

GI SPECIAL 3A81:

**FREE THE IRAQ 140,000:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



A US soldier, Baquba 3.25.05 (AFP/Ali Yussef)

**“This Is How They Treat
Their Veterans”
David Beals Prepares To Return
To Iraq Haunted By Post
Traumatic Stress Disorder And
A Suicide Attempt**

From: Dawnmarie Beals

To: GI Special

Sent: March 26, 2005

Subject: This is a story put out in the paper about my husband. This is how they treat their Veterans.

Savannah Morning News

David Beals, a 3rd Infantry Division soldier, is scheduled to leave Tuesday to return to Iraq. His wife, Dawnmarie, says he's not ready, mentally, to go yet.

Soldier David Beals thought the night visions of his wartime experiences from Iraq were exorcised for good.

At first, he tried to wash them away with alcohol. That didn't work.

What did was the cleansing love of the woman who would become his wife, and her two small children, who he adopted as his own.

But as Beals' 3rd Infantry Division unit trained to redeploy - as his leaders started describing the deadly dangers awaiting them again in Iraq - the nightmares returned.

David Beals returned to the bottle.

And a bottle of Percocet his wife, Dawnmarie, had been prescribed after surgery.

Now, a month and a half after that suicide attempt, Beals is about to rejoin his unit in Iraq. He's scheduled to leave Tuesday.

Both husband and wife are worried he's not quite well enough yet.

David is now more hopeful.

"I don't feel like I did ... before," the soldier said. "But I have my days. I have my moments."

Dawnmarie, however, isn't as confident.

"My husband is not ready. I'm OK with him deploying. He's been there before. But not like this. He needs help. I just don't want him to go until he gets that help."

His superiors should realize this, she said. "They told him that he has to be mentally prepared to go over there."

Dawnmarie doesn't think he is.

David Beals started attending counseling after the suicide attempt. He was told, he said, that he has post traumatic stress disorder and would need at least five weeks of therapy.

After talking to his unit commanders, Beals' counselor said the soldier could get two weeks of therapy here and the remaining counseling for PTSD in the war zone, Beals said.

He has little choice but to comply.

After the suicide attempt, the soldier went absent without leave. When he returned, he even thought about applying for conscientious objector status, like Sgt. Kevin Benderman, a member of the same unit.

In the end, though, David Beals made a deal to stay in the Army and return to the war.

The specialist had made sergeant, but the promotion is being held up, according to the couple and Army legal documents. The Brass looks at his status as if he were on probation. Foul up and he could end up in the stockade.

Husband and wife are worried.

They have been since that January night Dawnmarie found David on the bathroom floor.

She wasn't really surprised.

The soldier had been out of sorts for weeks, if not months. Nightmares. The redeployment. The vague sense that something inside was dreadfully wrong.

Without giving much thought to what he was doing, he said, he emptied the 30 pills into his mouth.

"I just wanted it to end," he said.

It very nearly did.

With the help of a friend, Dawnmarie got her husband to the hospital, where they pumped his stomach.

That night - and for several nights afterward - the concern was that he would try it again. He was put on suicide watch even though, he says, his superiors told him they thought the attempt was a fake, a means to get out of deployment.

The Army escort sent to accompany the soldier from the hospital was on crutches. It was easy, Beals said later, to literally run away once they got out of the hospital.

He was absent without leave for about two weeks.

But he returned on his own to face possible charges of desertion. Confined, he considered a request for conscientious objector status.

"But I don't believe I fit that description," he said. "You have to be against all wars. I'm not."

The Army worked out a deal for him to rejoin his unit.

In the meantime, he gets sergeant's pay but not the stripes. His promotion is being held up illegally, Beals' military lawyer has argued.

Both Beals say, suicide attempt aside, he is being singled out because they have publicly questioned his unit's leadership's ability to command. They say that's the reason, too, that he's not getting the kind of counseling he needs before returning to Iraq.

Dawnmarie has even taken matters up with Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, the division commander who's now in Iraq, and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. William Grant.

"I'm just afraid my soldier will go over there and he won't return," she said.

Of course, she acknowledges all spouses feel that way.

She's an assistant leader for one of the division's family readiness groups - a network of spouses and families from a unit that help one another get through deployments and other rough times.

But how many of those spouses, she asks, would feel fine with their soldiers heading off to war, rifle in hand, life on the line, just weeks after a suicide attempt.

"I don't care what I have to do," she said. "I just want to protect my husband."

MORE:

FOLLOW UP 3-20-2005

Soldier Who Attempted Suicide Leaves For Iraq

Local News Web posted March 21, 2005 Savannah Morning News

David Beals, the 3rd Infantry Division soldier who acknowledged that he attempted suicide, then went absent without leave just before he was scheduled to redeploy to Iraq, flew out of Hunter Army Airfield Saturday evening to rejoin the division in the war-torn country, said his wife, Dawnmarie.

Beals was scheduled to leave March 15, but the deployment was delayed, she said. The Army gave no reason for the postponement, she added.

While the Army considers Beals to be a specialist, documents show that he has earned the rank of sergeant, a promotion the service says is being held up because of the circumstances surrounding the soldier's missed deployment earlier this year.

Beals' military lawyer has been contesting that ruling.

Beals was told by military counselors he has post-traumatic stress disorder.

His wife said he is supposed to be receiving counseling in Iraq. [Don't hold your breath.]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

MARINE KILLED IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE

March 26, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-03-17C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action March 25.

TWO TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIERS KILLED, TWO WOUNDED

March 26, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-03-18C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed around 8:30 a.m., March 26, when their patrol in southwest Baghdad was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

Two other Soldiers were wounded.

U.S. Car Bomb Explosion Kills Two Civilians

26th March, 2005 Big News Network.com

Two Iraqi civilians were killed in Baghdad Saturday when U.S. forces detonated a booby-trapped car.

Security sources said the car -- left in the densely-populated Karada neighborhood in central Baghdad -- was discovered by Iraqi police late Friday night.

The U.S. forces were called in detonated it Saturday morning.

After evacuating the area and taking other precautionary measures, two civilians were killed and the windows of shops and apartment buildings in the area were shattered.

Residents accused the American troops of not taking enough precautions, blaming them for the death of the civilians.

IED Pressure Kills By Indirection; Deaths In Road Wrecks Up Sharply

Mar. 18 (UPI)

The U.S. Army is investigating a spate of vehicle mishaps in Iraq that have involved armored Humvees and claimed 14 lives this year.

Army officials are looking into possible reasons for the accidents -- including added armor changing the center of gravity of the vehicles and drivers' lack of skill in handling the large Humvees at high speeds, USA Today reported Friday.

USA Today said one cause may be soldiers speeding through areas suspected of having roadside explosives or the in-theater addition of armor changing the vehicles' center of gravity.

A total 39 Army personnel were killed in vehicle accidents in 2004.

Car Bomb At CentCom City Theatre Kills Briton, Wounds 12

Mar 19, 2005 By Odai Sirri (Reuters)

A car bomb killed one Briton and wounded at least 12 people on Saturday at a theater frequented by Westerners in Qatar, the command center for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq which began exactly two years ago.

"The explosion was caused by a rigged car. One person was killed and 12 were wounded, of whom 10 have left hospital," the Interior Ministry said in a statement carried on the state news agency QNA.

Qatari sources said the attack in the capital Doha was carried out by a suicide bomber -- the first attack of its kind in oil-producing Qatar, which hosts the U.S. military's Central Command.

A member of the investigating team told Reuters a medium-sized vehicle had slammed into the one-storey building housing the theater, near a British school in Doha.

Anti-U.S. sentiment has been high in the region over the Iraq war and perceived U.S. support for Israel against the Palestinians.

U.S. Command Orders Troops To Commit Criminal Violations Of Geneva Convention In Ramadi

27 March 2005 Aljazeera

US soldiers stormed a women and children's hospital in the Iraqi city of Ramadi on Friday, a hospital director said.

Dr Ahmad Ibrahim, the assistant director of the city's pediatric hospital, told Aljazeera on Saturday that the soldiers entered the hospital after an explosion on Ramadi's main road.

The soldiers ordered medical staff and patients to leave, he said, before destroying the hospital's doors and detaining members of staff.

Ibrahim said the forces stormed an operating theatre where a doctor was carrying out Caesarean surgery. They initially ordered the doctor to leave, he said, but when she told them the mother's life was at risk they allowed her to carry out the surgery under guard. [If the "guard" was present in the operating theatre, and not disinfected, and the patient infects and dies, the charge for that particular act may be manslaughter. That's in addition to the charges having to do with the attack on the hospital, the damages inflicted, and the detention of the staff; all criminal acts in themselves.]

The assistant director also said that US troops raided Ramadi and Haditha General Hospitals a few days ago, and questioned whether doctors had become military targets and if the raids were aimed at closing hospitals.

He also called on every "honorable Iraqi official" to immediately take action to stop such operations.

[The officer ordering this is a common criminal. Unfortunately, it's not likely there will be an arrest, court-martial, and appropriate punishment, at least from the

Occupation side. However, by the rules of war, the resistance may also perform the arrest, court-martial, and inflict the appropriate punishment.]

TROOP NEWS

Singapore Ends Military Operations In Iraq

Mar 19, 2005 SINGAPORE (Reuters)

Singapore's biggest navy warship returned home from the Gulf on Saturday, marking an end to the city-state's military operations in Iraq.

The Defence Ministry said the "RSS Resolution", a Landing Ship Tank (LST) used to transport troops and equipment, and its 180 servicemen had returned to Singapore after a three-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf.

"There are currently no personnel and military assets in the Gulf region," a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said.

The LST, which carries landing craft and has helicopter landing pads, was used to help patrol key oil terminals and provide support for helicopters and warships.

PENTAGON ADMISSION: IRAQ WAR HOPELESS CASE: RESISTANCE FORCES UP TO 20,000

Mar. 18 (UPI)

Adm. Lowell Jacoby told the Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday the insurgency is likely between 15,000 to 20,000-men strong.

In November 2003, U.S. Central Command chief Gen. John Abizaid estimated the size of the then-fledgling insurgency at no more than 5,000 people.

[Generally accepted: it takes minimum 10 occupation troops per resistance fighter to have any hope of holding a country down. That means minimum 150,000-200,000 troops, assuming Jacoby isn't low-balling to score political points. Even the sorry-ass stooges in the Iraqi occupation government say the number is really

200,000. Either way, with anything less than 10 to 1, every death is a death in vain in a hopeless war. As they said during Vietnam, "Who wants to be the last one to die for a mistake?"]

Incompetent Commander Blamed For Bulgarian Soldier's Death

19 March 2005 Novinite Ltd

The final results on the case with the killed Bulgarian soldier in Iraq will be presented on Monday, the Chief of General Staff General Nikola Kolev said Saturday.

An anonymous letter, allegedly written by a colleague of the killed soldier, blamed his death on the passivity and carelessness of the commandment of Bulgarian contingent in Iraq. [Big surprise. Those are the exactly the qualities required for high command the world over. Along with friends in high places.]

Jr. Sgt. Gurdev died when his patrol, which had fired warning shots to stop an Iraqi civilian car, received heavy fire from the direction of a U.S. Army communications facility 150m away.

Paredes Charged For Refusing To Board Ship

Mar. 26, 2005 By SETH HETTENA, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - A Navy sailor opposed to the war in Iraq who refused to board his ship bound for the Persian Gulf will face a special court-martial, the military equivalent of a civilian misdemeanor trial, the Navy announced Friday.

The Navy said it has referred charges of absence without leave and missing movement against Petty Officer 3rd Class Pablo Paredes.

Paredes, a 23-year-old from the New York City borough of the Bronx, faces a maximum of one year in jail, a forfeiture of pay, reduction in rank and a bad-conduct discharge if he's convicted. No date for a court-martial has been set.

Paredes remains on legal hold, assigned to a transient personnel unit at Naval Base San Diego, said Capt. Jacquie Yost, a Navy spokeswoman. He is required to show up for work every day but is free to leave the base at the end of the day.

Jeremy Warren, a civilian attorney who is representing Paredes, said his client is looking forward to defending himself and moving on with his life.

"He wasn't naive and he didn't expect the Navy would turn a blind eye to it but he is glad that they're not seeking a general court-martial" -- a proceeding reserved for the most serious offenses, Warren said.

Paredes has applied for contentious objector status and a decision is expected next week, he said. A Navy chaplain who met with Paredes in January wrote that it was "morally imperative" that his request be granted, Warren said.

Paredes, a weapons control technician who joined the Navy in 2000, refused to board the USS Bonhomme Richard Dec. 6 as it left for a six-month tour in the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Wearing a T-shirt that read "Like a Cabinet Member, I Resign," Paredes staged a news conference at the Navy pier.

He told reporters he was young and naive when he joined the Navy and said he "never imagined, in a million years, we would go to war with somebody who had done nothing to us."

He said he hoped his protest might inspire other sailors, soldiers and Marines to refuse to take part in the war.

Paredes' case has attracted both critics and supporters. Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, a Fox News commentator who served in the Reagan White House, has labeled Paredes a coward, while Ron Kovic, an author and disabled Vietnam veteran, said he admired Paredes for his courageous opposition to the war.

"It Never Gets You Ready For Your Own Son Going Through That."

"I'd say the majority of people just get what they have on the news. How do you say it, just 'injured,' and they assume it's just a slight injury. It could be pretty much a life-threatening injury like in my case," said Sgt Garriga.

March 17, 2005 By Leah Hope, WLS Television

Among the wounded is Army Specialist Gabe Garriga of Aurora.

The Garriga family has lived all over the world with their father's military service. When he retired they bought a home in Rochelle, Illinois.

It was no surprise that two of their sons went into the service. The youngest joined the National Guard but was immediately activated and sent to Iraq.

Simple pleasures do not go unnoticed in the Garriga family. It has been two years since they were able to sit together without fearing the youngest Gabriel was in danger.

"I praise God every single day. I am so thankful," said Gisele Garriga, mother.

On July 14, 2003, Sgt. Gabriel Garriga manned the gun turret of a HumVee at a checkpoint in Iraq. When his team tried to stop a civilian car, they crashed, the gas tanks exploded and Sgt. Garriga was thrown into the flames.

"Everything was all orange on fire, and I was thrown off the vehicles, and patted myself down, and they pulled me out," said Sgt. Garriga.

He was burned on 35 percent of his body. The burns had an effect on his internal organs, which swelled and nearly suffocated him.

Doctors pronounced him dead three times.

Ildefonso Garriga -- a retired Army sergeant -- says his years of service never prepared him for this.

"It never gets you ready for your own son going through that. It's tough. I haven't cried so much as I have cried the last year and a half," said Ildefonso, father.

At first, the entire family gathered at a military hospital in Texas. But after a month, the family decided to sell their home so Gisele could stay at her son's bedside full-time. She stayed with him for 20 months.

"To see your son struggling for his life, it's something I don't want anybody else to go through," said Gisele.

At 20-years-old, Sgt. Garriga survived thirty surgeries and survived the odds. He and his family know what other families face when it is reported that a serviceman or woman was wounded in Iraq.

"I'd say the majority of people just get what they have on the news. How do you say it, just 'injured,' and they assume it's just a slight injury. It could be pretty much a life-threatening injury like in my case," said Sgt Garriga.

"My heart breaks. I just go, 'Oh, my lord, please give strength to the family' when they hear the news. I just pray for the family because I know. I know," said Gisele.

Sgt. Garriga still has to endure one more surgery to repair the damage from the internal swelling.

In the meantime, he has been working for the military hospital's public affairs division and trying to help other recovering soldiers.

Pentagon Denies Mother's Plea For Photo Of Her Fallen Son;

“They Don't Want The Country To See How Many People Are Coming Back In Caskets.”

Lt. Col. Barry Venable, A Defense Department Stupid Liar, Gets Caught In A Stupid Lie

"It's bad enough that they won't let the country see the pictures of the caskets, but a grieving mother?" asked Meredith. "It's unforgivable after what I lost."

March 24, 2005 By Rebecca Carr, Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — A single red rose in hand, Karen Meredith leans over her son's simple white stone marker at Arlington National Cemetery.

Tears fall before words.

It's her first visit since she buried 1st Lt. Kenneth Michael Ballard, a fourth generation soldier, last fall.

Still fresh, like the soil churned behind her son's grave for another row of dead, is her anger. Anger at the way the Pentagon refused her sole wish when her son was killed by a sniper last May to photograph his casket returning from Iraq.

Meredith wanted to capture the way fellow soldiers respectfully draped the American flag across the casket, tucking the sides just so, and the way an honor guard watched over him as he was unloaded from a cargo plane.

But the Pentagon firmly said "no." It was against regulations and would violate the privacy of family members of other slain soldiers.

"It's dishonorable and disrespectful to the families," said Meredith. "They say it's for privacy, but it's really because they don't want the country to see how many people are coming back in caskets."

The Pentagon's reasons for denying the media access to the caskets returning to Dover Air Force Base are widely reported and legally contested. **What isn't so well known is that the Pentagon refuses to allow the families of dead soldiers access to the caskets returning to Dover and other military bases.**

"It's bad enough that they won't let the country see the pictures of the caskets, but a grieving mother?" asked Meredith. "It's unforgivable after what I lost."

Meredith says she was prepared to lose her son in battle. What she wasn't prepared for was the way the military treated her when he died from a sniper's bullet in the head.

She doesn't understand how a single photograph of his casket for her own personal album would violate her own privacy.

"It is ironic that this policy denies us the very freedoms of the press and speech my son — and so many like him — gave their lives to protect," Meredith says.

Open government advocates are rallying behind Meredith and other family members who want to see photos of their loved ones at Dover.

They view this as another attempt by the Bush administration to keep the actions of the government secret. They suspect that the ban is to prevent the public from getting too upset about the war in Iraq. [Duh.]

"I think it's atrocious that they won't allow photos," said Rick Blum, executive director of Openthegovernment.org, an umbrella organization of conservative and liberal organizations concerned about excessive secrecy in government. "The pictures show the true cost of war and the honor and the respect that the military gives to their sacrifice."

Other open government advocates suspect that there may be political reasons for denying the public access to photograph the caskets.

"The policy keeps these remarkable images off the front pages and off television as if out of sight could mean out of mind," said Tom Blanton, executive director of the National Security Archive, a nonpartisan research institute based in Washington. "The policy disguises this steady, mounting toll."

The Pentagon's policy of banning photos at Dover is being challenged in federal court by Ralph Begleiter, a journalism professor from the University of Delaware.

Begleiter has requested all still and moving images of fallen soldiers returning in caskets dating back to October 2001 when the war in Afghanistan started. He filed his request under the Freedom of Information Act, a federal law that requires agencies to make records and materials available to the public, with the support of the National Security Archive.

"This is not a partisan political issue," said Begleiter in a release about his lawsuit posted on the Internet. "It's all about allowing the American people to accurately and completely assess the price of war." The case is still pending.

The Department of Defense defends its policy, which was created in 1991 by then-secretary of Defense Dick Cheney. The policy protects the privacy of families who have lost loved ones in the war and who may not want their son or daughter's casket inadvertently photographed, said Lt. Col. Barry Venable, a Defense Department spokesperson.

What families of dead soldiers really want is "the expeditious return of their remains," not photographs at Dover, Venable said. [Unbelievable: the asshole is telling Karen Meredith what she wants and doesn't want, never mind what she says she wants, a photo of her son coming home the last time.]

The department strongly discourages family members from coming to Dover to watch the caskets of the dead unload. "It's a tarmac, not a parade ground," Venable said. The caskets arriving at Dover are similar to the "hearse pulling up to the back of a funeral home," he said.

Venable, the Pentagon spokesperson, said there have only been two instances where the department has permitted photographs of caskets since the policy was put in place in 1991. [Like most contemptible arrogant chairborne assholes, he now proceeds to dig his own grave with his dismissive sneering nasty little mouth. He lies. And he gets caught lying.]

The National Security Archive keeps its own tally of examples where the images of caskets were released to the public.

The organization cites eight other examples where photos of caskets arriving at military bases were allowed, including the return of Americans killed in the 1998 al-Qaida terrorist bombing in East Africa; the caskets of six dead soldiers who died in a training accident in Kuwait in March 2001 were photographed at Ramstein Air Base; and in September 2001, the Air Force published a photograph of the casket carrying the remains of a victim of the al-Qaida attacks on the Pentagon.

[So much for stupid Col. Venable's stupid lie. Now all the world can see what he is. But he's only the dimwitted shit-mouth liar serving the obscene criminal who runs the Pentagon. You remember him? The one who got caught using a machine to sign his name to condolence letters to the families of the KIA? The enemy isn't in Iraq. The enemy is running the government in Washington DC.]

MORE:

"What's the difference between 'Jurassic Park' and the Army?" asked a soldier on the staff of the Joint Chiefs.

The answer: "One is an amusement park dominated by dinosaurs. The other is just a movie."

Family Uprooted To Care For Paralyzed Soldier

03/19/05 WorldNow and KLTV

DALLAS Army Specialist Kyle Burleson was so eager to join the military that he paid for shoulder surgery on football injury that otherwise would have kept him out.

He was the top gunner on a Humvee when he was shot in the cheek during a firefight with Iraqi insurgents last August.

When he awoke in a hospital, Burleson was paralyzed from the neck down.

The 21-year-old soldier is trying to will life back into his limp body.

Burleson has lived at the Dallas Veterans Affairs hospital since October.

Now, his family's learning how to care for him when he goes home in a few weeks.

His mother Tammy left her job in Louisiana, and his 20-year-old wife Kristi left the couple's apartment near Fort Hood, where Burleson was stationed, and moved to Dallas.

Burleson's V-A room is covered with get-well cards and his Purple Heart certificate.

Over the window hangs a large American flag signed by soldiers in his unit.

Camp Bucca Soldier May Appeal Army General Discharge

(New York Daily News, March 22, 2005)

Pvt. Deanna Allen said she may appeal her general discharge because it will deny her some veterans' benefits. She returned to her North Carolina home after being booted from the military for baring her breasts during a mud-wrestling party at the U.S. Army's main prison in Iraq. [The high ranking officers who ordered the torture of prisoners haven't broken a sweat. But showing some skin gets you kicked out and your benefits taken. Bullshit.]

Dumbest Notion Of 2005, So Far: Report Suggests Use Of Antigang Strategies To Fight Insurgency

(Boston Globe, March 23, 2005)

A new Army War College analysis concludes that, instead of fighting a ragtag army, American troops in Iraq are dealing with an enemy that more closely resembles sophisticated, violent street gangs, similar to the powerful Central American groups spawned more than a decade ago in Los Angeles. [Couple

small problems: gangs weren't supported, defended, and hidden by the overwhelming majority of the civilian population; gangs weren't former soldiers armed with every imaginable weapon including SAMs; gangs weren't trying to rid Los Angeles of a foreign occupation army -- but otherwise a brilliant idea.]

The 2-7 Back In Hell

March 21, 2005 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times Staff Writer

Just as the 2-7 was part of the force that swept across the desert and into Baghdad in the opening campaign of the war, its second tour is marked with a measure of leading-edge distinction, too: **It's here as a newly organized "unit of action" in the Army's first division to deploy as such. [Danger: Latest DoD brain fart.]**

This time, the 2-7 is in Saddam's hometown.

Soldiers agree that it's no fun being back in Iraq, but this time, they had time to get used to the idea and an inkling of when they'd be back home.

"As soon as we got back (to Stewart), we knew we were coming back and we knew about when. (But) at Christmas 2002, we still didn't know we were on our way to Iraq" for the first tour, said Capt. Jason Freidt, 31, of Temecula, Calif., commander of Charlie Company, a tank company formerly organic to 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor.

Capt. Jason Freidt, 31, of Temecula, Calif., commander of Charlie Company, a tank company formerly organic to 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, said that morale among his soldiers has been a little low....

Other soldiers are resigned to being here and are even comfortable with it, finding ways to look at it and make it all right.

"I guess the good thing about being here before is that you fall into the rhythm real fast," said Staff Sgt. Chad Urquhart, 27, of Los Alamos, N.M., a squad leader with Outlaw Platoon, Alpha Company, one of the two infantry companies at 2-7.

Missouri National Guard Soldiers Fucked Over

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 21, 2005, Pg. 1)

Some Missouri National Guard soldiers in Louisiana are stewing because their active-duty stint has been extended a month and a half past Easter, when they thought they would be back home.

Army Officer Is Charged In Abuse Of Recruits At Fort Knox

(Lexington Herald-Leader, Ky., March 24, 2005)

An Army captain has been charged with dereliction of duty at Fort Knox, Ky., for failing to stop the abuse of basic training recruits, the Army said. Four drill sergeants under the officer, Capt. William C. Fulton, 35, face charges of abusing recruits.

NY CITY CIVILIANS, BE ADVISED: BUY ARMORED VESTS & BE VERY VERY AFRAID

March 19, 2005 By MARCELA ROJAS THE JOURNAL NEWS

Spc. Clinton Galvin returned from Iraq in January and said he spent the first month with his family and taking road trips. The 23-year-old, who has a penchant for danger, said he's still trying to figure out what he wants to do with his life.

Galvin said "What I really like is getting shot at because you have to react and maneuver. I also enjoyed raiding houses. It's such an adrenaline rush. I would do that for the rest of my life."

Galvin recently took the written test for the New York Police Department and is awaiting results. [Given their record of killing unarmed civilians, he's a sure bet.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Cuts Off Baghdad: Roads Out Become No-Go Zones

Mar 17 By Dan Murphy, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BAGHDAD - Mohammed Ghazi Umron has a front-row seat for the perils of Iraq's roads: the cab of his truck.

The road north through Baquba? "Pretty dangerous," he says. Due south through Mahmudiyah? "It's bad, but I haven't heard of any drivers being killed there in a few

weeks." How about west through Abu Ghraib and on to Fallujah? "Very, very dangerous. We try not to go past Abu Ghraib."

Baghdad is still one of the most dangerous cities in the world. It is ringed in peril. Travel in any direction a few miles outside city limits and the risks intensify.

The areas immediately north and west of the city have also become shorthand for a no-go zone.

The frontier of danger around the city flexes and shifts almost daily, sometimes surging into the middle of Baghdad and at other times withdrawing to what feels like a safe distance.

These zones provide staging points for ongoing attacks inside the city.

Though the mortars that were fired Wednesday in Baghdad fell harmlessly as legislators were sworn in, the attack on parliament came even as most of Baghdad's main bridges across the Tigris were shut.

"We've arrested some bandits, some really bad people, but it's hard to say that we're making a lot of progress," says Col. Faisal Ali al-Doseky, head of an anti-kidnapping task force for the western half of Baghdad.

"The police are unskilled, and we have a lot of interference from the Americans."

NOTHING NEW ABOUT THIS



Mar 25: A lorry drives past a burning gas pipeline close to a maintenance office of the Iraqi Ministry of Oil in al-Zaydani, west of Baghdad. (AFP/Str)

Two Collaborators Killed

3/26/2005 Anatolia.com Inc.

A police officer and an off-duty national guardsman were shot dead respectively in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Al-Yarmuk and just outside the capital in Abu Ghraib's marketplace, an interior ministry official said.

U.S. Military Uncovers Tunnels At POW Camp

Mar 26, 2005 By Luke Baker, (Reuters)

U.S. military police have discovered two long tunnels dug with scraps of metal and wood leading out of the largest detention facility in Iraq, military officials said Saturday.

The tunnels -- one 600 feet long and the other 300 feet long -- led out of cell blocks at Camp Bucca, a U.S.-run facility near the southern Iraq town of Umm Qasr, where more than 6,000 detainees are held.

They were discovered Thursday, before anyone had a chance to escape, Lieutenant Colonel Guy Rudisill, spokesman for detainee operations in Iraq, told Reuters.

The longer tunnel ran about 12 to 15 feet underground and was wide enough for a large man to crawl through. It had completely cleared the prison's security fences, while the other one had not reached out of the compound.

"Thanks to some good detective work, we managed to find them before anyone escaped," Rudisill said.

The discoveries were made after a military policeman on a routine check last week found a five-foot hole -- possibly the beginning of a third tunnel -- and raised the alarm.

Extensive searching revealed the other two tunnels.

The longer one began under wooden flooring in a lounge-type room of a cell block housing between 25 and 30 people, Rudisill said. It was concealed by dirt and was not visible from the U.S. military's guard posts.

Most of the digging, using makeshift tools such as bits of plastic, metal and wood, is believed to have gone on at night.

Rudisill said officials had no idea how long the excavations had been going on, but said the tunnels led through fairly soft earth, meaning digging was relatively easy.

The earth removed was distributed around the camp grounds and thrown into the latrines, he said. It is believed to be the most extensive attempted break-out from U.S. jails in Iraq.

More checks were being made to ensure there were no more tunnels anywhere in the camp, which holds nearly two-thirds of all those detained by U.S.-led forces in Iraq.

The camp commander had not yet decided what course of action to take against the attempted jail-breakers, none of whom were high-value detainees, Rudisill said.

The military policeman who made the original tunnel discovery was awarded a medal by U.S. General George Casey, the overall commander of troops in Iraq.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Got That Right

March 19, 2005 By MARCELA ROJAS, THE JOURNAL NEWS

Maj. Carlos Huerta, a chaplain at West Point stationed in Mosul, Iraq, in 2003, who has seen many soldiers return from war, said one of the most difficult challenges is parting from the camaraderie built in a unit.

Fellow warriors are the only people that understand what you are going through, he said. Though a piece of a soldier will always be left on the scorched and dusty battlefield, family is key, he said, to reintegrating back into society.

"We all come back injured," Huerta said. "And we all heal differently. Whoever has served, their life is forever changed, even in subtle ways that they don't understand. The bottom line is you need family, relationships and love to pull you back into humanity."

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)

VIETNAM: WHEN SOLDIERS STOPPED A WAR: “These Mutinies Were Unmistakable Signs Of An Army On The Verge Of Collapse.”

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

For every incident reported here, numerous other rebellions probably took place along isolated, unobserved jungle trails.

During his year of legal-defense work in Saigon, David Addlestone heard of literally dozens of combat refusals, with nearly every case ending not in punishment but in negotiations between commanders and GIs.

And for every instance of defiance in combat, hundreds of minor acts of insubordination occurred within base camps and rear stations.

The mutinies we have described represented only the tip of a much larger iceberg of rebellion throughout the Army in Vietnam.

With disaffection at the stage where soldiers openly refused to engage in combat, the Army's effectiveness as a fighting force was in serious doubt. It may have been, for example, that the South Vietnamese rout in Laos in March of 1971 was at least partly caused by the reluctance of American support evidenced at Lang Vei.

On a more general level, such combat refusals must have played at least some role in restraining U.S. operations.

The knowledge that dangerous or unpopular missions could lead to mutiny undoubtedly prompted commanders to think twice about ordering certain actions.

These mutinies were unmistakable signs of an Army on the verge of collapse.

Of all the troops in Vietnam, the most rebellious were the blacks. As was the case throughout the armed forces, black GIs in Vietnam were militant leaders of the GI resistance posing great problems for American commanders.

David Addlestone claims that by the time he arrived in Saigon, in November of 1970, black radicalism had already seriously hindered U.S. fighting capabilities,

with brothers very seldom trusted in combat, apparently for fear they might turn their guns around.

It is one of the ironies of Vietnam that minority troops, who in the early stages of the war constituted a major portion of the American infantry, by 1970 were often not even trusted with weapons.

In the mid-1960s, blacks were welcomed into the front lines (through the lowering of entrance standards and Project 100,000) as a crucial source of manpower for sustaining the Vietnam intervention, but by 1970 they were no longer considered reliable in combat.

Black unrest in Vietnam began well before the period of troop withdrawals, erupting with explosive fury in the summer of 1968. The month of August witnessed two of the largest prison rebellions of the Vietnam War period, both led by black GIs.

On the weekend of August 16, troops within the Da Nang Marine brig rioted in protest over prison regulations. The Marine inmates seized control of the central area of the compound and held out against armed guards for twenty hours. Seven prisoners and a guard were injured in the clash, and one entire cell block was heavily damaged by fire.

As command officials attempted to remove seventy inmates from the prison a few days later, violence flared up again. A force of 120 riot-equipped MPs was required to quell the renewed fighting and finally restore order to the troubled brig.

Just two weeks later, the huge American prison at Long Binh erupted in perhaps the bloodiest and most savage military revolt of recent history.

LBJ, as the jail was known in GI parlance, was overcrowded (719 men crammed into a space reserved for 502), had no interior plumbing, and was staffed by inexperienced, overworked guards. The oppressive conditions were no doubt the root cause of the uprising, but little is known of what immediately sparked the violence or how the fighting developed.

Hundreds of inmates clashed with MPs for several hours, and many of the stockade buildings were destroyed by fire. According to press statements at the time, fifty-eight prisoners and five MPs were injured in the fighting, including twenty-three who required hospitalization. One soldier, Private Edward Haskett of St. Petersburg, Florida, was killed in the riot. Afterward, nearly two hundred blacks banded together and staged a no-work strike.

A smaller group barricaded themselves within a section of the stockade and refused to surrender. More than a month later, twelve blacks still held control of a small enclave.

During their occupation, the militants reportedly simulated African dress and customs and transformed their tiny holding into a kind of liberated African state. When the incident finally ended, six of the blacks were charged with murder.

In our earlier discussion of mutinies, we mentioned only those incidents involving primarily white GIs. As black nationalism increased, though, and over-all morale deteriorated, similar acts of insubordination occurred among blacks.

At least two examples of black refusal came to light during 1970, both involving frontline infantry units.

When A Company of the 1st Battalion/506th Regiment returned to Camp Evans near the A Shau Valley after a combat patrol in the spring, rising racial tensions erupted in a near tragedy.

Fighting broke out during the company's first night at camp, and as tensions flared the men went for their weapons and squared off against each other with loaded rifles.

Further violence was somehow avoided that night, but the next day fifteen blacks refused to report for duty.

Six of the blacks were eventually persuaded, but nine refused to give in and were charged with disobeying a direct order.

Six months later, in November, another group of blacks, this time at Camp Eagle, near the DMZ, defied orders to join a combat operation. Claiming that they would be endangered by racist commanders, Willie Moten and six others of C Company, 3rd Battalion/187th refused to move into the field. **There is no telling how many other similar incidents took place out of view of reporters and investigators.**

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.

The Motives Behind The Great Iraq Election Fraud

March 23, 2005 Scott Ritter – Alternet.org

The Iraqi elections weren't about the free election of a government reflecting the will of the Iraqi people, but the carefully engineered selection of a government that would behave in a manner dictated by the United States. In Iraq, democracy was hijacked by the Americans.

The interim Iraqi constitution was dead on arrival. The Bush administration just hasn't accepted this fact. **It had no chance of survival had the Shi'a won an outright majority of the vote in the Iraqi election.**

'If it (i.e., the percentage of Shi'a votes) had been higher, the (Shi'a) slate would be seen with a lot more trepidation,' a senior U.S. State Department official said, once the official Iraqi election results were announced on Feb. 14.

The problem is, there is good reason to believe that the percentage of votes for the Shi'a was higher – much higher. Well-placed sources in Iraq who were in a position to know have told me that the actual Shi'a vote was 56 percent. American intervention, in the form of a 'secret vote count' conducted behind closed doors and away from public scrutiny, produced the Feb. 14 result.

The lowering of the Shi'a vote re-engineered the post-election political landscape in Iraq dramatically. The goal of the U.S., in doing this, is either to guarantee the adoption of the U.S.-drafted interim constitution, or make sure that there are not enough votes to adopt any Shi'a re-write.

If the U.S.-drafted Iraqi constitution prevails, the Bush administration would be comfortable with the secular nature of any Iraqi government it produces. If it fails, then the Bush administration would much rather continue to occupy Iraq under the current U.S.-written laws, than allow for the creation of a pro-Iranian theocracy. **In any event, the Shi'a stand to lose.**

Whether this re-engineering will succeed in the long run has yet to be seen.

What is clear, however, is that many senior Shi'a know the real results that occurred on Jan. 30, and will not walk away from what they believe is their rightful destiny when it comes to governing of Iraq: a Shi'a controlled state, operating in accordance with Shar'ia law.

The post-election 'cooking' of the results in Iraq all but guarantees that the Shi'a of Iraq will rally together to secure that which they believe is rightfully theirs.

This journey of 'historical self-realization' may very well ignite the kind of violent backlash among the Shi'a majority in Iraq that the U.S. has avoided to date.

It could also complicate whatever strategies the Bush administration may be trying to implement regarding Iraq's neighbor to the east, Iran. But in any case, the American 'cooking' of the Iraqi election is, in the end, a defeat for democracy and the potential of democracy to effect real and meaningful change in the Middle East.

The sad fact is that it is not so much that the people of the Middle East are incapable of democracy, but rather the United States is incapable of allowing genuine democracy to exist in the Middle East.

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

U.S. Occupation Command Criminals Free Local Criminals To Spy On Resistance: “Sovereign” Iraqi Cops Can’t Stop It

3/20/2005 AlJazeera

"The Americans are allowing the breakdown of Iraqi society because they are only interested in fighting the 'insurgency'," said a senior Iraqi police officer.

A media report reveals that American intelligence and military police officers in Iraq are routinely freeing dangerous criminals in return for a promise to spy on anti-occupation fighters.

According to the Independent on Sunday (IoS) documents show that in one case police rescued a doctor after a gun battle with his kidnapers and arrested two of the kidnap gang, who made full confessions.

But the U.S. military police took over custody of the two men and let them go. [So much for all that sovereignty bullshit, if there's anybody left still stupid enough to believe it. And so much for those bullshit elections, if there's anybody still stupid enough to believe they meant anything at all. It's clear as a bell who runs Iraq: George W. Bush and his gang of corporate criminals.]

At the police station where the men were being held, it was recorded that they'd been handed over to an American military police lieutenant in order to be transferred to the American run Camp Cuervo detention centre.

However, an American military spokesman told the IoS that there was no record of the two prisoners in their database. [Wow. Now there's a real big surprise. Criminals hate leaving the evidence lying around.]

"The Americans are allowing the breakdown of Iraqi society because they are only interested in fighting the 'insurgency'," said a senior Iraqi police officer.

"We are dealing with an epidemic of kidnapping, extortion and violent crime, but even though we know the Americans monitor calls on mobiles and satellite

phones, which are often used in ransom negotiations, they will not pass on any criminal intelligence to us. They only want to use the information against 'insurgents'."

An Iraqi government source further confirmed that criminal suspects were often released if they agreed to pass on information on "insurgents", despite the dangers such an act poses on them.

The Iraqi middle class has been heavily targeted by kidnappers since the fall of Saddam Hussein. Many doctors, a favoured target, and businessmen have fled to Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The police admit that they have been unable to do anything to stop the wave of abductions.

Dr Thamir Mohammed Ali Hasafa al-Kaisey, a 60-year-old GP, was seized by a gang of 11 kidnappers as he drove home from his clinic in Baghdad in the early evening of December 23rd.

"I was 50 metres from my house when men with guns in a Jeep Cherokee stopped me and beat me with their fists," Dr Hasafa later told police. "They put me in their car with my face on the ground and tied me up with my own jacket."

But the doctor had an extraordinary stroke of luck. His captors ran into a police checkpoint, and shooting broke out. Even though his leg was broken in the beating, the doctor was able to crawl out of the back of the car.

The case was a rare breakthrough for the police. In their confessions the two suspects - one a serving police lieutenant - highlighted how the gangs work and the increasingly high number of kidnappings they carry out.

Mohammed Najim Abdullah al-Dhourri, the police lieutenant, and Adnan Ashur Ali al-Jabouri are both members of powerful tribes from which Saddam drew many of his inner circle of security men and army officers.

Adnan Ashur told the investigating judge that the leaders of the gang were Eyhab, nicknamed Abu Fahad, who ran a mobile phone shop, and his brother, Hisham.

According to Ashur, Eyhab was a criminal sentenced to 40 years in jail by the old regime but that he'd apparently been freed during a general amnesty by Saddam at the end of 2002.

All the gang members were armed with pistols. They had safe houses in which to keep kidnap victims. Both suspects said they had taken part in numerous other kidnappings in the previous few months, with their victims paying up to \$60,000 (£31,000) each.

In the case of Dr. Hasafa, the gang has been informed of his 'worth' as a kidnap target by a guard hired by householders to protect the street where he lived.

The Iraqi police were jubilant that they finally had detailed information on how a kidnap gang operated. The two captured men were willing to provide the names and addresses of other gang members, and the success was lauded by Iraqi television and the local press.

But to the bitter disappointment of the police on December 30th a convoy of U.S. military police arrived at al-Khansa police station, where Najim and Ashur were being held. The Iraqi police officer at the station recorded: "They have requested the custody of the two assailants."

The Iraqi police dropped the case against the rest of the gang. [OK, if you were a decent patriotic Iraqi, and a foreign occupation army is pulling this shit, do you sit on your ass or join the resistance to fight to free your country?]

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

FOUR SOLDIERS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN MINE BLAST

March 26, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-03-19C

KABUL, Afghanistan – **Four U.S. Soldiers died March 26 when their vehicle struck a mine while traveling in Logar Province, approximately 40 kilometers south of Kabul.**

The Soldiers were taking part in a three-vehicle joint reconnaissance mission with the Afghan National Army. There were no other casualties.

The deceased have been transported by U.S. medevac helicopter to Bagram Airfield.

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The following that we know of have also posted issues: www.gifightback.org,
<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>, www.williambowles.info/qispecial,
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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CLASS WAR NEWS

Another Tyrant Falls



Kyrgyz opposition protesters in Bishkek, March 24, 2005. Kyrgyzstan's opposition seized control of the Central Asian country on Thursday after several days of revolution. Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev resigned on Thursday after opposition protesters seized the government headquarters. **Kyrgyz troops made no effort to stop the popular uprising.** (Photos: David Mdzinarishvili/Reuters)

