

GI SPECIAL 3A80:

NO MORE. BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW.



Joe Raedle / Getty Images

[Thanks to K for sending in.]

**Recruiter Says:
“I Don’t Agree With What
We’re Doing In Iraq, And
I’m With You.”**

March 25, 2005 By Peter LoRe, Socialist Worker

NEW YORK--About 150 people made their way to two different protests March 16 at Hunter College in Manhattan.

The first action was called by the Campus Antiwar Network to protest military recruitment at the campus career fair. Protesters confronted recruiters with

posters of atrocities at Abu Ghraib, as well as asking them about the discriminatory “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

A National Guard recruiter told protesters, “I want to find a way out. I don’t agree with what we’re doing in Iraq, and I’m with you.”

The second protest, immediately following the anti-recruitment action, targeted the proposed tuition hikes and budget cuts taking place at the City University of New York.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Bomb Wounds 2 U.S. Troops In Ramadi; 11 Occupation Cops Dead

March 25, 2005 The Australian & Reuters & IRIB News

A bomber killed 11 Iraqi special police commandos and wounding nine police, two US soldiers and three civilians, when he detonated a bomb in a car at a checkpoint in eastern Ramadi 110km west of Baghdad.

The U.S. 2nd Marine Division said the bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint in the east of the city, 68 miles west of Baghdad, at around 7 p.m.

The elite commando unit was sent to the region recently by Iraq's interior ministry to quell the violence.

US Troops Fighting With Insurgents In Tal Afar

March 24, 2005 NBC

More firefights broke out between US forces and insurgents in the northern Iraq town of Tal Afar Thursday.

For the second day in a row US troops fought with insurgents in the streets.

Two civilians have been killed in the fighting so far. There's been no word on US casualties.

RAAF Hercules Comes Under Fire In Baghdad

21mar05 By NICK BUTTERLY in Canberra

A ROYAL Australian Air Force Hercules was forced to take evasive action when a missile was fired at it over Baghdad.

The incident occurred on March 9, just a few months after the crash of a British Hercules killed 10 men, including Australian Paul Pardoel.

The Australian Hercules is believed to have fired chaff and flares after receiving a "lock-on" signal from a surface-to-air missile system close to Baghdad.

The Defence Department confirmed in a statement that a RAAF C-130J "flying out of Baghdad observed the launch of a surface-to-air missile".

It is not known how close the missile came to the aircraft, or who was on board at the time.

TROOP NEWS

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR: Statement On The Second Anniversary Of The Invasion Of Iraq

March 19, 2005: (IVAW) <http://www.ivaw.net/> [Excerpt]

We, the veterans of the war, now know all of these reasons for invading the sovereign country of Iraq were false, and we have paid a heavy price for these lies.

Two years into a seemingly endless war, our nation has incurred a terrible debt, while the corporations who profit from the business of war reap millions.

Our deficit has climbed to a rate that can only be paid by our children's grand children.

While our domestic programs crumble, the social and economic future of our children is indeed bleak.

Most tragic, over 1,500 of our comrades in arms have given the ultimate sacrifice for this senseless, imprudent, and immoral policy of war and occupation.

On the second anniversary of this unwise, unjust, and unproductive invasion, Iraq Veterans Against the War call upon our President, the Congress, and all elected officials to immediately and unconditionally withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq and the Middle East.

We also demand full funding for the medical needs of our returning veterans, including treatment for post traumatic stress disorder and the effects of depleted uranium.

Finally, we call for all citizens of the United States to demand that their government end the pillaging and destruction of Iraq so that everyday Iraqi people can control their own lives and country.

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is a group of veterans who have served since September 11th, 2001 including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We are committed to saving lives and ending the violence in Iraq by an immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces.

We also believe that the governments that sponsored these wars are indebted to the men and women who were forced to fight them and must give their soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen the benefits that are owed to them upon their return home.

We welcome all active duty, national guard, reservists, and recent veterans into our ranks.

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.

“She Wonders When The Soldiers Will Come Home.”

March 20, 2005 Boston Herald

Cheryl Skarinka of Whitman, whose son, Pvt. Paul Skarinka, was severely wounded by shrapnel, said she wonders when the soldiers will come home.

“I'd feel better about what the guys and women have gone through if I knew there was a plan to get them out of there,” she said.

Pissed-Off Korean Government Will Cut Iraq Troops

March 26, 2005 Joins.com

South Korean military leaders in Iraq have recommended that Seoul consider gradually reducing its forces in the north of the country, starting late this summer, sources in the government and Uri Party said yesterday.

The troop cut was viewed in a positive light by the governing Uri Party and the Roh administration because Seoul is disturbed by the absence of U.S. support in the recent diplomatic rupture with Tokyo, observers said.

"The United States has chosen Japan as its proxy to control the growing Chinese influence in the region," a top Uri Party official said. "The United States has given full support to Japan, including Tokyo's bid to become a UN Security Council member. That is the background of why Tokyo is pushing its territorial claims over Dokdo against Seoul, and why Washington is silent about it."

Uri representative Woo Won-shik said, "We have nothing to gain by deploying the troops in Iraq for a long time. I support the reduction." "To show that South Korea-U.S. relations are not unilateral, we should withdraw, or at least reduce the forces," Uri Representative Im Jong-in said.

Pablo Paredes Update: WAR RESISTER TO MEET WITH NAVY AUTHORITIES

3.17.05

From: [Victor Paredes](#)

This Friday March 18th, Pablo Paredes will complete the final phase of processing his application for discharge based on conscientious objection (CO).

After undergoing a successful psychological evaluation and a positive interview with the Navy Chaplain; on March 18th Pablo Paredes will meet with the NAVY investigating officer whom must make a recommendation to the US NAVY regarding Pablo's request for CO. **Paredes still faces potential charges of unauthorized absence, unlawful disobedience and missing ship's movement; depending on the recommendations of the investigating officer and/or the final decision of the US NAVY.**

The Navy chaplain is asked to interview CO candidates to ascertain if the sailor's convictions are sincere. In his report to the Navy, the chaplain concludes his report by recommending Paredes' CO be granted

A staff psychiatrist is also asked to evaluate the sailor's mental state. In his report to the NAVY, the psychiatrist confirmed Paredes' mental health, fitness and control for his actions.

The March 18th meeting with the investigating officer will mark Pablo's final step in processing his CO.

When asked about Pablo's case and convictions, the Paredes family affirms that: "... we have instilled in Pablo respect for his community and neighbors. We have raised him to be a man of sincerity, integrity and generosity. Pablo has always carried himself as a true man, true to his values and sincere in his words and actions. So at this juncture, where Pablo takes a controversial stance within the military world, we are absolutely confident that his feelings and intentions are the most sincere, humble and above all human."

On December 6, 2004 Pablo Paredes took a brave stance in opposition to acts of war by conscientiously objecting to taking part in such actions. **"I can't sleep at night knowing that's what I do for a living" said Pablo about his refusal to take part in putting thousands of Marines in harms way.**

The investigating officer is slated to make her recommendation 3.25.05

Pablo Paredes is available for limited interviews and speaking engagements. In addition, the voice of the family continues to be represented by brother Victor Paredes.

The Paredes family continues to work towards generating greater awareness of Pablo's case and cause as well as raising the necessary funds for Pablo's potential defense.

DONATIONS INFORMATION:

Payable to: Victor Paredes

Send to: San Diego Military Counseling Project

Cause: Pablo Paredes

P.O. Box 15307

San Diego, CA 92175

Or donate online at: www.sdmcp.org

765 Communities In U.S. Take Action Against The War

Anti-war events were held in all 50 states, and in more than twice as many communities as during last year's anniversary of the war.

March 24th, 2005 by United for Peace and Justice

In 765 towns and cities around the United States, people gathered for peace on the two-year anniversary of invasion of Iraq. Thousands marched, rallied, participated in religious services, and solemnly read the names of those who have been killed in this unjustified and futile war.

The extraordinary breadth of the weekend's anti-war activities reflect the vitality of grassroots peace activism.

Anti-war events were held in all 50 states, and in more than twice as many communities as during last year's anniversary of the war.

Bad weather throughout the country didn't deter people from taking to the streets for peace. Sister Bay, Wisconsin, saw a doubling in the number of local residents willing to protest publicly against the war, as six people braved a snowstorm to display peace signs to passing cars. Despite pouring rain, more than 300 people took part in a two-mile anti-war march in Tucson, Arizona.

There were courageous acts of civil resistance: **Thirty-five people occupied the office today of Congressman Tom Allen in Portland, Maine, to protest his recent vote in favor of the \$82 billion war appropriation.** Seventy people shut down a military recruiting center in Eugene, Oregon, for an entire day. In New York City, thirty people were arrested at simultaneous civil disobedience actions at military recruiting centers in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

We've now received reportbacks from more than 175 different communities where anti-war events took place. The reports we received from smaller towns and cities are particularly inspiring, reflecting a real growth in anti-war sentiment and organizing in many conservative areas of the country.

Some examples:

In Sandpoint, Idaho -- a town with a population of about 7000, in a county that voted almost 2-1 for Bush over Kerry -- a lively crowd of 195 people took part in a peace march through town, and 120 attended a community forum on war and peace. "The energy was great. Democracy is burgeoning!" wrote Evan Martin, one of the organizers.

In Barre, Vermont, a group of 70-100 people held a vigil in front of the Barre Army Recruitment Center. "Though Barre is typically a conservative town many cars and SUVs on this very busy main road were honking in favor of the vigil," wrote Debra Stoleroff. "We felt surprised and hopeful."

In Terre Haute, Indiana, organizer Cathy McGuire reports, "Our fear was that it would only be our core group of ten who would come (to our demonstration), and

when it turned into 40 we were thrilled.. It looks like we are back in the demonstration business again."

In Providence, Rhode Island, the Community Coalition for Peace held a peace march with about 450 participants. "As a result of the event," organizer Mark Stahl reports, "we doubled the size of our listserv membership and experienced a resurgence of enthusiasm and initiative in building for the future."

Glade Church in Blacksburg, VA, hosted a candlelight peace vigil with about 20 participants -- the first directly anti-war event held at the church in recent years.

A vigil, march, and town hall meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, drew more than 500 participants -- making it, in the words of organizer Matthew Smucker, "the largest anti-war event in Lancaster at least in the past three decades, possibly ever."

Finally, from Emporia, Kansas, Ellen Hansen writes, "we were a small group of only 6 people. Nevertheless we lit candles, hiding them from the wind blowing across the Kansas plains. We discussed the importance of participating even in a small gathering such as we held, in order to make the statement that we are against the war in Iraq and that it is not being conducted with our support or in our names. We live in a very RED state, in a small city where no Democrats won at the local level last November. We're small, but we'll keep making a noise for change."

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this such an important weekend in our struggle to end the war in Iraq and bring the troops home!

Citizens & Mother Of Soldier Applaud Anti-War Action: "I Very Much Salute These People"

[Thanks to David G. who sent this in.]

In Englewood, the vast majority of cars making their way around a traffic circle surrounding the protest staging area honked in support or rolled down their windows and clapped.

March 20, 2005 By JOHN PETRICK, Staff Writer, North Jersey Media Group Inc.

ENGLEWOOD - Eunice Dartey, whose 22-year-old son left for Iraq the day after Christmas, broke into tears as she watched about 150 protesters wave banners and chant anti-war slogans Saturday.

"It was just the two of us. I don't have any other family here," said the Guyana native.

Some with children serving overseas might have resented such an anti-war demonstration, one of hundreds held across the nation this weekend to mark the second anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq.

But Dartey wiped away her tears and said she felt comforted by it. "There are at least some people sensible enough to know this war is wrong. I very much salute these people to come out and do this. It means a lot," said the Englewood resident. "I have to come home every day now and face my four walls by myself."

Dartey's son, Selom, was recruited to be a reservist three years ago while a student at Virginia State University. "You empathize with other people, but when it's your own child ... " she said. "It just makes me so angry."

Everyday citizens, as well as representatives of such groups as Bergen Peace and Justice Coalition, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the North Jersey Chapter of Veterans for Peace and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, gathered in front of the Englewood war monument to express their outrage and fear.

In Englewood, the vast majority of cars making their way around a traffic circle surrounding the protest staging area honked in support or rolled down their windows and clapped. But not everyone was happy to see them.

"Go somewhere else! Go somewhere else!" yelled one woman motorist out her window as she drove by.

Ken Dalton of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Veterans for Peace said the Bush administration is cutting funding to veterans' programs while thinking nothing of creating a whole new generation of war veterans who will need government services.

"They're using these guys, and then they're not taking care of them when they get back," he said.

Weekly War Protest A Pageant Of Peace

[Thanks to David, who sent this in. He writes: Wish I had been down in Fayetteville with the rest of the gang. The reporter fails to note that Judi is not alone, but is a part of our weekly vigil.)]

"Nobody raises their child to be killed in the war," she said. "These soldiers are our own children. I want them to come home alive."

3.19.05 By Maricella Miranda, CONTRA COSTA TIMES

BENICIA - In a red satin gown, a tiara and Mary Janes, with a sash across her chest proclaiming "Misses America," Judi Morales Gibson protests with a smile.

Since the Iraq war started two years ago today, Morales Gibson, 38, has spent dozens of Thursday evening rush hours on a Benicia traffic island, waving slowly, like a beauty queen.

Unlike Miss America, she grasps a homemade sign: "Believe in World Peace."

She sees her protest as a challenge, the equivalent of saying, "I want world peace. Don't you?"

"It's hard to flick-off Miss America," she said on a recent Thursday night at the corner of Military East and First Street.

People have called her a communist. They've told her to go back to Berkeley. Some of her fellow Benicia residents simply think she's crazy.

It was warm and sunny and surprisingly pleasant on the island. The vibrant Morales Gibson, who works at Las Olas Surf Safaris and Artista Creative Safaris, planning trips for women, motioned to a passer-by she knew that she would call later. And she took in stride all the hand gestures, friendly and not, from passing motorists.

Her goal is for all of them -- the man who hoots and hollers, the older woman who waves or the girl who smiles at her get-up -- just to notice her.

"They're seeing me," she said. "If it gets their attention, that's the whole point.

Actually, it's almost the whole point. The rest is protecting her 3-year old son, Dexter. Morales Gibson said she fears that in 14 years, if the war continues, Dexter will be drafted.

"Nobody raises their child to be killed in the war," she said. "These soldiers are our own children. I want them to come home alive."

Morales Gibson said people suspect she's against veterans. She isn't. Her father was in the Air Force for 25 years. Her sister and brother-in-law served in the Army.

Morales Gibson said her family supports her protest. Sometimes, her husband, Jonathan Gibson, and Dexter join her. Even her sister holds a "Vets for Peace" sign on the island now and then.

Morales Gibson said her parents always encouraged her political engagement and volunteer activity. As a child, the Vallejo native often wore T-shirts promoting political campaigns.

If the war does end, she'll continue fighting for a more just society, she said. Her passions also include environmentalism and historic preservation. Even if world peace

isn't achievable, she said, she hopes at least to have convinced a few people to think about more peaceful ways to solve problems.



Iraq Vet Says Depleted Uranium Deaths Could Surpass Worst-Case Predictions

"Combat fight badges are awarded to officers when they obtain combat flight hours commanders would get up and lose their minds in the sand storms.

"Lacking any points of reference or terrain recognition skill, these officers flew with no knowledge as to where they were going, or which side the enemy was on... Most (on the ground) cried into the transmitter and started picking their own troops out of the sand while they pissed themselves in fear..... It became who gets who first between the United States and itself."

April 2004 by Amy Worthington, Idaho Observer

No American kid should sign on the military's disingenuous dotted line before reading a new book by Dennis Kyne, former Army air medic in the 18th Airborne Corps during Gulf War I.

This easy-read book, despite a few expletives, should be a basic primer in all American high schools. It is guaranteed to give kids a perspective on the realities of the atomic battlefields to which Washington has been sending American troops since 1991.

Kyne comes from a family with a proud military heritage, but his experiences in Gulf War I revealed that the military structure as it exists today is not what it claims to be. He describes the filthy living conditions, lies, corruption and incompetence that continually put our young troops in harms way.

He confirms the military's despicable treatment of vets when they return to the United States decimated from disease, battlefield toxins, vaccines and radiation.

Desperately needing adequate medical testing and care, they are abused with games and denials from a callous establishment determined to escape responsibility and save money.

The fact that America deliberately creates and arms the enemies it will fight later is not lost on Kyne.

He notes that the United States sent \$1.6 billion in arms and high tech equipment to Saddam and that one U.S. shipment landed in Iraq just one day before the U.S. went to war against him in 1991.

Kyne says, "Much like the casinos in Las Vegas that give you money to get you started at the black-jack table, we were giving Iraq the weapons to get a war started."

This is why Corporate America, including Dick Cheney's gluttonous Halliburton, Inc., now growing tick-fat from ongoing Middle Eastern conflagrations, has continued to supply Saddam into the late 1990s.

Kyne illustrates the incredible disinformation to which both the American public and U.S. forces are continuously plied to stampede the U.S. into perpetual war so lucrative for corporate warmongers.

He says, "As citizens we were told that our mission was to save Kuwait and so we voiced our support of intervention without knowing the truths of the war. We did not know that the Kuwaiti girl speaking before the U.S. Senate, about atrocious things Iraqi soldiers had done, was the Emir of Kuwait's niece, lying profusely. We did not know that the oil fields of Kuwait and Southern Iraq were set ablaze by our own forces."

What worked for father George, worked for son W. Thus America has been abused with the 9-11 and WMD scams, costing a bankrupt America \$3.7 billion a month in Iraq and \$900 million a month in Afghanistan.

Kyne's most shocking revelation is that 75 percent of U.S. Desert Storm casualties in 1991 were caused by friendly fire, a fact he says is confirmed by an MIT study.

Considering a recent media report about marines being strafed with depleted uranium by a U.S. A-10 in Nasiriyah, Iraq, this comment by Kyne hits home:

“Combat fight badges are awarded to officers when they obtain combat flight hours commanders would get up and lose their minds in the sand storms.

“Lacking any points of reference or terrain recognition skill, these officers flew with no knowledge as to where they were going, or which side the enemy was on... Most (on the ground) cried into the transmitter and started picking their own troops out of the sand while they pissed themselves in fear..... It became who gets who first between the United States and itself.”

Kyne, who like hundreds of thousands of Gulf War I vets, suffers from Gulf War Syndrome, describes the horrendous depleted uranium exposure endured by U.S. troops during and after the three-day ground war of Desert Storm.

U.S. air forces had spent 45 days contaminating Kuwait and Iraqi territory with depleted uranium weaponry into which our ground forces were then forced to march. Kyne tells potential military recruits, “It is time for the world to know that the United States military is using young soldiers for guinea pigs, not defenders of the constitution.”

Kyne's excellent web site is DennisKyne.com. It contains graphic pictures of radiation-melted Iraqi bodies, demonstrating the horrific effects of U.S. nuclear weaponry now used routinely and illegally in foreign nations for the aggrandizement of the amoral U.S. defense industry.

Kyne's book and an 8-minute video are only \$10 plus \$2 shipping.

The book is gripping and easy read.

The video brings home the message of battlefield radiation that has killed thousands of U.S. troops and which will continue to poison hundreds of thousands more. This is a great package for informing friends and family.

If any young person you know is contemplating military suicide, give him or her this book and video and consider it an investment in America's future.

Write Denis Kyne at PO Box 720254, San Jose, CA 95172

Navy Missiles Poisoning Sailors

(Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, March 23, 2005)

A federal safety agency is reviewing whether sailors and civilian workers handling a Navy ship-based missile system are being illegally exposed to hazardous materials.

A whistle-blower at Mayport Naval Station, Fla., charged that people working around a missile-launching system on cruisers and destroyers were not properly trained or protected from the residue left behind by fired rockets

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. 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)

“Religious” Lunacy Award For 2005,

So Far:

**Kill U.S. Troops With Unarmored
Vehicles? No Problem.**

**Slaughter 100,000 Iraqis? No
Problem.**

**Pay For An Abortion For A Navy Wife
With A Fetus That Can't Possibly
Live?**

**NO!! THAT WOULDN'T RESPECT
THE “VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE”**

March 24, 2005 Associated Press, SEATTLE

The case of Jane Doe vs. the United States will be argued April 6 in Seattle before a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Doe won approval for federal coverage of the costs two years ago in U.S. District Court, and the pregnancy was terminated at five months in August 2002. But the government is still fighting Judge Thomas Zilly's order that it provide \$3,000 for the procedure.

Justice Department attorneys contend federal law forbids use of public funds for abortion unless the mother's life is endangered, or in cases of incest or rape. **There is no exception for lethal fetal ailments.**

Her attorney, Vanessa Soriano Power of Seattle, argues that federal regulations violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution by denying abortion in cases where the fetus, not the mother, is certain to die.

"I can't understand the impetus behind the government pursuing this case," said Power, who with lawyer Rita Latsinova argued the case successfully before Zilly for the Northwest Women's Law Center. **[Gee, it's not hard to figure out. Just the Bush folks sucking up to the religious lunatics that think Bush is the Voice Of God.]**

Doe learned she was pregnant in April 2002, but 18 weeks later tests revealed the baby had anencephaly, a neural tube defect that causes a fetus to develop without a forebrain, cerebellum or cranium. An ultrasound at the University of Washington Medical Center confirmed the diagnosis.

The defect is invariably fatal to the fetus, according to medical experts.

"I talked to the medical staff and counselors, and then my husband and I discussed what we should do," Doe told Zilly in August 2002. "We talked about it with our families. Finally, we all agreed that it would be best for me to end the pregnancy now."

The judge agreed. In February 2003, Zilly issued a strongly worded written order requiring the military's Tricare medical system to pay for the procedure.

In court documents, lawyers cite government regulations and a Tricare rule that specifically denies payment to terminate anencephalic fetuses.

In 2003, the government also raised moral arguments, arguing that barring federal funds for most abortions "reflects and effectuates a moral judgment to value all human life, including the life of an anencephalic infant."

Chinooks That Don't Fly

[Thanks to Z and Artisan who sent this in. Z writes: Maybe they can be used as oversized paperweights? Keep up the good work, T! In solidarity, Z.]

18 March 2005 By Michael Harrison, Business Editor, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd.

A brand new fleet of RAF Chinook helicopters which cost the taxpayer £250m may have to be broken up and used as spares because of the botched way the Ministry of Defence bought them, a damning report by a committee of MPs reveals today.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

25 March 2005 FOCUS News Agency & (KUNA) & The Australian & Reuters & AP & Al Bawaba 20-03-2005 & 3/21/2005 USATODAY.com

In Baghdad, nine Iraqi soldiers were wounded when their patrol hit a roadside bomb on the capital's southern side, medical sources at Yarmuk hospital said.

Two Iraqi officers and their driver were killed in South of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq.

In an attack on Friday in Iskandariya, a bomber blew up his car beside an Iraqi army convoy, killing three soldiers and wounding six, soldiers at the scene said.

In further violence north of the capital, a mortar attack on an Iraqi army barracks in Suleiman Beg killed one soldier and wounded a man who had come to visit one of his soldier sons, an army spokesman said.

Four mortar rounds fell on the camp about 7:00 am (1400 AEDT) causing heavy damage, he said.

Another mortar attack on a convoy near Tikrit, 180km north of Baghdad, destroyed a truck with Turkish license plates, police sources in the area said. The fate of the driver was unknown.

Police found two decapitated bodies clad in Iraqi army uniforms north of Baghdad, officials said.

The headless corpses were lying on the side of a road between Baghdad and the town of Abu Ghraib when a passing police patrol discovered them Thursday and brought them to a nearby morgue, 1st Lt. Akram Al-Zubai said Friday.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, residents said saboteurs blew up a municipal building in a western neighborhood, reducing the two-story building to rubble. No injuries were reported.

In Baghdad, U.S. forces arrested eight terrorism suspects. Three had Iraqi police badges, but only one of those badges was registered in police records, according to the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Collaborator General Killed In Baghdad

3/25/2005 Anatolia.com Inc.

BAGHDAD - An Iraqi army general from Basra and his son were killed in a drive-by shooting Friday in southeastern Baghdad, an interior ministry official said.

"General Salman Mohamed was driving his car with two sons and another relative when a car with gunmen on board opened fire on them in Baghdad Jadida at 3:30 pm (1230 GMT)," the official said on condition of anonymity.

One son died along with the general, who was assigned to the national guard in the southern port city of Basra, and another son was seriously wounded, he said. The fate of the other relative was unclear.

Five Occupation Military Base Workers Killed

March 25, 2005 The Australian

FIVE Iraqi cleaning ladies who worked on a US base south-east of Baghdad died when their car came under gunfire, an Iraqi official said today.

Guerrillas traveling in a vehicle opened fire on the women in the Mashtal neighbourhood, east of the capital, on Thursday at 3:00 pm (2200 AEDT), the source who asked not to be identified said.

Family members of the women said they worked on a base in Rustumiyah.

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

Another Pipeline Blown

3.25.05 AP

Near Abu Ghraib, firefighters worked Friday to extinguish an oil-pipeline blaze ignited by insurgents' bombs, said Zubaai, the police official. The conduit connects Iraq's northern oil fields with a Baghdad-area refinery.

Turkmen Hold Anti-US Rally In Kirkuk: "No, No, America. Death To American Spies"

3/25/2005 Anatolia.com Inc.

KIRKUK, Iraq - About 250 Turkmen chanting anti-American slogans demonstrated in the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk on Friday, calling for the release of Turkmen detainees in US custody.

"No, no, America. Death to American spies," demonstrators from the Turkmen Front of Iraq party chanted following Friday prayers. "Down with federalism. Kirkuk is Iraqi."

"There are dozens of Turkmen being held in US custody," said Nejmaddin Kassab, a spokesman for the Turkmen Front. "We want our voices to be heard on this issue, because the new Iraq is a democracy."

At least 25 Turkmen have been arrested in raids in the last week, said Colonel Burhan Taib of the Kirkuk police force.

In addition, Anatolia news agency reported that the Turkmen Front offices were raided by US troops in mid-February, though there was no immediate confirmation of the raids from US forces.

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

Collaborator Colonel In Defense Ministry Captured

3/25/2005 KIRKUK, Iraq

An Iraqi colonel working at the defense ministry in Baghdad was captured by guerrillas Friday as he drove up to Kirkuk.

Colonel Sirajeddin Abdullah, 52, who is a Turkmen, was kidnapped on a road between Kirkuk and Tuz, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of the capital, and his whereabouts were unknown, said General Anwar Hamad Amin, who commands the 31st Brigade of the Iraqi army based in Kirkuk.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Veteran Slaps Down Idiotic Bullshit Smear That Fort Bragg Was The Wrong Place To Protest The War

Having spent fifteen years in the Army myself, from 1987 until 2003, including service as a medic on the frontlines of Operation Desert Storm, I can tell you, the only person insulting anyone is Rieckhoff.

"Michael is on his second rotation to Iraq with the 82nd. It is a crock of shit what Rieckhoff says. Many of the troops I have spoken with don't believe in this war. What Rieckhoff's doing is creating a hornets' nest, making things worse."

March 25, 2005 By Dennis Kyne

From a distance I heard Drew Plummer say, "Hey, Dennis!" He was standing in the Porta Potty crowd, in the middle of a line that was on the end of ten lines that were already twenty people deep.

It was eleven in the morning and it was packed; the rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina hadn't even started. In the distance, musician Ralph Baldwin, a Vietnam veteran, kicked off the rally with a haunting song from his album, Hold Onto The Dream.

I knew right then, and I get goose bumps as I write this, that I was in the right place, and this was definitely the right time. The South Carolina Stop the War coalition marched in unannounced as the rally began. Buses from New York City, Washington D.C., Atlanta and all points west arrived continuously, unloading people who walked onto the rally area and created a mass that organizers put at nearly 5,000 - far larger than the "small gathering" reported by some media outlets the following day. Organizer Lou Plummer said this was the biggest protest ever in Fayetteville.

The hot topic of the day was the simmering controversy over recent statements by Paul Rieckhoff, founder of the Manhattan-based soldier advocacy group Operation

Truth. Rieckhoff, an Iraq war veteran and a favorite of media outlets from CNN to The New York Times, stated that protesting in Fayetteville represented, "the height of insensitivity by the anti-war organizations" due to its proximity to Fort Bragg, home to the 82nd Airborne.

On Air America last week, he repeated the charge, getting into a heated argument with Unfiltered host Rachel Maddow. Aside from the insinuation that troops are trained with sensitivity, it is an incredible assumption to think that all troops on active duty are so dense they don't know we are there in their interests.

One could very easily infer from Rieckhoff's rhetoric that we were there to spit and curse at the troops. But there were no cries of "babykillers" coming from this crowd. In fact, there was nothing but love for the sons and daughters sent to fight a war sold to the public on a lie.

Rieckhoff seems to forget that the organizations hosting this event were all family members of service members who have died in action or are currently serving. In addition, the organizations were made up of many veterans, people who have served in both peace and wartime.

Rieckhoff, who is not an active duty soldier, is currently a 1st Lieutenant in the New York State National Guard.

Having spent fifteen years in the Army myself, from 1987 until 2003, including service as a medic on the frontlines of Operation Desert Storm, I can tell you, the only person insulting anyone is Rieckhoff.

Drew Plummer had just returned from the Navy the day before, having battled the machine long enough to know what it is doing to young women and men. Drew enlisted during his last year in high school, just three months before 9/11. He was released from his military obligations last week after a prolonged legal battle resulting from his exercise of the freedoms he supposedly was fighting to protect.

Home on leave, he had joined his father, Lou, at an anti-war vigil. When an Associated Press reporter asked his opinion on the war, Drew replied, "I just don't agree with what we're doing right now. I don't think our guys should be dying in Iraq. But I'm not a pacifist. I'll do my part."

He paid the price. The Navy charged Drew with making disloyal statements, under Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. At his hearing, he was asked if he "sympathizes" with the enemy or was considering "acts of sabotage" against the U.S. military. He replied, no, and was convicted and demoted.

Drew told me he had recognized early on that the war was waged under false pretenses. He said, "One of the ways to end war is resistance from the inside. We are making them aware with protests. Troops realize war is wrong sooner or later, and they start the moves to get out." This is what Drew did, and he received more than fifty letters from around the country in support. He'll always be a hero to me.

So will Jose Couso, the slain journalist from Spain. Jose was hit by a U.S. tank shell while inside the Palestine Hotel during the fall of Baghdad in April 2003.

Everyone in the world knew the hotel was where the world's media was operating out of. His brother, David, traveled from Madrid to Fayetteville in his honor. With the aid of an interpreter, David told me, "It is the right thing to do, when it comes to struggle you have to go to them and invite them because it is open to everyone. This is not an issue of confrontation, this is an issue of invitation, we invite everyone to come."

The majority of the people who arrived were from places other than Fayetteville. **That is not to say Fayetteville wasn't alive, and Fort Bragg soldiers and their family members weren't speaking out just as hard, if not harder, than the out-of-towners.**

On the condition of anonymity, of course, having been told by commanders on Fort Bragg not to get anywhere near the protest or else risk being punished, there were members of the 82nd Airborne, both current and former present at the protests.

The 82nd Airborne is on a steady rotation to combat zones, and Ann Roesler, who was staying in her son Michael's apartment while he was off fighting, had something to say about Rieckhoff's statement as well.

"Michael is on his second rotation to Iraq with the 82nd. It is a crock of shit what Rieckhoff says. Many of the troops I have spoken with don't believe in this war. What Rieckhoff's doing is creating a hornets' nest, making things worse."

I concur, so does Ward Reilly, of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who traveled from Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the event. Ward, a major organizer of the Jazz Funeral For Democracy held in New Orleans earlier this year, said, "One thing that separates us from them is credibility. They (Operation Truth) have no credibility, what Rieckhoff is doing is straight Nixonian."

Talk about telling the truth, the Winter Soldiers' testimony in 1971 was telling the truth, which led to the pulling of money for the war. What Rieckhoff is doing is participating in the division, knowing most likely that power divides each to conquer both."

Many simply asked, "What the hell is Rieckhoff doing?"

Responses from Military Families Speak Out, the "Gold Star" mothers and veterans of this current war and many wars past said that Rieckhoff, a young man who is more than likely loaded with good intentions, doesn't have any idea what he is doing. Rieckhoff wants to blame the White House and everyone else, when the fact is everyone is accountable to the truth. What truth is his operation telling? That the White House lied? Most people in Fayetteville knew that before Rieckhoff ever deployed to Iraq.

Kevin and Joyce Lucey were telling the truth as they spoke to the thousands of anti-war protesters. Kevin Lucey told of finding his son, Jeffrey, in the basement of their home strangled with a garden hose. Jeffrey, who was only 23, had left dog tags of two Iraqi soldiers he said he was forced to shoot unarmed on his bed. After hearing these remarkable parents, I was in tears - so were many others.

Jeffrey's fate is similar to many of the 11,000 Desert Storm veterans I served with who are now dead. As I climbed the stage, held the microphone, and told the crowd I wanted to have a cry, I had to remind myself and the thousands of listeners, "everyone in Fayetteville knows soldiers don't cry." I spoke about depleted uranium and the fact that 18,500 Desert Storm Veterans are incarcerated for rape or violent crimes in our federal and state prisons. I mentioned these troops currently are coming home with something deeper than PTSD, it is Soldier's Heart (WWI), Shell Shock (WWII), the 1,000 yard stare (Vietnam)? I asked, "What will they call it this war?"

As the crowd applauded and I left the stage, I was reminded that I was in the right place and it was the right time.

It was the right thing, and no 1st Lieutenant in the United States military, still collecting money in a time of war, is going to pass himself off as truth-teller to me, or any of the thousands of anti-war protesters I shared the day with in Fayetteville on the second anniversary of an illegal invasion.

While Rieckhoff, and others, believe Fayetteville was the wrong place to protest; Drew Plummer, the Luceys and thousands of others were down south saying, "Bring Them Home Now, we don't support an illegal war." For most troops and their families, that is the only operational truth worth telling.

Dennis Kyne is a military veteran who served for fifteen years in the U.S. Army, and was a battlefield medic on the frontlines of Operation Desert Storm, where he saw first-hand the effects of Depleted Uranium weapons and PB Tablets. He is the author of the self-published memoir, Support the Truth, and a musician. For more info, see www.denniskyne.com.

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

Anti-Occupation Union Leader Target Of Assassination Attempt

March 25 nosweat.org

General Union of Oil Employees, Basrah Iraq – Basrah – Bab al-Zober

Dear Friends

Assassination attempt of senior activist of GUOE

In this time of harsh conditions for the region and amidst the threats of the difficult period in which Iraqis are living and the predominance of evil forces over the good persons who work for the betterment of a great Iraq, there is a group of people who have devoted themselves to working in and protecting the oil sector as the sole resource which Iraqis possess.

Yesterday Mr. Samir Yasin Sabbah, head of the Section of the Union in the Fao Sector, was the object of a bomb that destroyed his car.

This aimed to terminate his work and to further the interests of those poor souls who seek only their own not the wider good. At the time of this terrible attempt on the life on the unionist, whom God in his justice saved from death as he practiced his honourable work in the service of noble Iraq, we call upon all decent persons and friends of the Union abroad to express their solidarity with us in the hope of preventing the criminal acts presently directed against the Union in Iraq.

Long live the heroic union organisations, Long live the brave working class.

Shame and dishonour to the cowardly terrorists who do not want stability for this country; may God stay their hands.

With respect,

Hasan Juma `Awad

For further Contact :

Munir Chalabi - Email address: Chalabi@screaming.net

Ewa Jasiewicz -Email address: freelance@mailworks.org

Iraq Collaborators Scapegoat Foreign Arabs

(Los Angeles Times, March 23, 2005, Pg. 1)

The Iraqi government is using strict new residency rules to detain and expel non-Iraqi Arabs. So far the program has swept up mostly Syrians, Sudanese, Saudis and Egyptians, and about 250 persons have been told to leave the country.

MORE:

Two Jordanian Students Murdered In Iraq

March 20 (KUNA)

Two Jordanian students were found dead in Hilla, South of Baghdad, while Jordanian charge d'affaires was leaving the country back home.

Locals in Hilla, 100 kilometers South of Baghdad, were quoted by sources here as saying the two men were studying at Babel university.

Their passports were found on top of their bodies, said the sources, but did not disclose their names. No other details are known yet.

The killing was apparently in retaliation of an attack, allegedly carried out by a Jordanian national, in Hilla last month that killed 125 people and injured 150 others.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Approval Slips To 45%, Lowest Of His Presidency

[Thanks to PB who sent this in.]

Mar 25 By Bill Nichols, USA TODAY

President Bush's approval rating has fallen to 45%, the lowest point of his presidency, according to a new USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll.

The finding, in a poll of 1,001 adults Monday through Wednesday, is a dip from 52% in a poll taken last week. Bush's previous lowest rating, 46%, was recorded last May.

Independent political analysts said the drop may reflect opposition to the White House and Congress intervening in the Terri Schiavo matter.

A USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll last weekend found that 61% would have a spouse's feeding tube removed under similar circumstances.

The new poll found the largest drop for Bush came among men, self-described conservatives and churchgoers.

Bush's handling of the economy also appears to have contributed to the poll's findings.

Bush's economic ratings:

59% said economic conditions are getting worse, Bush's highest negative number on the economy in two years.

32% rated economic conditions good or excellent, the lowest rating in over a year.

A Gallup Poll taken in the same period found rising concern about gas costs. Fuel and oil prices tied with unemployment, jobs and wages for top economic concerns.

Take Your Pick

Rumsfeld Praises Ties With Argentina

(Washingtonpost.com, March 23, 2005)

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his Argentine counterpart discussed the expansion of scientific cooperation and joint military exercises, with the Pentagon chief praising stronger ties between the two nations.

U.S. And Argentina Fail To Renew Military Exercises

(Washingtonpost.com, March 23, 2005)

Argentina and Washington failed to reach an agreement granting U.S. troops immunity from prosecution in the South American country, a major stumbling block in efforts to resume joint military exercises.

Rumsfeld "Can't Imagine" Why Venezuela Ordering More Weapons

(Miami Herald, March 24, 2005, Pg. 1)

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued the strongest U.S. condemnation yet of Venezuela's planned purchase of 100,000 AK-47 rifles, saying he couldn't "imagine why" Venezuela needed the weapons. [Golly, maybe because they got oil? And they intend to keep their own hands on it? And Rumsfeld and the rest of the gang of corporate criminals and traitors in DC seem to have this thing about sending U.S. troops to invade other people's countries to steal their oil? Could that possibly be it?]

CLASS WAR NEWS

"It's A War Of The Poor Against The Rich"

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

"It's a war of the poor against the rich," she said. "It is understandable: These young men are mostly from remote villages. They have no fridges, no radio at home. After their triumph at the White House, they think the city is theirs. It's winners' fever."

Mar 25, 2005 By BAGILA BUKHARBAYEVA, Associated Press Writer

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan - Gunfire, wailing sirens, dark deserted streets and groups of young men with armbands helping police confront looters: so began the Kyrgyz capital's second night after the country's sudden shift of power.

Hundreds wandered the rain-slick streets in mobs Friday, throwing stones at cars and seemingly seeking a repeat of the previous night, when the city was theirs and the unpopular President Askar Akayev had fled after 15 years in charge of this former Soviet republic in Central Asia.

The Red Cross reported dozens injured in the turmoil Thursday, while lawmaker Temir Sariyev said three people had been killed and about 100 injured overnight.

All the goods in this Turkish-owned Beta Stores mall were swept away in a rampage the previous night, but people sifting through the remaining trash still found things to take: metal scrap, empty boxes, broken mannequins.

Almazbek Abdykadyrov was mounting several wooden boards on his bicycle.

"I want to build a house; I don't have any material myself. Others are taking, so I'm taking, too," he said.

Two teenagers carried a sink, saying it was "a present from Beta Stores."

Shops that escaped damage Thursday night were closed, or their owners hung signs reading "we are with the people" in hopes of warding off attacks.

An elderly woman told me she was shaking as she watched the looting overnight and cars passing by her windows until 3 a.m. stuffed with carpets and other goods, some even hauling refrigerators and other large appliances or pieces of furniture on the roof.

One of the officers guarding TsUM, a senior police lieutenant who would not give his name, said police were ready to resume service.

He was one of the police officers who tried to defend the government building on Thursday, and his memories of the seizure were still fresh.

"It was slaughter," he said. "We were counting our missing like in war." He said dozens of police officers were injured, many seriously.

One of the chains badly pillaged was Narodny shops, which belong to Akayev's son Aidar.

Opposition supporters camping outside the government headquarters in Bishkek in three army tents denied their involvement in the night rampage.

"It's those government-hired provocateurs who were trying to spoil our rally yesterday," said Kadyrbai Sodirov, referring to hundreds of men in plainclothes who clashed with the anti-Akayev rally before the seizure of the government building known as the White House

But Saniya Sagnayeva, an analyst from the International Crisis Group, said she believed most looters had been on the opposition side Thursday.

"It's a war of the poor against the rich," she said. "It is understandable: These young men are mostly from remote villages. They have no fridges, no radio at home. After their triumph at the White House, they think the city is theirs. It's winners' fever."

Received:

ARMY CO NEEDS HELP

From: Ward Reilly
To: GI Special
Sent: March 24, 2005
Subject: CO needs help

This is shareable...Ward

Dear sir,

My name is Hamza Utman. I am serving as a private in the US Army, at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. Last summer I realized that my conscience would not allow me to kill another human and that I could not participate in war. I decided that as a pacifist I needed to seek status as a conscientious objector and be separated from my military service.

I applied for conscientious objector status (1-0), and an honorable discharge in December, 2004. My case has been advancing according to the army regulation. **I recently read the reports made by the chaplain and investigating officer who have reviewed my case. Neither of the two men believed in my sincerity and both recommended that I be denied reclassification.**

I have submitted a rebuttal statement and now the case will reviewed by the other various levels of command. I fear that this decision will not be in my favor. Should I be denied my recognition, I will be stuck in a difficult position. With my unit's scheduled deployment date in January 2006, I know I have little time to take the appropriate steps to achieve my goal.

I need more support.

I have no one here on post who supports me in my decision.

Although there are soldiers who believe in my sincerity, their opinions mean nothing to the Army. I am rapidly nearing the point where written applications and testimonies will not be sufficient in convincing the Army to release me from my obligation to them.

I fear I may need to resist the Army entirely soon. I need your help. I need your advice. I need your support. I may need publicity for my case. I need to show the Army that I will not be ignored.

I would be happy to forward a hardcopy of my claim and entire case packet and answer any other questions you may have for me.

I am grateful for any help you can give me or anyone else you may refer me to.

I invite you to circulate this letter among whomever you wish.

Thank you and may peace be with you.

Sincerely, Hamza Utman
hamza-asadullah@lycos.com

REPLY:

The following are excellent sources of help:

1. The GI Rights Hotline: <http://www.objector.org/girights/>
2. The Military Law Task Force: <http://www.nlg.org/mltf/>

How Can I Help?

From: AH
To: GI Special
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2005 4:41 PM

Check it out:

**“Canada Denies Refugee Status to American Soldier
Ruling Seen as Blow to Other Deserters in Iraq War”**

It was not uncommon for slaves to be sent back to the southern states, after they thought they had reached freedom in the northern states.

It is also unfortunate, that the northern states were frequently no kinder to black people than the southern states.

During the 19th century riots of New York, countless numbers of "niggers" were tortured and lynched, for no other reason than the color of their skin.

When greed enters the heart of men, they often descend below the depravity of animals...

We must be like the abolitionists. We must not rest comfortably until all good men are safe and free.

If we fail in our human responsibilities, we will be among those who will suffer dearly for it...

If there is anything I can do to help these courageous young people, please let me know.

H

REPLY: A good place to begin is becoming active with Veterans For Peace. You don't have to be a veteran to join, and there are chapters all over the country that need help. Check out a location near you at: <http://www.veteransforpeace.org/>

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