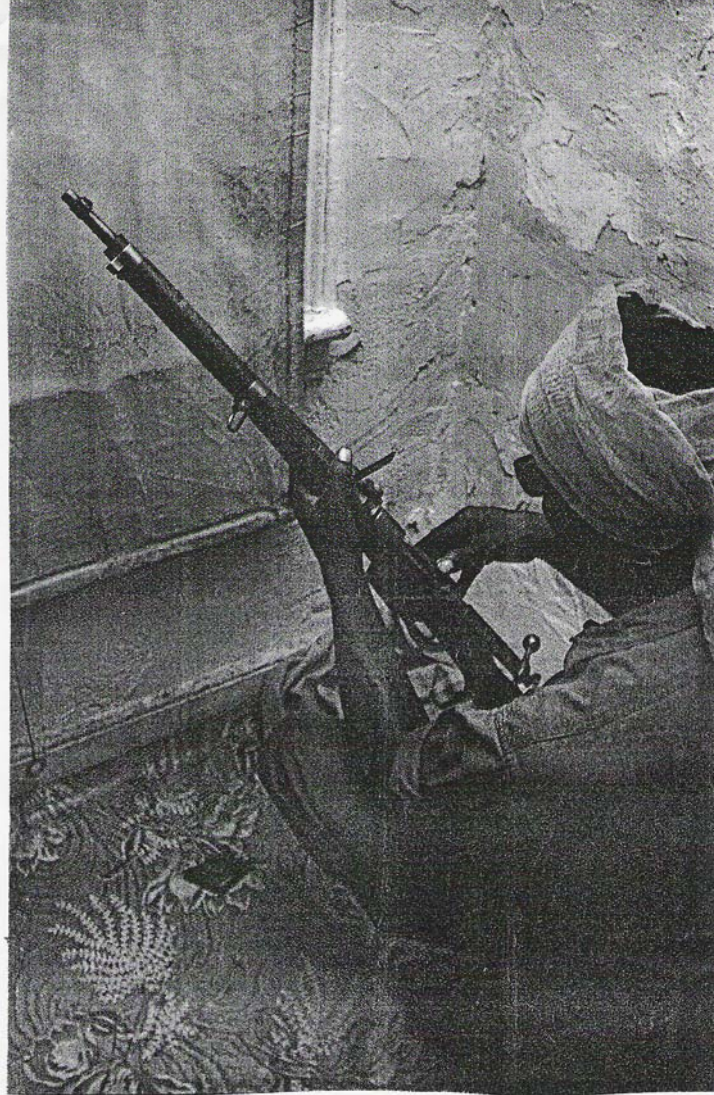


GI SPECIAL 3B30:



Vietnam Veterans defend Newark, New Jersey from police during the Newark Insurrection, July 1967

**Please Don't Let Our
Vets Die Forgotten:
Fallen Hero Memorial Sunday May 15**

From: Pattypink
To: GI Special
Sent: May 14, 2005 11:11 AM

Our beloved Charlie Sherdyl Motz completed his final transition into everlasting life on Saturday, May 7, 2005.

WE HOPE VIETNAM VETS WILL ATTEND IN HUGE NUMBERS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR REMAINING VIETNAM VETS NOT BE INVISIBLE.

Join us in a celebration of Charlie's life.

Bring your memories, stories, jokes, and bad puns.

Please don't let our vets die forgotten. See you there.

SUNDAY MAY 15 2005 @ 4 PM

**At the Friend's Meeting House
2151 Vine (at Walnut)
Berkeley Ca 94709
info (510)666-0411**

<p>About Charlie (two memorials written by the 14 year old twin boys who admired him and loved him like a big brother):</p>
--

“I Will See Charlie In Every Fragile And Delicate Thing Of Beauty” WRITTEN BY HANS

Charlie Sherdyl Motz was more than a friend. He was family.

He grew into our family from when we first met him at Sandra and Fred' s home about four or five years ago. He was one of those people you feel like you have always known and loved. He always had a pun ready. He loved a good joke. He had a ready chuckle and a warm smile.

He also could be very intense about some things. His Vietnam experiences gave him a dark undercurrent of sadness and anger. He told my mom he often ducked phantom bullets whizzing by. When he was in the V.A. hospital in San Francisco in 2004 he tore the tubes out of his arms, fled the bed, and was hiding in the bathroom of his room... he thought he was under enemy fire.

Charlie never recovered from the Vietnam War, and suffered Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. He managed his PTSD alone, but should have been having professional help with it all of those years since the war.

He was witty and creative. His art that was hung on the Alta Bates hospital walls was much admired by all who saw it. He loved beauty. He loved women, old, young, smooth, wrinkled, graceful, or clumsy. He just saw a lot of beauty in women. He could be a macho guy and talk about guns, knives, and war with the best of the macho guys, and turn around and show you a fragile set of hanging angel sculptures he had just hung around his computer.

Charlie was many sided, and very deep. He had an intuitive understanding of how people felt, and what to say to cheer them up. Charlie believed in forgiveness. He wasn't always able to live up to his own expectations of himself, but he was on the path to where he wanted to go spiritually. He loved everything Sufi. He loved the Buddha.

Charlie also loved Star Wars, the Grateful Dead's music, and Peet's coffee. He would sit on the bench in front of Peet's at 5 PM and chat with the many friends who loved to trade jokes and stories with him.

Charlie was loved by everyone. He was kind and generous. He knew I wanted to learn play chess better. He bought a chess board so when I was spending time with him he could teach me some moves. I never did win a game against him. But I got better trying.

Charlie didn't go by all of the accepted rules of the chess tournaments. He made his own rules in many ways in life. He knew what was right and moral. That is what mattered to Charlie. Not someone else's decision on how to live his life. He said he had enough of taking orders from unqualified people in Viet Nam. Charlie hated war. He said he went because he was young and did not know any better.

Charlie was a gentle man of peace. He only wanted harmony and love for everyone. When he went in the hospital, time after time, we visited him no matter how far away. We went in rain, and hail, and any time he was in need of his friends. When he came home from his longest hospital stay I slept on his floor several nights, listening to his breathing, worrying if he needed something.

My mom fixed him easy to eat soft foods that were nutritious. I helped shop and clean to make sure he had a nice place and all he needed. My brother regularly got calls to go do some errand or fix his computer, or set up his cable TV, or his internet service. Nils bought a cellular phone so he would be sure not to miss a call if Charlie had an emergency and needed him.

Sandra made sure Charlie got the care he needed, and that was not easy in a country that has abandoned and disregarded men and women who were willing to give their lives for America. Charlie did give his life for America, but it took the a long time for what the war did to him to finally take his life.

Charlie courageously faced so many hurdles, and bravely endured so much suffering, with a joke and a little laugh. We knew he hurt a lot more than he would let on. He would say he didn't need anything even when it was obvious that he did.

After this latest medical procedure my bother and I repeatedly asked him to let us take turns staying with him, but he said he would not let anyone work for free, and that he could not afford to pay us because of the huge copays he has had for medical treatments and substandard medical care.

Charlie was too proud, and was independent, really wanting to again be the strong and healthy soldier that obediently went away and came back so damaged by what he called an unnecessary war.

Charlie was frustrated and very troubled by the horrible way veterans are not cared for by the American government. He talked about how no one would go in the military if they knew the lies the military recruiters are telling innocent youngsters who want to do the right thing.

Almost all of the problems Charlie had were because the lack of sufficient care. If he had been given all of the possible care that a wealthy person would have had, I believe he would still be alive today.

I think we all owe it to Charlie to do something active to try to help veterans like him get enough medical care. We can not just sit and wait for someone else to fix the wrongs happening in the world. Charlie was a person who deserved better than he got. We all loved him, and did all we could within our power, but there is a responsibility as civilized humans to help people like Charlie who have given their all.

I will miss Charlie.

I just can't believe I won't ever hug him again. I can't believe that I will never laugh at one of his bad puns again. But Charlie is in right here, he's in my heart.

I will see Charlie in every fragile and delicate thing of beauty.

I will hear his laughter and feel his warmth whenever I hear a bad pun or a funny story that he would have appreciated.

I will feel him there with me every time I watch a science fiction show, or see an amazing computer graphic.

Charlie is everywhere there is love, and laughter, and an appreciation of beauty, and a desire for peace.

**“I Will Remember Charlie On
Friday Nights, And All Of The Days
In Between”**

WRITTEN BY NILS

Math, History, Science, English, Physical Education, War, Peace, and Another Fallen Hero

Mathematically when someone you love dies that is one less. When you have had a history of years of sharing both joy and pain, the amount of the loss totals more than the sum of the parts of life's equation. Charlie loved science fiction. We spent many hours together making fun of second rate graphics on science fiction TV shows, and movies. He told me how graphics were created with computer software programs.

We talked about the Civil War, and American history. He served in the military during the Vietnam War. I believe the Vietnam War took Charlie's life, slowly, painfully, and assuredly.

Many times I helped him with his oxygen supply. I also worked on his wheelchair when it had minor problems that I could fix. I shopped, cleaned, did laundry, and helped Charlie in every way I could.

As I worked, Charlie told me how veteran's benefits have been cut back, endangering veteran's lives. He was lucky to have a friend like Sandra, who fought with the Veteran's Administration doctors to keep him alive. Week after week, I listened to the horror stories of the poor care Charlie explained to me that veterans like him get.

Charlie Motz was like a big brother to me. He was a gentle role model.

Charlie became family. Friday night was the time my family and Charlie regularly got together to laugh, do computer stuff, and share stories about life's ups and downs. Tuesday was my regular day to go over there and do chores. In between, he would call me to come over and tweak his wheelchair, bring him distilled water for his oxygen machine, or other little jobs. He liked the soup and other soft food mom made for him because he could not chew with his bad teeth.

Whenever I arrived I was greeted with warmth, love, and more often than not, silly jokes and bad puns.

Though he was often terribly depressed and angered by what the Vietnam War had done to destroy his life, he was always filled with humor and laughter when he talked to me.

I will miss that.

I will miss Charlie more than words can explain.

At least the Veteran's Administration, and an uncaring American government, cannot cause this courageous and heroic veteran any further harm.

I will remember Charlie on Friday nights, and all of the days in between.

I will never go to war, I promise you, Charlie. I will work for peace, and make you proud of me.

Charlie Sherdyl Motz passed on May 7, 2005, in Berkeley, California.



Fathers give away their daughters. Mothers give away their sons.

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71.

From: **Mike Hastie, Vietnam Veteran**
To: GI Special
Sent: May 14, 2005
Subject: **Iraq is going to be worse than Vietnam**

WHEN YOU BURY YOUR HISTORY, RESURRECTING THE TRUTH SOUNDS LIKE A LIE.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Karabilah Bomb Kills Four Marines;

Four More Dead Of Wounds Suffered Earlier This Week

14.5.05 (AFP) & AP & HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS Release Number: 05-05-20C

OBEIDI, Iraq: US marines said they had now lost nine men in a week-old sweep for insurgents in the west of the country, their largest operation since a spectacular assault on the rebel enclave of Fallujah last November.

The U.S. military said four Marines were killed when their assault amphibian struck an explosive device near Karabilah, a village near Obeidi and close to the Syrian border. Their deaths brought to nine the number of U.S. casualties in the week-old campaign.

Four marines wounded earlier this week died of their wounds, the military said.

Two Soldiers With Pa. Ties Killed

5/14/2005 The Associated Press

A Pennsylvania native who gave up his seat on a military flight home so a fellow soldier could see his child born was one of two state soldiers killed in Iraq on Thursday, family and military officials said Friday.

Kenneth E. Zeigler, 22, who lived much of his life in Mechanicsburg and Dillsburg, was killed after the Humvee he was driving hit a roadside bomb.

Sgt. Andrew Jodon of Burnside Township, Centre County, also died Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee near Samarra, relatives and the military said.

Jodon had re-enlisted in the Army in 2003, telling his family that he felt driven to put his training in destroying land mines to work in the Iraq war.

"There's two different reports, and we don't know which one is right," his wife, Bobbi Jo Jodon, said Saturday. "One says he was the gunner, and one says he was the driver."

Jodon was a 1996 graduate of Bald Eagle Area High School, where he was on the track and football teams.

Zeigler was expected to take leave of his station near Baghdad and be home for Mother's Day. But he volunteered to be bumped from the trip to make room for a soldier trying to make the birth of his first child. He instead expected to take leave later this month.

Texas Soldier Killed: "He Said I'm Coming Home. But We Never Thought He'd Be Coming Home This Way"

May 13, 2005 Associated Press

HUGHES SPRINGS — A 26-year-old soldier from northeast Texas who was serving a second tour in Iraq was killed in an explosion this week.

Staff Sgt. Samuel T. Castle of Naples died Wednesday from injuries suffered from an improvised explosive device in Al Asad, the Department of Defense said Friday. He was assigned to the Army's 327th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Della Castle Payne, 44, of Hughes Springs, said that she last heard from her son on Mother's Day by phone and e-mail.

"He was pretty upbeat," she said tonight. "He said, 'Mama don't worry about me. I'm coming home. I'm coming home.' But we never thought he'd be coming home this way."

She said her son, who graduated from Hughes Springs High School in 1996, excelled in baseball and football. He went to Tyler Junior College before joining the military.

"He was a real nice young man. He loved sports: basketball, baseball and football," said his paternal grandfather, John Raymond Castle of Hughes Springs.

Both Samuel Castle and his wife, Nicole, a soldier in the 51st Signal Battalion, were sent to Iraq at the end of November, leaving their 1-year-old son, also named Samuel, with her parents. The soldier also has a 6-year-old daughter, Mia, who lives in Dallas, Payne said.

Payne said the funeral is expected to be May 21, but they have not yet set a time. She said the soldier's wife and his 19-year-old brother — who followed him into the military and is also serving in Iraq — would be coming to Texas for the funeral.

Castle's awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Army Good Conduct Medal.

He is also survived by his father and stepmother, Jimmy Tyrone Castle and Pam Castle of Dallas and a stepfather, James Payne.

Including Castle, at least 150 Texas service members have died in Iraq since the war began March 20, 2003, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Irwin Soldier Dies

May 14, 2005 By KELLY DONOVAN/Staff Writer, Desert Dispatch

BARSTOW -- Another soldier assigned to Fort Irwin was killed in Iraq Thursday, according to a Defense Department report released Friday.

Sgt. John M. Smith, 22, died from injuries suffered when a bomb went off near his vehicle, according to the report. The Wilmington, N.C.. native was a trained infantryman in the second squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Command Folds Operation Matador: Declares Victory And Leaves Qaim To The Resistance

**“...AND DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU ON THE WAY
OUT.”**



Residents in Obeidi protest American forces near Qaim May 14, 2005.
(AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

May 14, 2005 By MOHAMMED BARAKAT, Associated Press Writer

OBEIDI, Iraq (AP) - The U.S. military pronounced its weeklong offensive near the Syrian border over Saturday, saying it had successfully ``neutralized'' an insurgent sanctuary and killed more than 125 militants.

Nine U.S. Marines were killed and 40 injured during the campaign known as Operation Matador, the military said in a statement.

Resistance Holds Qaim: "We Are All Iraqis"

WELCOME TO QAIM. HAVE A NICE DAY.



[Thanks to Desmond, who sent this in.]

May 13 & 14, 2005 Mohammed Barakat, Associated Press

QAIM, IRAQ -- Iraqi fighters toting machine guns and grenade launchers swaggered Friday through the rubble-strewn streets of this town on the Syrian border, setting up checkpoints and preparing to do battle despite a major U.S. offensive aimed at rooting out followers of Iraq's most-wanted terrorist.

The fighters who remain in this Sunni town about 200 miles west of Baghdad insist there are no foreigners among them.

"**We are all Iraqis,**" said one gunman, his face covered with a scarf. He said the fighters would try to prevent U.S. forces from entering the town.

Residents of a government-run housing complex on the outskirts of Obeidi, which saw some of the fiercest fighting in the first days of the offensive, insisted there were no foreigners among the fighters - only Iraqi tribesmen protecting their homes against U.S. forces.

Capt. Jeffrey Pool, a military spokesman, said Marines have not conducted operations inside Qaim since the opening days of the campaign, called Operation

Matador, which began overnight Saturday and led to the killing of six suspected insurgents and capture of 54 in the town.

MORE:

[With comments by Ahmed Al-Habbabi, Anti-Allawi Group]

5.14.05 Aljazeera

Large numbers of U.S. forces supported by helicopters gathered outside the village of Obeidi near the Euphrates River, pushing ahead with their military operation against Iraqi rebels.

[Weren't they operating inside Obeidi on day one of the offensive? In case of a memory problem, check previous reports!]

Frightened residents retreated indoors as a large convoy of mainly Marines, backed by tanks redeployed several miles from Rommana to Obeidi, on the northern bank.

The military had no immediate comment on the Obeidi operation, but it appeared to signal a new phase in the high-profile offensive. **[New old phase, to be precise.]**

"Operation Matador" was launched on May 7 in the Al-Qaim area near the Syrian border, an area which U.S. commanders allege many of the resistance fighters come into Iraq through. **["Operation Matador" was launched to run around in circles...]**

The area was described as a stronghold of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the rebel leader who some claim as responsible of some of the attacks in Iraq.

[Actually, it's Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's step-mother..]

An Iraqi defence official said Saturday U.S. forces had not yet entered the town of Al-Qaim.

Instead, U.S. forces have taken up position in a number of villages surrounding the town, the official added.

Strategic Disaster In Iraq

2005/05/12 Patrick Seale, Al-Hayat,

The Iraqi insurgency shows no sign of dying down. It seems able to call on a well-nigh inexhaustible pool of well-armed fighters and suicide bombers. Whenever U.S. forces expose themselves, they are attacked.

It is no exaggeration to say that the U.S. is facing a possible strategic disaster in Iraq. The army is overstretched; recruitment is down; stocks of weapons, including precision-guided munitions, are depleted; the 140,000 troops tied down

in Iraq are insufficient to provide security yet numerous enough to reduce America's ability to fight a war elsewhere, should an emergency arise.

TROOP NEWS

Bunnell Man's Son Wounded In January Dies

May 14, 2005 By RAY WEISS, Staff Writer, News-JournalOnline

A Bunnell man's Marine son has died from combat injuries suffered in Iraq in January.

Lance Cpl. John T. Schmidt III, 21, succumbed to severe lung damage caused when a rocket exploded, rupturing an ammonia tank in an abandoned icehouse his platoon occupied in Al Anbar Province. Schmidt had just completed night guard duty Jan. 30 on top of the building. He had been in Iraq two weeks.

Schmidt died Wednesday in a military hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

His father, John Schmidt Jr., 45, said his son had developed pneumonia and was on a ventilator the last 12 weeks.

"I was just out there last week. They told us he had a 25 percent chance of getting through it," Schmidt said. "So we had a good idea he wasn't going to survive but a few days or a week."

The elder Schmidt said he was thankful to have had some time with his son before his condition worsened, "instead of just getting a knock on the door like some parents do. There's some solace in that."

Uncertainty Gnaws At Family Of Unit That Has Sustained Casualties

05/14/05 Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Uncertainty gnaws at relatives of Ohio Marines in a Reserve unit that has suffered four deaths and other injuries during a major U.S. offensive in Iraq.

The Marines have sent a grief counseling team to meet on Saturday with people whose loved ones serve with the Columbus-based Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment. The Ohio Marines are fighting insurgents as part of Operation Matador.

"There is a lot of uncertainty for the families," said Navy Cmdr. Roosevelt Brown, the chaplain who leads the stress-management team.

Six Marines involved in the operation, including three members of Lima Company, were killed Wednesday night when an explosive detonated near their armored transport vehicle, Columbus-based Marine Reserves spokesman Capt. Patrick Kerr said Saturday. Another member of Lima company had been killed last Sunday as part of the operation.

Kerr said others from the company have been injured in the operation, but he wouldn't say how many.

Kerr wouldn't confirm a report earlier this week by The Washington Post, which has a reporter embedded with Operation Matador, that six members of the company have been killed and another 15 injured.

Isolde Zierk, whose son is a part of Lima Company, leads a volunteer group in Columbus that supports Marine families. Even as she tries to comfort the grieving and anxious families, she is fighting an inner struggle herself.

"I need to be strong so I don't fall apart," she said, her voice breaking, on Saturday. Lima Company has about 160 members, and most of their families haven't heard from them because they're still fighting.

Isolde Zierk said she's spoken to more than 100 family members this week, counseling them to be calm and patient and telling to not jump to conclusions. At the same time, she has to remind herself.

"I listen to them. If they want to cry, they can cry as long as they want to. If no one is there with them, I'll try to go and sit with them to make sure they're OK."

"Once people express their fears and anxieties, they calm down," she added. "We talk. That's all. And as long as I can do that with them, then I've done something worthwhile."

Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman's son, 19-year-old son, Lance Cpl. John David "J.D." Coleman, is a member of Lima company.

Coleman canceled weekend travel plans so he and his wife could be home.

"We're concerned parents," he said.

Command Idiots Hit Sgt. Benderman With Silly New Charge

[Thanks to Desmond, who sent this in.]

May 13, 2005 Report by Debbie Clark, Antiwar.com

On Thursday, May 12, 2005, I attended the new Art. 32 investigative hearing at Fort Stewart, Georgia of the case against Sgt. Kevin Benderman, a soldier who requested conscientious objector status subsequent to serving in the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and allegedly refused a second deployment.

In a surprise move preceding the start of the hearing that day - which started late - the prosecution had tacked on the additional charge of Larceny based on Sgt. Benderman's being paid combat pay, including hazardous duty pay, family separation pay, and safe pay, since January 2005 when his unit re-deployed to Iraq.

Called in as a witness for the prosecution relative to this was the finance officer of the Soldier Service Center who testified that this extra combat pay was started on February 12, 2005, retroactive to January. **Questioning by the defense brought out the clarification that this pay was not initiated by Sgt. Benderman; it was started by the Army. The finance officer further testified that Sgt. Benderman was one of five individuals in his unit receiving this pay who had not gone to Iraq.**

(I naturally wondered, since Sgt. Benderman has been charged with Larceny for receiving extra pay which the Army had initiated and had not yet stopped and recouped, if the other four members of his unit who were in the same situation were going to likewise be brought up on charges of Larceny.

I can just see it now: Cpt. Rowley trying to report five cases of Larceny to the Military Police, allegedly committed by five members of his unit because of a screw-up by the Army which the Army had not yet straightened out.

(I doubt I need to mention to anyone who has ever served in the Army how difficult it can sometimes be to get one's pay straightened out once it gets screwed up...)

Sir! No Sir!

New Film: How Troops Rebelled And Stopped A War

By 1971, resistance had grown to a level of mass defiance that rendered the majority of ground troops "unreliable" in the eyes of their government.

April 28, 2005

Sir! No Sir is the story of how American GI's, in their thousands, created a widespread, unprecedented movement against the war in Vietnam.

Sir! No Sir provocatively links that historic moment to today's world.

Through demonstrations, underground newspapers, combat refusals and more, American GI's altered the course of the Vietnam War and rocked the foundations of the American military.

By 1971, resistance had grown to a level of mass defiance that rendered the majority of ground troops "unreliable" in the eyes of their government.

A Pentagon study that year determined more than half of all troops in the military opposed the war.

Yet today, the memory of the GI movement has been buried.

Along with gripping, exclusive interviews with key participants in the movement, Sir! No Sir unearths a wealth of visual material including never-before-seen film footage from personal archives, to tell a startling story.

With hundreds of thousands of American soldiers again spread across the globe and signs of opposition emerging among troops Sir! No Sir resurrects the suppressed memory of the GI movement.

[And yes, it features Jane Fonda, proud of her work supporting the troops who resisted that war, proud of her opposition to it, and proud that her opposition never wavered until all the troops came home.]

MORE:

Silly U.S. "Officials" Think Iraq War Will Go On And On

London Daily Telegraph, May 12, 2005

Attacks against virtually any occupation target in Iraq have forced U.S. officials to concede that any plans for an early withdrawal by American forces have been shelved. **[Dream on. One day the troops will decide it's time to withdraw themselves, by doing what they did in Vietnam. Fragging was the least of it. Find the old Jane Fonda – Donald Sutherland tape of the FTA stage show and see thousands of troops cheering for the Vietnamese to win and the U.S. imperial government to lose. Your bet your ass that sentiment, and its practical implementation in Vietnam by the troops, ended the war. It order to have an Imperial war, it is necessary to have an armed force that will obey orders to fight it. Without that, game over, and everybody gets to go home. Duh.]**

MORE:

USA Today, May 12, 2005

The number of Internet Web log, or “blogs” as online diaries are known, by U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan is soaring, giving people everywhere unprecedented access to the everyday lives of our troops. **[And giving troops unprecedented ability to organize resistance to the war.]**

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.

“Fuck this shit, let’s get outta here.”



Baghdad May 2, 2005. Photo by Faleh Kheiber/Reuters

Japanese Government Planning Withdrawal From Iraq War: “A Blow For President Bush”

11 May 2005 By Eric Talmadge, The Associated Press

After kissing their babies and hugging their wives, 200 Japanese soldiers in combat fatigues lined up at a base in central Japan last weekend under the "Rising Sun" flag for what has become a familiar ritual the send-off for troops on their way to Iraq.

But this batch of soldiers may be among the last.

Nearly 18 months into its most ambitious overseas military operation since World War II, Japan is now considering whether to join a growing list of countries pulling out or scaling back their operations in Iraq in the coming months.

Tokyo seems to be leaning toward a speedy withdrawal.

A pullout by Japan would be a blow for President Bush, who is struggling to keep such coalition supporters as Italy and Poland on board.

Defense chief Yoshinori Ono said that the end of the year was being considered as a pullout date because that would coincide with the end of the U.N. mandate.

Tokyo could inform other coalition countries of its plans as early as September. After withdrawing, Tokyo is expected to focus its contribution on financial aid.

BRAIN-DEAD ASSHOLES STILL DON'T GET IT: NO TROOPS CAN BE FORCED TO TAKE THESE SHOTS

Inside The Pentagon, May 12, 2005

The Pentagon has issued a policy that **lets** troops suspend the prescribed regimen of six anthrax inoculations over 18 months **if**, during that time, they redeploy outside risk areas like Iraq or South Korea.

[This is incredible. The federal courts forced to Pentagon to agree that no troop has to take *one* of these shots. The shots are, by order of the DoD, in forced obedience to the courts, now *completely voluntary*. There is no “lets” and there is no “if” about it. Anybody who orders or otherwise tries to compel or force any member of the armed forces to take *one* of these shots is engaging in the commission of a criminal assault under the UCMJ, and is subject to immediate arrest and detention by any member of the armed forces who witnesses such a criminal act in progress. And don't let any asshole argue if you took one, you have to do the rest. Bullshit. Lie.]

MORE:

ALS Link To Military Service

Arizona Daily Star, May 12, 2005

Witnesses at a congressional hearing cited studies say that veterans are more likely to get amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, than are those with no military service. [Gee, why could that be. DU? Those anthrax shots?]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW 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)

Base Supporters Prepare To Fight For Jobs

[Thanks to PB who sent this in. He writes: YAY MORE MONEY FOR USELESS ARMORLESS STRYKERS!]

May 14, By JOHN J. LUMPKIN, Associated Press Writer

Defiant communities around the United States are gearing up to fight a sweeping Pentagon plan to close scores of military bases, hoping to save the jobs, tax revenue and prestige that come with them.

Their chances are not good, if previous base-closure rounds are any guide: About 85 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations have survived unaltered by an independent commission, which will scrutinize the list in the coming months before sending it to Congress and President Bush.

The Pentagon estimates the closures will save \$48 billion over 20 years.

The Pentagon plan calls for a net loss of 29,005 military and civilian jobs at domestic installations

Kiss Your Ass Goodbye

Defense Daily, May 12, 2005

Air Force Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, who heads the Missile Defense Agency, told Congress that the U.S. has a "pretty good chance" of knocking down an incoming missile.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

14 May, 2005 BBC & (AP) & Aljazeera

Unidentified armed men killed a top Iraqi Foreign Ministry official while he stood outside his Baghdad home, police said.

Jassim Mohammed Ghani, director-general of Iraq's Foreign Ministry, was killed on Saturday evening in western Baghdad's Jihad district in a drive-by shooting, Iraqi police Captain Talib Thamer said.

At least four people have died in a car bomb attack targeting a police convoy in central Baghdad.

"I was riding in one of the cars in the convoy when a car overtook us and exploded against the leading patrol car," policeman Mustafa Rasul told news agency AFP.

The attack took place in front of the concrete blast walls surrounding the former ministry of education.

At least 10 more people, including two policemen, were also hurt when the bomber rammed his car into the convoy.

In a second attack, fighters hurled grenades at a police convoy in western Baghdad, killing one police officer.

Three more Iraqi soldiers were gunned down on Saturday evening in a drive-by shooting on their convoy in western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

A bombing against an Iraqi-US patrol in the northern city of Mosul wounded two Iraqi soldiers and a policeman on patrol, police Col. Wathiq Mohammed said.

A bomber detonated his vehicle near an Iraqi police patrol in central Baqouba, north of the capital, wounding three policemen and a civilian, said police Col. Mudhafar Muhammed.

Two police officers and two civilians were killed in clashes in the town of Samarra on Saturday, police Captain Hashem al-Sulami said.

Two Iraqi National Guards were killed and three others injured when a land mine detonated in al-Madain town, 40km south of Baghdad, Iraqi journalist Walid Khalid told Aljazeera.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it do singe yourself.
William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Japanese War Vet Hails Bush As Divinely Inspired

May 14, 2005, From: Z
To: GI Special

Tokyo, 5/14/05, ***NEWSFLASH***

Muchikatsu Ishiatama, 88, is one former imperial warrior who holds President Bush in the highest esteem. "Mr. Bush is full of divine wind," says Mr. Ishiatama in a voice hoarse with emotion. "He is a fountainhead of wisdom, an Atlas bearing on his sturdy shoulders the fate of universal freedom."

Mr. Ishiatama, who learned his flawless English by reading and rereading the collected works of the bestselling sage Ayn Rand, knows a thing or two about what hard work a civilizing mission can entail. "Back in 1937," he recalls, "we advanced into China to liberate her people from tyranny and terrorism. The ungrateful bastards repaid us by tossing grenades at us, so we killed them."

Gazing dreamily at the walls of his Spartan dwelling decorated with old imperial banners as well as with autographed photos of Prime Ministers Koizumi, Blair, Sharon, and Berlusconi, Ishiatama-san speaks proudly of his nation's selfless efforts to drag a xenophobic people kicking and screaming into the modern age.

"The sons of bitches still don't appreciate what we did for them," he says sadly, sitting cross-legged on the floor and shaking his head. "Those recent anti-Japanese demonstrations make me so angry!" Suddenly drawing his bayonet, he drives it forcefully into the floorboards, barely missing his testicles.

"We didn't want their damned land, coal, iron, cotton, or their lousy cheap labor!" he thunders. "We just wanted to save the fools from Communism and civil war, for heaven's sake! But no, they wanted both and they got it -- serves them right!"

"If only we'd had a dictator of President Bush's resolve in those days and just a fraction of the military hardware at his command, we could have blown those primitive ingrates to kingdom come and done what's right for the world. And my man Bush will do it -- just you watch! Ah, he is God's own samurai, nothing less!"

The old conqueror has few friends among his age group. "Those geezers lack nationalist spirit!" Ishiatama scoffs. Nor does he hold a high opinion of the younger generation, including his own great-grandchildren. "They are wimpy pacifists with no respect for authority," he says with a dismissive wave. "The stinky little brats thumb their noses at the flag and stuff themselves with soybeans just so they can break wind when I play the national anthem on my kazoo! Banish them to Korea or somewhere, I say!"

Ishiatama-san hopes to die gun in hand, defending Japan's territorial integrity on one of the disputed rocks off the continental coast. For now, however, he enjoys playing gate ball with his numerous lady friends who appear enamored of his remarkable athletic prowess and his irrepressible old-style machismo.

EVILDOERS

By Alan Stolzer, The Military Project

In 1953 (if memory serves) a band of Israelis penetrated a sovereign nation (Argentina) for the express purpose of committing a capital crime, assuming that kidnapping was a capital crime in that nation at that time.

Adolf Eichmann, former SS administrator in charge of transporting millions of people (mostly Jews) to their deaths in concentration camps during World War II, was abducted, smuggled out of Argentina and hustled to Israel where he stood trial before the world's eye, was found guilty of high crimes against the Jewish people and quickly executed.

Few tears were shed nor outcries for criminal charges levied against Israel for that matter.

Some years later the French government successfully extradited (after several attempts) Klaus Barbie, the Butcher of Lyon, head of the Gestapo in that occupied city, again, during World War II, from Paraguay.

Fewer tears were shed.

More recently, Augusto Pinochet, Chilean general of the army who led a successful coup against the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende in 1973 (on September, 11th) and proceeded to suppress as much political (or any other kind) of opposition as brutally and sadistically as he could, thereby enshrining himself alongside the previously mentioned evildoers in their ignominious hall of fame, was arrested in

London, England after a Spanish judge succeeded in providing the judicial mechanism for apprehension.

No tears were shed.

Occasionally we read of Central Africans who allegedly hold responsibility for unspeakable crimes in that ravaged area of the world coming before the World Court charged with crimes against humanity.

Some have been convicted and are serving sentence(s).

We also, from time to time, read of Balkan perpetrators of horror being brought to justice for their acts during the ethnic conflicts in that troubled area of the world.

And, closer to home, we know that highly placed Al Qaeda members have been captured in Pakistan, one directly after 9/11 and the chief architect of the attacks some time later. Now we hear of yet another evildoer of murderous connections being taken, again in Pakistan.

And what do all these evildoers and their capture have in common?

Not in any of these undertakings was one drop of blood shed.

Not one.

Someone may have been roughed up all right but outside of unreported bruises no transfusions were needed.

Yet within the short history of this new century, uncounted Afghans have died from bombs dropped from 25,000 feet (or less) not to mention wedding parties destroyed from ground level.

An accepted count of over 100,000 Iraqi dead has stained the universal conscience, over 1,600 U.S. military have met untimely and vicious demise and there's no end in sight.

All of this because some real or unreal evildoers are still loose.

But common sense tells us that if the aforementioned degenerates were taken bloodlessly then the remaining sort of that nefarious brotherhood can face a noose too – no matter how long it takes, yes?

Or is it no?

The only no that can be offered in lieu of rational explanation is that there are other under publicized reasons for the darkness that still plagues us.

And the primary one for the continued rape of innocence and unconscionable plunder is U.S. Imperialism – because it has to.

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

More Silly Fake Confessions

14 May 2005 Aljazeera

The acting Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad, Dalil Qussus, said he was surprised to see three Palestinians appear on a popular Iraqi television show that features suspects confessing to "terrorist" acts.

The Iraqi commentator said they planned a bombing that killed 12 people in eastern Baghdad on Thursday.

"There is no way under any circumstances that three brothers could commit this criminal act. It is impossible that the three brothers would return home to their apartment and wait for the police to catch them," said Qussus.

One of the three had a bruised eye.

The three brothers live in a section of Baghdad that has been inhabited by Palestinian refugees for decades.

Welcome To "Liberated" Iraq: Activist Arrested For Demonstrating For Education Reforms

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

During the Saddam Hussein regime, Bahaaldin was arrested in Iraq and was sentenced to death. He narrowly escaped execution and arrived in Finland as a political refugee in 1988.

May 14, 2005 Helsingin Sanomat

A Finnish national from the Helsinki region is believed to have been detained in Iraq. The next of kin of a 42-year-old man who is of Iraqi origin, but who has lived in Finland for the past 17 years and is a Finnish citizen, have informed the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the arrest.

According to his friend Binar Mustafa, the Finnish national Omar Bahaaldin was arrested in his former home country Iraq on the 4th of May in the city of Sulaimaniya in the country's Kurdish region. Bahaaldin had taken part in a student demonstration and had given a speech after the march. Bahaaldin is a well-known activist in the area. At first he was released as the local police officers knew him, but the next day he was detained again following a request from a higher-ranking police commissioner.

The official reason for Bahaaldin's arrest is yet to be announced, but friends speculate that he was taken in because of his speech, in which he demanded that Sulaimaniya University be transformed into a real university in which everyone has equal rights to apply for a place.

According to Mustafa, the university is presently a hatchery for activists from the ruling Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party and their relatives, who often do not even have the formal prerequisites for university studies.

"They do not even attend the lectures and yet they are granted their doctorates. In effect they steal the few student places from more qualified people", Mustafa explains. Mustafa claims that the PUK is behind Bahaaldin and his brother's arrest.

The right-wing PUK is in close cooperation with Iraq's present government.

Bahaaldin is the chairman of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, and has also been involved in peace organisations in Finland.

During the Saddam Hussein regime, Bahaaldin was arrested in Iraq and was sentenced to death. He narrowly escaped execution and arrived in Finland as a political refugee in 1988.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush's Millions

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

13 May 2005 By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press Writer

A \$14,000 shotgun, a \$2,700 mountain bike and five fishing rods were among \$26,346 in gifts President Bush accepted last year, according to his financial disclosure form released Friday which also listed millions of dollars the president has invested in U.S. Treasury notes and certificates of deposit.

The disclosure, for instance, said Bush's 1,583-acre ranch was worth between \$1 million and \$5 million. The president reported having at least \$4.95 million in Treasury notes, \$750,000 in certificates of deposits and \$217,000 in checking and money market accounts.

Bush owns the mineral rights valued at up to \$15,000 on property in Reeves County, Texas. He also owns a tree farm, which is not expected to have commercial sales until 2007, which currently has a value of just under \$600,000.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Police Chief Says Anti-Occupation Protestors Can Fly

14 May 2005 By Carlotta Gall, The New York Times

In Afghanistan, at least 8 people were killed and more than 40 injured in clashes, bringing the death toll over four days of anti-American rioting to at least 16, with more than 100 injured. For the first time a policeman was killed in the violence.

Three protesters were killed and 23 people wounded as the police grappled with a crowd of more than 1,500 in Baharak, in far northeastern Badakhstan, the police chief of the province, Gen. Shah Jehan Nuri, said in a telephone interview. Ten police officers and members of the border police, who are based in the town, were among the injured, he said.

In Afghanistan, where the protests began Wednesday, the violence seemed to be spreading, with demonstrations in several provincial towns. Police officers and Afghan National Army troops were prepared in many places but still had trouble quelling the violence, which was directed at the government and international organizations.

One protester was killed and one wounded in Qala-i-Nau, in Badghis Province, where a crowd of some 1,000 people gathered outside the offices of the United States-based aid group, World Vision, and of Malteser, a German group backed by the Knights of Malta.

"Police fired in the air to disperse the crowd, and as a result one man was killed and one injured," the local police chief, Amir Shah Nayebzada, said in a telephone interview.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Real Wages Fall At Fastest Rate In 14 Years

10 May 2005 By Christopher Swann, The Financial Times

Real wages in the US are falling at their fastest rate in 14 years, according to data surveyed by the Financial Times.

Inflation rose 3.1 per cent in the year to March but salaries climbed just 2.4 per cent, according to the Employment Cost Index. In the final three months of 2004, real wages fell by 0.9 per cent.

The last time salaries fell this steeply was at the start of 1991, when real wages declined by 1.1 per cent.

Stingy pay rises mean many Americans will have to work longer hours to keep up with the cost of living, and they could ultimately undermine consumer spending and economic growth.

Even after last month's bumper gain in employment, there are 22,000 fewer private sector jobs than when the recession began in March 2001, a 0.02 per cent fall. At the same point in the recovery from the recession of the early 1990s, private sector employment was up 4.7 per cent.

Soup Kitchen Nation

May 11, 2005 Financial Times, By Christopher Swann

Over the past year the problem of stagnant wages has not been confined solely to those working for companies that are heavily exposed to foreign competition. With wages across the nation failing to keep pace with inflation, an increasing number of workers are justified in feeling that they have been trading water, or worse.

"We have been noticing that low earners are increasingly having to fall back on services intended for the unemployed," says Marc Cohan, a director of the Welfare Law Center. "Even some full-time workers in light construction or factory work are finding themselves using food stamps and soup kitchens."

Brazil Landless March On U.S. Embassy:

"Get Your Hands Off Iraq, Respect Venezuela, Cuba And Brazil"



(Reuters)

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

May 13, By Andrew Hay, Reuters

Thousands of landless Brazilian peasants marched toward the capital on Friday to protest against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's slow land reforms and U.S. plans for Americas-wide free trade.

The 12,000 Landless Workers Movement (MST) activists have occupied eight ranches on their 14-day trek from the city of Goiania and are now within 24 miles of the capital.

Protesters will target the U.S. embassy, Brazil's central bank and finance ministry on Tuesday in a call for "social revolution" against Lula's market-driven economic policies and U.S. imperialism, leaders said.

"We want to send a message to Bush," said Gilmar Mauro, an MST national leader who met with Chavez two weeks ago in Havana. "Get your hands off Iraq, respect Venezuela, Cuba and Brazil."

Protest leaders are calling on unions, students and political parties to join the demonstration, which is expected to be the biggest ever outside the U.S. Embassy. The embassy said it would increase security on Tuesday.

Australian Imperial Dreams Get Kick In The Ass

May 14, 2005 (ABC) & By Phil Mercer, VOAnews

Australia may be forced to withdraw its police contingent from Papua New Guinea after judges there ruled the deployment was unconstitutional.

The Australian police have been confined to their accommodation in Port Moresby since the ruling was handed down on Friday morning.

The court ruling is a blow to Canberra's policy of involvement in the affairs of its smaller neighbors in the South Pacific, including the Solomon Islands and Fiji.

Australia adopted its policy of intervention in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks in the U.S. It feared that instability in the region's small island states could create havens for drug traffickers and extremists. [The Australian government, not "Australia," lusted after more territory. Australia has plenty of drug traffickers at home the government could worry about. The extremists are the politicians who want to grab some Pacific territory. Duh.]

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From: Desmond
To: GI Special
Sent: May 14, 2005
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