruce Springsteen

Born down in a dead man's town
The first kick I took was when I hit the ground
You end up like a dog that's been beat too much
Till you spend half your life just covering up

Born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
Born in the U.S.A.

Got in a little hometown jam
So they put a rifle in my hand
Sent me off to a foreign land
To go and kill the yellow man

Born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
I was born in the U.S.A.
Born in the U.S.A.

Come back home to the refinery
Hiring man says "Son if it was up to me"
Went down to see my V.A. man
He said "Son, don't you understand"

I had a brother at Khe Sahn fighting off the Viet Cong
They're still there, he's all gone
He had a woman he loved in Saigon
I got a picture of him in her arms now

Down in the shadow of the penitentiary
Out by the gas fires of the refinery
I'm ten years burning down the road
Nowhere to run ain't got nowhere to go

Born in the U.S.A.

“Anti-Iraqi” Farces

From: [max watts](#)
To: GI Special
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 3:29 AM
Subject: LINGUISTICS

“01/17/05 Combined Joint Task Force 7 Release #050117k”

"Ten Iraqi police officers were killed and 28 others were wounded when anti-Iraqi forces detonated a vehicle borne improvised explosive near a police checkpoint outside the Bayji Police Station on Jan. 17."

Comment From Max Watts:

AHA, ANTI-IRAQI FORCES...

I SUPPOSE THE GERMANS FIGHTING THE ANTI-FRENCH MAQUIS IN FRANCE WERE THE PRO-FRENCH?

ALWAYS WONDERED WHO WRITES WHAT FOR WHOM!

WATTS DIXIT

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)

USA 1776 Iraq 2005 Terrorists Or Patriots?

Our Declaration of Independence puts it eloquently for us, and President Woodrow Wilson summed it up neatly for others when he spoke of the quest for "the self-determination of peoples."

Thwarted in this quest, some people-whom, if we approve of them, we call "freedom fighters" or, if not, "fanatics" or "terrorists"-take up arms, as Americans did in our revolution.

17 January 2005 By William R. Polk, [The American Conservative](#)

Guerrilla warfare is not new. In fact, it is probably the oldest form of warfare.

But in recent centuries, so much attention was given to formal warfare that most soldiers forgot about informal war.

Although few guerrilla leaders have given us accounts of how they organized, got their supplies, fought, retreated, regrouped, and fought again, history provides a rich lode of information.

We can study experiences dating from the 20th-century conflicts in Europe, Asia, and Africa, including the Irish struggle against the British, Tito's and the Greek ELAS's struggles against the Germans in the Balkans, Mao Zedong's war against the Japanese and then against the forces of Chang Kai-shek in China, the Viet Minh's defeat of the French in Indo-China, the Algerian war of national liberation against the French, the Chechens' centuries-long war against the Russians and, of course, our Vietnam and Russia's Afghanistan.

The story they tell was well summarized by Mao Zedong when he described the guerrilla as a fish that must swim in the sea of the people. Absent popular support, Mao's sea, the guerrilla is at best an outlaw and, more likely and sooner, a corpse. But with the support of the people, he is elusive, nourished, and ultimately replaceable.

Consequently, almost no matter what forces are brought against him, he-or at least his cause-has proven indefatigable. If we are ignorant of this history, we are doomed to repeat it.

Generation after generation of soldiers and strategists have done just that - repeated it.

Often ignorant of history and of the reflections of their predecessors, they attempted to find techniques to defeat the guerrillas. The ultimate way was by killing them. Caesar's conquest of Gaul was essentially a war of extermination as was the British war against the Irish and the Tsarist and Communist Russians' war on the Chechens. **Even genocide rarely succeeded because new generations arose to replace the dead.**

If not all could be killed, at least their lands and other resources could be taken away from them and given to alien settlers.

This was the gist of colonialism as practiced by the French in Algeria and the Russians in Central Asia.

Since we regard neither genocide nor colonialism as politically correct today, experiments have been made with various other tactics.

In Vietnam, America tried a variety of them, as did the Soviet Union in Afghanistan without ultimate success.

Today, in Iraq and in occupied Palestine, Americans and Israelis are repeating these campaigns, focusing primarily on the application of overwhelming military power designed to dishearten the insurgents. In 40 years, the Israelis have not achieved security; the chances that the Americans will in five years appear unlikely.

Why is this so?

The answer is essentially simple: people of all religions and races share a common desire to control their own lives.

Our Declaration of Independence puts it eloquently for us, and President Woodrow Wilson summed it up neatly for others when he spoke of the quest for "the self-determination of peoples."

Thwarted in this quest, some people-whom, if we approve of them, we call "freedom fighters" or, if not, "fanatics" or "terrorists"-take up arms, as Americans did in our revolution. They are usually few in number, perhaps 15,000 or so in Iraq today and roughly the same in Algeria in the 1950s, but many more people who do not themselves actually fight support them.

Knowing that they cannot defeat the foreign enemy, they seek not so much to win battles but to wear him down, to inflict upon him what he will regard as unacceptable casualties and other costs, and to erode his political support. Thus, almost inevitably, the techniques of guerrilla warfare fade into terrorism.

We have mistakenly acted as though terrorism was a thing or a group against which one can fight. But terrorism is merely a tactic that can be used by anyone. Ancient Britons used it against the Romans, the Zionists against the British, the Algerians against the French, the French against the Nazis, the Chechens against the Russians, the Basques against the Spaniards, and so on. It is the traditional "weapon of the weak," who resort to it when all else fails.

The longer the fighting goes on, the worse the chaos.

Viewing the devastation of Fallujah, one correspondent wrote, "Even the dogs have started to die, their corpses strewn among twisted metal and shattered concrete in a city that looks like it forgot to breathe . The city smelled like dust, ash-and death." Viewing the same scene, the deputy commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force said, "This is what we do . This is what we do well."

This is not new or unique; it is classic. Recall the statement the Roman historian Tacitus attributed to the contemporary guerrilla leader of the Britons. The Romans, he said, "create a desolation and call it peace."

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 REPORT

How Bad Is It?

"Nowhere Is Safe"

By John McCaslin, The Washington Times, Jan. 04, 2005:

"Sen. John Cornyn, Texas Republican, recently returned from his second fact-finding mission to Iraq, this latest with a small group of fellow members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, including committee chairman Sen. John W. Warner, Virginia Republican; ranking member Sen. Carl Levin, Michigan Democrat; and Sen. Evan Bayh, Indiana Democrat.

"It was during a private meeting at the offices of interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi that Mr. Allawi told the senators to move their chairs away from the window - for fear an insurgent sniper might take aim at the American scalps."

U .S. Official Says "Son-Of-A-Bitch" Allawi Murdered Prisoners

1.19.05 The Sydney Morning Herald

A former Jordanian government minister has told The New Yorker that an American official confirmed to him that the Iraqi interim Prime Minister, Iyad Allawi, executed six suspected insurgents at a Baghdad police station last year.

The claim is in an extensive profile of Dr Allawi written for this week's issue of the magazine by an American journalist, Jon Lee Anderson, the author of The Fall of Baghdad and a regular Baghdad correspondent for The New Yorker.

Writing about his research in Jordan in December, Anderson says: **"A well-known former government minister told me that an American official had confirmed that the killings took place, saying to him, 'What a mess we're in - we got rid of one son of a bitch only to get another one'."**

The New Yorker also revealed that Anderson was present during an interview conducted by the Herald's chief correspondent, Paul McGeough, in late June, with a man who said he witnessed the executions by Dr Allawi.

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

Iraqi Capitalists Running Away

18 January 2005 Ahmed Janabi , Aljazeera.net

Iraqis are increasingly seeking safety in foreign countries for their families and businesses in response to a security situation that has been worsening since the March 2003 US invasion.

Fear of criminal gangs that carry out targeted killings and kidnap children and businessmen for ransom has driven many rich Iraqis out of their home country in search of a more peaceful life abroad.

For these Iraqis, Jordan, Syria, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates are the most favoured destinations. **Obtaining visas for entering other Arab countries, to say nothing about non-Arab ones, is proving to be next to impossible.**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

OCCUPATION USA: Mercenaries Deployed At U.S. Polling Sites For Iraqi Elections “Skilled In Using Light Machine Guns” Local Police *Not* Informed

Patricia Sullivan, a spokeswoman at the command center set up by Prince George's County, said county security officials were unaware that SOC-SMG was involved in the security arrangements. [So any cop who kills some unknown porting a “light machine gun” near a polling station will be simply doing their duty.]

Jan. 17, 2005 By Jonathan S. Landay and Drew Brown, Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON - A private security company staffed by former elite U.S. special forces soldiers will provide security at polling places in the United States for people voting in Iraq's Jan. 30 parliamentary election.

Expatriate Iraqis began registering Monday for three days of balloting beginning Jan. 28 in the Washington suburb of New Carrollton, Md., and in Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles and Nashville, Tenn. An estimated 200,000 Iraqi expatriates living in the United States are thought to be eligible to vote.

In Iraq, SOC-SMG reportedly employs some 300 former U.S. military personnel to protect VIPs, convoys and American contractors involved in disposing of weapons caches. **The former special forces soldiers who work for the company are skilled in using a range of weapons, including American- and Soviet-designed light machine guns.**

Stopping car bombs and suicide attacks such as those that have been taking place in Iraq requires military weapons, tactics and training that some local police forces don't possess.

In New Carrollton, police guarded the outside of a Ramada Inn where expatriate Iraqis registered to vote Monday. About two dozen squad cars from the Prince George's County police and Maryland State Police were deployed around the hotel's perimeter and in a shopping center's parking lot across the street.

Patricia Sullivan, a spokeswoman at the command center set up by Prince George's County, said county security officials were unaware that SOC-SMG was involved in the security arrangements.

Anyone entering the hotel property had to pass through a police checkpoint and then through a tent at the rear of the grounds for scanning by private security guards waving hand-held metal detectors before being allowed into the hotel's exhibition center to register.

SOC-SMG's chief operation officer, Mike Janke, confirmed in a telephone interview that the International Organization for Migration, the group that's conducting the voting by expatriate Iraqis, had hired his company to help protect U.S. polling stations.

"Because it's a very sensitive thing - what we do - we stay off the radar," he said.

Ahmed Zaidi, an International Organization for Migration official from the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, said SOC-SMG personnel were involved in security arrangements on the hotel grounds.

At the hotel, it was impossible to spot who was working for the company.

June Chua, a spokeswoman for the International Organization for Migration's vote-organizing effort in the United States, said the company's activities were being coordinated with federal, state and local officials. **[Chua is lying. As Patricia Sullivan, above, pointed out.]**

Chua declined to say whether SOC-SMG personnel were working at all U.S. polling locations or to specify what services they would provide and whether they would be armed.

"Security is of the highest priority," she said. "When you think of security, it has been thought out and is on every site."

U.S. Intelligence Services Agree: Bush Full Of Shit About “Progress” In Iraq

All major U.S. intelligence agencies share a pessimistic prognosis for Iraq's future, according to a senior administration official.

Jan. 18, 2005 By Warren P. Strobel, Jonathan S. Landay and John Walcott, KNIGHT RIDDER

WASHINGTON - A series of new U.S. intelligence assessments on Iraq paints a grim picture of the road ahead and concludes that there is little likelihood that President Bush's goals can be attained in the near future.

Instead of stabilizing the country, national elections Jan. 30 are likely to be followed by more violence and could provoke a civil war between majority Shiite Muslims and minority Sunni Muslims, the CIA and other intelligence agencies predict, according to senior officials who have seen the classified reports.

A new public report by the National Intelligence Council concludes that instead of diminishing terrorism, U.S.-occupied Iraq has replaced prewar Afghanistan as a breeding and training ground for terrorists who may disperse to conduct attacks elsewhere.

The officials who were more pessimistic spoke on condition of anonymity because the latest intelligence assessments are classified and their views are at odds with public statements from the White House.

All major U.S. intelligence agencies share a pessimistic prognosis for Iraq's future, according to a senior administration official.

Received:

An Appeal For Help

From: Ewa Jasiewicz

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Subject: Brian Avery - **ISM activist shot in face by Israeli troops in need of funds to attend case in Israel**

Activist shot in the face by Israeli troops April 2003 in need of funds to pursue his case against the Israeli army.

I myself was with Brian when his face was destroyed and he was nearly killed by a 50 caliber bullet spat from an Israeli Armoured Personnel Carrier and spent over a week with him in hospital afterwards, including his birthday there.

He is lucky to be alive. Please help by forwarding this email.

Click for background info and photos:

http://www.ccmeep.org/2003_articles/Palestine/040503_international_shot_in_the_face_b.htm

http://www.ifamericansknew.org/cur_sit/brianavery.html - one year after his shooting

Dear Friends,

Brian Avery petition demanding a criminal investigation into his shooting will be heard on by the Israeli Supreme Court Israeli Supreme Court on Feb. 28th.

ISM hopes to bring him to Palestine to be present at his trail. It would be great if any of you can organize an event to help us raise the funds to bring him here and send the funds to:

Brian Avery Medical Fund (name to write on check)
C/o Wells Fargo Bank
ATTN: Teller Line
200 Lomas Blvd NW Albuquerque, NM 87102

Or send them to Brian directly at:
209 Collinson Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Thank you!

In solidarity
The legal committee
Alex neta and Yosi

Received:

Bring Them Home Ribbons

From: Christine
To: GI Special
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 11:25 AM
Subject: Introduction of our upside-down 'Bring 'em home' magnet ribbons

I am writing to ask if you might be interested in sharing information regarding the issues involving Bush's war with Iraq. It appears that we may have a common interest in arming the public with the truth about this war, as well as in delivering a specific message about the importance of bringing our troops home now.

In my effort to get this message out, I have endeavored, along with my three partners, to create an upside-down, yellow magnetic ribbon with the inscribed words, **BRING 'EM HOME**. The message is intended to be an antipode to the typical *support the troops* message that is often seen on rightside-up yellow ribbons, as well as to Bush's cavalier exhortation to "bring 'em on."

We have manufactured thousands of **BRING "EM HOME** ribbons and are currently selling them on our website www.bringemhome.org for \$4 per ribbon. Along with the obvious written message, we have inverted our ribbons as a way of symbolizing a more subtle message of distress, as we believe our troops are in distress and are being maimed and killed in service of the corporate profiteers, rather than for the protection of America.

We will certainly entertain any offers or ideas that you may have in furthering any mutual goals that may arise.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.
Christine Veith www.bringemhome.org



Reader Comments:

From: Joan M
To: GI Special
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 12:58 AM
Subject: The Crusades & "Don't Worry, You're A Civilian. You Won't Get Hurt."

1. "The Crusades of the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries were doomed from the beginning"

Comment: They may have been doomed but they did one hell of a lot of damage in the process. I've always sympathised with the Arabs who were more civilized and better educated (At least the leaders were). **The European Crusaders were, blood thirsty, barbarians - to put it mildly. It's strange how Christianity seems to cause so much blood shed converting the unwilling.** -- Joan

2. "Don't Worry, You're A Civilian. You Won't Get Hurt."

I believe this event was caused by the man's experiences in Iraq.

As a child I saw men return from World War 2.

Some, previously gentle men, returned as violent brutes, and some suffered life-long nightmares. These men *never* completely recovered and their families suffered with them. More recently there have been murders committed, in the US, for no reason, by men recently returned from battle. These men are victims, unbalanced by their

experiences. They cannot live with the knowledge they have killed, other human beings, and committed terrible crimes in the name of war.

I personally doubt the ability of councilors to combat a problem as great as this. There is terrible guilt and, in this case, the need to relieve it was directed at men in uniform. This would be logical and had the added advantage of Mr Raya being killed himself. He was a nice man unable to return to Iraq where he would be forced to kill again.

This is my own, individual, opinion but expresses, a feeling I've had for many years. -
Joan

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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