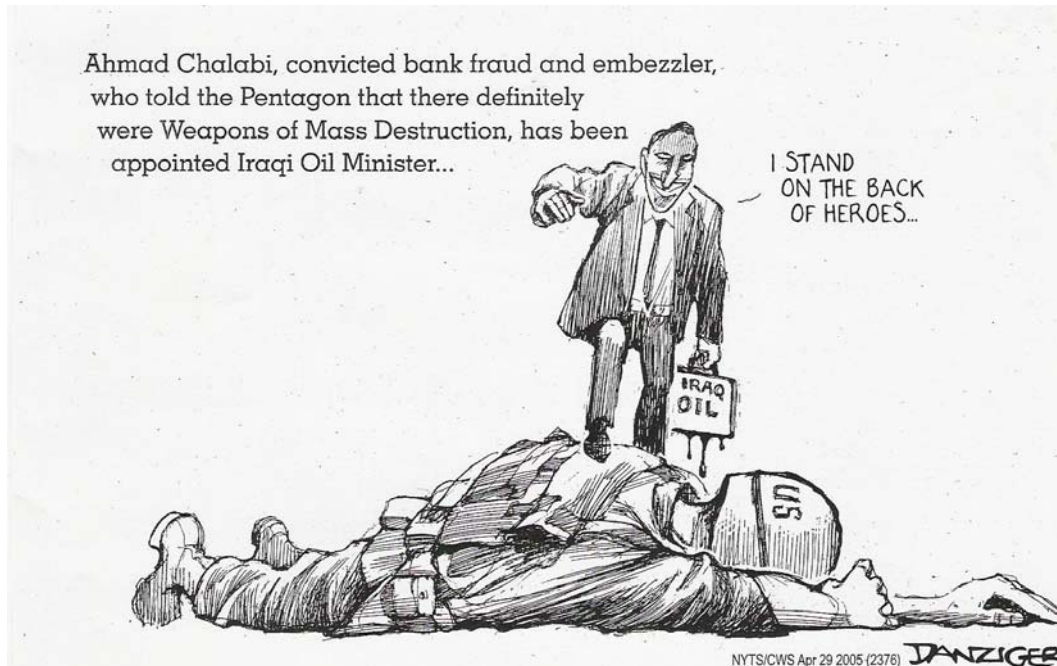


GI SPECIAL 3B57:



IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Death Toll In Iraq Crosses 1,700

[Thanks to PB who sent this in. He writes: Were going to hit 2000 soon, probably by the end of summer.]

6.12.05 By PAUL GARWOOD, Associated Press Writer

The military announced the killing of four more U.S. soldiers on Sunday, pushing the American death toll past 1,700.

Four American soldiers died Saturday in two roadside bombings west of Baghdad, increasing the number of U.S. forces killed since the war began in March 2003 to at least 1,701.

IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers Near Amiriyah

6.12.05 (AP)

Two U.S. soldiers were killed Saturday when a bomb exploded near their vehicle outside Amiriyah, some 25 miles west of Baghdad.

Taqaddum “Bomb” Kills Two U.S. Troops

6.12.05 (AP)

Two U.S. Soldiers died when their vehicle struck a bomb near Taqaddum, 45 miles west of Baghdad.

Army Spc. Eric T. Burri, KIA



This undated photo provided by the Burri family shows Army Spc. Eric T. Burri, 21, of Wyoming, Mich., who died June 7, 2005, in Baghdad. He was assigned to the 623rd Quartermaster Co., 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/

Haditha IED Destroys Tank, 2 Humvees; Two U.S. Troops Dead

11 June 2005 Aljazeera

Aljazeera reported that a roadside bomb exploded on the main road in the Iraqi western city of Haditha, destroying a US tank and two Humvee vehicles.

Witnesses said two US soldiers were killed, but the US military has yet to comment on the incident.

Eight From 48th Brigade Injured In Mortar Attack

6.12.05 The Associated Press

A mortar attack injured eight from Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Sunday morning at a forward operating base, brigade officials said.

"Four were transported to a (military hospital) in the International Zone," said Lt. Salina Owens, 48th Brigade spokeswoman. "Four were treated at the aid station and returned to duty."

Three of those injured were from the 1st Battalion, 108th Armor Regiment.

They were injured at Forward Operating Base St. Michael, about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

During the U.S. presence in Iraq, the small base, near the city of Mahmudiyah, previously had been targeted with insurgent mortar rounds and rockets. But there had been few mortar or rocket attacks since the regiment moved into the area two weeks ago. [Of course not. New unit; study of their routines required before initiating offensive operations. Duh.]

The 48th, which was called to active duty in January and crossed from Kuwait to Iraq at the end of last month, includes soldiers from across Georgia, augmented by about 1,600 troops from Illinois, Missouri, Maryland, Rhode Island, Alabama and Puerto Rico.

URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE NEEDS A TANK LIKE A FISH NEEDS A BICYCLE



Iraqi's are clearly intimidated by and frightened of a US tank rolling through a neighborhood of south Baghdad during a patrol as part of Operation Lightning. Rashid Al-Dinh, bystander and former Iraqi army Gunnery Sgt., told reporters "Hooah, Operation Iraqi Fuckup strikes again. We can outrun those roaster-ovens one legged and blindfolded. No need to go head to head with tankers; the DU is doing the job for us. They glow in the dark -- and I do not mean the vehicles." (Photo: AFP/Yuri Cortez)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan: U.S. Issues Warning On Travel Dangers

USA Today, June 10, 2005

The State Department issued a new warning against travel to Afghanistan, citing kidnapping and murder threats against U.S. citizens.

TROOP NEWS

Two Killers Coming To Scotland

[This is a message from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. Her words carry more weight, and contain more truth, than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians. T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2005 4:58 PM
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B56: Mission Preposterous

THE SHITE WE HAVE TO DO, FOR TWO KILLERS

**1. MARCH PAST GLEN EAGLES HOTEL IS NOT POSSIBLE
DUE TO POLICE IMPOSED ROAD BLOCKS,
SO THE TWO KILLERS WILL NOT SEE US,**

**2. RALLY IN AUCHTERADER PARK IS POSSIBLE BUT WE
HAVE TO FIND "£5 MILLION IN SURANCE,
PREMIUM AND PAY £37,000.**

**THIS IS A SERIOUS ATTACK ON OUR RIGHT TO PEACEFUL
PROTEST, THEY ALSO WISH TO RESTRICT THE NUMBERS TO
4500 PEOPLE. THIS WILL NOT STOP US, WE WILL GO,
AND BLAIR, BUSH, WILL GET IT HARD,**

**IT WILL BE ONE YEAR ON THE 28TH OF JUNE BLAIR KILLED
MY BOY, HIM AND BUSH WHERE IN IRAQ, WHEN IT HAPPEDN
SO I WILL BE AT GLENEAGLES,
AND THE TWO KILLERS WILL NO**

IT,, MY BOY SHOULD BE IN SCOTLAND NOT BUSH,

**LETS ALL GO TO GLENEAGLES, SUPORT OUR TROOPS AND
THE ONES WE HAVE LOST,**

ROSE GENTLE, MFSO. SCOTLAND

Once A Marine, Martin Smith Lauded For Insight Into Anti-War Rebellion By U.S. Troops: A "Working Class Revolt"



Martin Smith took a circuitous route to UC Santa Cruz: a short stint at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, then to the Marines Corps, with stops at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey and an assignment in Hawaii. (Dan Coyro, Sentinel)

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

June 11, 2005 By JONDI GUMZ, Santa Clara Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — At 34, Martin Smith is one of the oldest graduating seniors at UC Santa Cruz this weekend. He also is one of the most outstanding.

His senior thesis argues that anti-war activity among soldiers during the Vietnam War is a part of the history of the American working class.

An alumni committee was so impressed it gave him the Steck Award, a \$1,000 prize endowed by a UCSC alumnus and his family for the finest senior thesis. History professor Dana Frank called it the best student paper she had read in 14 years of teaching at the campus.

The award is the latest in a string of honors for Smith, a history major who won the Melkonian Prize last year for his research on troop resistance to fight in Vietnam. He presented his 98-page paper at a history conference in Illinois in April.

Ironically, Smith will be working rather than participating in his graduation ceremony this morning. He works on campus at Merrill College as assistant programs coordinator.

"To be frank, I need the extra cash and my family lives far away in Tennessee," he explained.

Smith, who lives off campus near the Mystery Spot, arrived at UCSC by a circuitous route.

After graduating from high school in Kingsport, Tenn., he started as a piano major at the Cincinnati Conservatory. But he became more interested in politics than attending classes, and dropped out. He supported himself working as a waiter, then decided to enlist in the military.

The Marine Corps was the first service he approached.

"As silly as it sounds, I liked their uniforms better," he said.

He was guaranteed a spot at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey and an assignment in Hawaii.

"It was a hard offer to refuse," he recalled.

He learned Russian and spent three years on Oahu before being honorably discharged shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He decided to complete his college degree.

"UCSC seemed ideal," he said.

Nationwide, more than 30 percent of today's college students are older adults who tend to have higher dropout rates than traditional college-age students.

Smith overcame those odds. He relished the opportunity to be in school.

"At times, I felt I was on a mission to learn," he said.

His award-winning research paper was sparked by an essay he read about American troops in Vietnam refusing to fight. He had never heard that piece of history.

His curiosity aroused, he began searching for the reasons troop resistance in Vietnam was stronger than in previous wars.

He read GI underground newspapers and reports of congressional hearings. He studied television war footage and documentary films. He interviewed veterans and even found protest inscriptions engraved on Zippo lighters the troops carried during the war.

Among the many books he read was one by former Harvard professor Christian Appy. Appy called Vietnam the "working class war" because of college deferments and the high proportion of blacks and Latinos on the front lines.

"I took his basic argument a step further," Smith said.

Smith reasoned that the resistance tactics adopted by soldiers — drug abuse, refusals to fight, and the killing of officers in grenade attacks known as "fragging" — represented a "working class revolt."

He saw parallels between troops negotiating orders with their commander and workers negotiating with their boss.

He also sees parallels to the ongoing conflict in Iraq, where soldiers have refused orders and underground newspapers critical of the American military presence in Iraq are posted on the Web.

By the time Smith finished his research, his perception of the military had radically changed.

"I thought the military was just a bunch of gung-ho Rambo types," he said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Instead, he sees the military as a cross-section of society, dealing with the same problems the civilian world faces, including drug abuse and poor leadership.

Smith seems to have found his niche in academia. He has won a fellowship to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign starting in August. He plans to study with scholars David Roediger and James Barrett and earn a doctorate in history.

Recruiting Numbers Are Down For Fourth Month: Guard, Reserves Recruiting Fail Also; New "Initiative" Program Flops

June 11, 2005 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer & June 10, 2005 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer & Will Dunham, Reuters

The Army announced yesterday that it missed its recruiting goal for the fourth consecutive month.

The Army missed its May active-duty recruiting goal of 6,700 by 1,661 recruits, pushing the shortfall for fiscal 2005 to 8,321 -- or more than a month's worth of recruits.

The Army missed its enlisted recruiting goal for the month by 25 percent. The shortfall would have been 37 percent if the Army had not lowered its May goal.

Overall, the Army has sent 40,964 enlistees to boot camp, and has four months to nearly double that figure to reach the 80,000 goal for this fiscal year.

Eight months into the fiscal year, the Army has enlisted 40,964 soldiers out of a year-to-date goal of 49,285, a shortfall of 17 percent. **[So, the rate of failure is increasing.]**

Army, Navy and Marine Corps reserve forces also missed their goals for May.

Army National Guard enlistments for the month fell short by 29 percent, Army Reserves by 18 percent, Marine Corps Reserves by 12 percent and Navy Reserves by 4 percent, according to figures released yesterday by the Pentagon.

For the year, the Army National Guard is 24 percent below its recruiting target, signing up just 30,252 soldiers out of a goal of 39,957. The Army Reserve has signed up 9,552 soldiers out of a goal of 11,944, a shortfall of 20 percent.

The Navy Reserve has signed up 6,484 sailors out of a year-to-date goal of 7,397.

The Air National Guard has signed up just 5,492 airmen out of a year-to-date goal of 6,866, a shortfall of 20 percent.

The sluggish flow of enlistments means that Army boot camps are less than half full -- training at 46 percent of their capacity this month, compared with 91 percent in May 2004, said Harvey Perritt, spokesman for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. For example, the Army's infantry training center at Fort Benning, Ga., had by May trained only 8,700 of its fiscal year goal of 24,500 infantrymen.

A nationwide initiative launched last month to allow people to serve 15-month terms, not including training, has so far drawn only 44 additional recruits.

An Army official said, "I think the Guard is not going to make it" -- meaning it would miss its a second straight annual goal -- and that "I don't think that there's a whole lot of enthusiasm" that the Army Reserve will meet its annual goal. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the Army had not yet made public projections on Guard and Reserve recruitment.

Fiscal 2005 Active Duty Enlisted Recruiting from Oct. 1, 2004- May 31, 2005:

	Quantity	
	Accessions	Goal
Army	40,964	49,285
Navy	18,456	18,440
Marine Corps	17,241	16,935
Air Force	9,047	8,968
Total	85,708	93,628

Fiscal 2005 Reserve Component Enlisted Recruiting from Oct. 1, 2004- May 31, 2005:

	Quantity	
	Accessions	Goal
Army National Guard	30,252	39,957

Army Reserve	9,552	11,944
Navy Reserve	6,484	7,397
Marine Corps Reserve	5,154	5,139
Air National Guard	5,492	6,866
Air Force Reserve	5,831	5,001

June 10, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 577-05

Another Loathsome Predator Caught: Recruiter Says Having Sex With Him A Requirement For Marine Corps: Recruiting Bonus: Sexual Disease

According to the girl, the preliminary military investigation of her charges was conducted by an officer out of San Diego who contacted her, heard her story and told her to keep her mouth shut. "(The Marines) are stupid if they think they can keep this quiet," she said.]

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

June 08, 2005 By Michael Riemenschneider, The Ukiah Daily Journal & By GLENDA ANDERSON AND MIKE GENIELLA, THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

A Ukiah teenager who wanted to be a U.S. Marine has told civilian and military authorities she was required to have sex with her recruiter to fulfill her wish.

She says the Naval Criminal Investigative Service is now looking at her case and may press charges against the recruiter.

The girl, a high school senior, will be graduating this year and plans to attend college, despite former plans to enlist in the Marines and aspirations to join the military police.

"I don't like seeing military people in uniform anymore," she said in an interview.

According to what the young woman told law enforcement, her interactions with Staff Sgt. Joseph Dunzweiler began late in October of last year. Interested in the Marines for some years, she had become a potential recruit or "poolie" as they are called, in Sacramento, where she used to live. After she moved to Ukiah, Dunzweiler became one of her new recruiters.

Discovering they had a similar taste in music, the two quickly became friends, she said. The young woman, 17 at the time, thought there might have been something more and she says Dunzweiler alluded to the possibility as well.

Marine Corps policy, however, expressly forbids such personal relationships between recruiting personnel and potential recruits. The young woman, despite wishing otherwise, grew to understand this policy and the impossibility of a relationship with her sergeant.

Early in 2005, however, their relationship took a distinctly different direction.

"He told me that, if I wanted to become a Marine, I would have to have sex with him," she said she told authorities.

According to the police report, the teenager lost her virginity to Dunzweiler and contracted a venereal disease, chlamydia, from him.

In her report to the authorities, she said the sex was unprotected, *at the insistence of Dunzweiler, despite the ready availability of condoms at the recruitment center.*

[So, not only does he give her a sexual disease, he makes sure she gets it by refusing to use a condom.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Dunzweiler, 24, and Sgt. Brian Fukushima, 25, each face 11 counts of violating the military's code of conduct, Marine Maj. Michael Samarov said Tuesday.

"If these charges are proven to be true, these Marines' behavior is troubling and very disappointing," he said. **[That's it? "Troubling" and "very disappointing?"]**

The men were suspended from duty in February, immediately after the investigation into their conduct began, Samarov said. They are awaiting separate courts-martial at the 12th Marine Corps District headquarters in San Diego, he said.

The allegations against Dunzweiler and Fukushima include sexual misconduct, making false statements and failure to follow military codes of conduct, Samarov said. He declined to be more specific.

If convicted, they face up to six months confinement, forfeiture of two-thirds of their basic pay and a bad conduct discharge, said Marine Lt. Carolyn Nelson, a spokeswoman for the 12th Marine Corps District.

Barry Vogel, a Ukiah attorney representing an 18-year-old Ukiah woman who went to police in March, said the two Marines had sex with several potential recruits and gave them alcohol at the East Perkins Street recruiting office.

[If this asshole predator keeps his uniform, we'll know exactly how much honor Marine command has: none. We'll know it's not just the recruiter; we'll know the whole chain of command is a cesspool, and the every word they preach to the troops about the honor of the Corps is a filthy fraud and a stinking lie.]

Through the middle of February, two other sexual incidents occurred, also unprotected. Worried that she might be pregnant, the young woman went to a health clinic. Staff requested she be checked for STDs and she agreed.

While the pregnancy check was negative, the STD check was not, she said she told authorities.

Dunzweiler could not be reached for comment.

Ultimately, the girl alleges, there were five female potential recruits and four recruiters interacting. The young women are from Ukiah, Redwood Valley, Willits, Santa Rosa and Lake County. Two have entered Marine Corps boot camp.

Law enforcement both civil and military gradually became involved.

The parent who originally pushed her to change recruiting centers from Sacramento to Ukiah urged her to report what had happened to the police, which she did.

Mendocino County District Attorney Norm Vroman said Tuesday he would not press charges, seeing no actual crime committed. He added however, that some military action **might be** appropriate.

According to the girl, the preliminary military investigation of her charges was conducted by an officer out of San Diego who contacted her, heard her story and told her to keep her mouth shut. [How about publicizing the name, rank and address of this brave officer, please. He merits special attention and the thanks of a grateful nation, or possibly the attention of some Marine veterans who may have feelings about those who dishonor the Corps, and who will communicate that to him in a language of his understanding.]

Sergeant Archer, at the Ukiah Marine recruiting center, Tuesday acknowledged an investigation is under way and that the two former recruiters have been transferred, but was not at liberty to provide further details.

The girl's Ukiah attorney, Barry Vogel, said he has talked with Military Justice Officer Major Henry J. Brezillac, who confirmed court martial proceedings against Dunzweiler were under way.

Whatever happens next, the young woman said she just wanted to make her experience public.

"(The Marines) are stupid if they think they can keep this quiet," she said. [Obviously at least one officer is stupid above and beyond the call of duty.]

Vogel encouraged anyone else who believes recruiters have engaged in improper conduct to make it known.

North Coast Rep. Mike Thompson (D-St. Helena), informed by Vogel last month about the case, is concerned about the matter and opened discussions with fellow representatives concerning recruiting practices, according to a spokesman in his office.

Language in the most recent military authorization bill, recently passed in the House, calling for a Government Accountability Office investigation into recruitment misconduct, also received his support.

US Lowers Standards In Army Numbers Crisis

[Thanks to t eto who sent this in.]

June 4, 2005 Jamie Wilson in Washington, Guardian

The US military has stopped battalion commanders from dismissing new recruits for drug abuse, alcohol, poor fitness and pregnancy in an attempt to halt the rising attrition rate in an army under growing strain as a result of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

An internal memo sent to senior commanders said the growing dropout rate was "a matter of great concern" in an army at war.

It told officers: "We need your concerted effort to reverse the negative trend. By reducing attrition 1%, we can save up to 3,000 initial-term soldiers. That's 3,000 more soldiers in our formations."

Officially, the memo, reported in the Wall Street Journal and posted on Slate.com, ordered battalion commanders to refer cases of problem soldiers up to brigade level. Military experts warned that the move would make it more difficult to remove poor soldiers and would lower quality in the ranks.

The Wall Street Journal quoted a battalion commander as saying: "It is the guys on weight control ... school no-shows, drug users, etc, who eat up my time and cause my hair to grey prematurely ... Often they have more than one of these issues simultaneously."

Asked what the new policy meant, John Pike from the thinktank Globalsecurity.org said: "It means there is a war on. They need all the soldiers they can get. But it is a dilemma. You need good soldiers more in wartime than peacetime."

In March 17.4% of all new army recruits failed to complete training, while another 7.3% did not finish the first three years with their unit.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

6.12.05 (AP)

Insurgents fired mortar rounds at a funeral for the mother of one of Iraq's most senior police generals on Sunday, killing two people.

The mortar attack, which killed two people and wounded 11, took place Sunday evening in Baghdad's northern Hurriyah district during a funeral for the mother of Maj. Gen. Rashid Flaiyeh, who commands the Interior Ministry's elite police units, an official said.

A roadside bomb aimed at local police went off a few hundred yards from the funeral, police Lt. Ismael Abdul Sattar said. Flaiyeh, who is also a security adviser to Interior Minister Bayan Jabr, was not injured, Abdul Sattar said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"In times of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act." George Orwell

“But How Can We Leave Iraq?”

[Made sense 12/03. Makes more sense 6.05.]

12/05/03: (Traveling Soldier) <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.03.leave.php>

Have you noticed how the politicians who ask that question aren't in Iraq? They're making speeches and holding press conferences in Washington about "How can we leave Iraq?"

An old story from Vietnam Days comes to mind.

Somebody asked a soldier who was against the war, "How can we leave Vietnam?"

The answer: "Ship or plane, either is good."

The liars in Washington in those days were selling a different line of bullshit. If "we" leave Vietnam, the Communists will take over Vietnam, then Thailand, then Malaysia, then Burma, then India, then the Philippines and before you know it they're landing in California. "It's better we fight communism in the streets of Saigon than in the streets of New York," they said.

Vietnam "fell" and none of that happened. Today Vietnam is full of sweatshops where people get paid shit making sneakers for U.S. corporations and all kinds of other stuff, but noticeably few Communists have invaded California, and no Vietnamese appear to be interested in getting even for their millions of dead by traveling over here and fighting in the streets.

So what would happen if the U.S. military left Iraq and all the troops came home now?

Maybe some Iraqi multimillionaires will buy up the government and pocket the oil money. That would be the American way.

Maybe some religious political parties will get control of the government. In Turkey, a religious political party is in control of the government. It's (gasp) Muslim too. And Bush just handed that government \$8 billion. Washington politicians use "Islamic fundamentalism" as a boogeyman to scare people into supporting the occupation. They don't give a damn about the rights of Iraqi women, or religious minorities, or democracy – so long as their fat checks come in, and they stay rich and powerful.

Maybe the millions of workers who live in the cities will organize their own party and fight for their own interests and agenda. They might even start a revolution from below that seizes the oil fields and uses their wealth to make it possible for all Iraqis to have a decent life, instead of ending up in some corporate bank account.

Maybe there will be bloodshed, a civil war, and a period of unrest until the Iraqis figure out who is going to be in charge. America had one of those from 1860-65 and no one – not the British, not the French, not the Russians, not the U.N. – had a right to interfere.

But one thing there won't be is a foreign, invading, occupying military power suffocating all of Iraqi society and generating a national resistance movement that makes the whole country a war zone.

We shouldn't forget that the Iraqis managed to organize their own society for about 3000 years before America was "discovered" in what were some of the earliest human civilizations. Before the U.S. invasion, Iraq was one of the few Muslim countries where city life was more like Europe than it is in Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia, or other medieval regimes supporting Bush's Imperial War. It's the most vicious, ignorant racism to assume they can't run their own country without Bremer and Bush.

And while no one knows exactly what will happen in Iraq when the U.S. leaves, a few things are for sure.

Not a single American soldier will get killed by Iraqis who want to run their own country if American soldiers aren't there.

No Iraqis fighting for independence will get killed by American soldiers if American soldiers aren't there.

Want to make Iraq a better, safer place to live? Want to reduce the number of American soldiers missing hands, feet, arms, or life in a pointless and impossible occupation?

Bring all the troops home now.

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)

Mutiny!

***Bronenosets Potyomkin:* June 14th: Celebrate The 100th Anniversary Of The *Potemkin* Mutiny!**

Movie review by A.W. for GI Special

Though released in the USSR in 1925, the frequently banned *Battleship Potemkin* tells a story that will still ring true to anyone who is aware of the conditions faced by soldiers in today's US military, and sometimes even by workers in today's US workforce.

It also offers a quick look at the revolution that resulted from these conditions in 1905, following the defeat of the Tsar's army in the Russo-Japanese War.

After angrily refusing to eat soup made from a maggot-infested side of beef, the sailors are lined up on the deck of the *Potemkin* to face the wrath of the captain and his

detachment of armed men. “All those who ate the soup, step forward,” he orders the sailors. Only the petty officers, wishing to gain the captain’s favor, step forward. Substitute some other outrage for the maggots, and this scene from the movie has undoubtedly been replayed in many other armies, and even, perhaps, at my own civilian job.

When the captain orders the execution of the crewmen who have not stepped forward, a Bolshevik agitator on the deck decides it’s time for action and persuades the hesitant firing squad to hold their fire. The sailors grab their rifles, and the mutiny begins.

This struggle is brief, but full of symbolism. The ship’s chaplain, a ridiculous bearded man in a robe, stands silently to one side while the execution of the sailors is ordered, but once the uprising begins, he confronts one of the mutineers, brandishing a large crucifix. “Fear the Lord!” he cries, before being shoved out of the way.

With a cast that includes some of the actual crewmen who mutinied, *Battleship Potemkin* is a classic of film history.

The 1905 revolution, though it was crushed, led to the formation of workers’ and soldiers’ councils –called soviets- that were finally able to take power through the Bolshevik Revolution 12 years later.



Mutiny!

Before There Was Fraggging: A Glimpse Of An Earlier Imperial War

The soldiers' bayonets, as if of their own accord, swung toward the chest of the man who had abused them, the agent of those who had sent them here -- Major Chikamatsu. Wildly the blades converged.

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: June 11, 2005

Before there was fragging: a glimpse of an earlier imperial war.

Rifles, boots, and bodies were heavy. The soldiers, seemingly about to collapse, trudged aimlessly through the snow. They knew they were going to die. No one was likely to bring sleighs to their rescue. Why must they die in the snow? Why had they been forced to come into this wilderness to kill Russians? Defeating the Russians brought the soldiers no benefit at all.

A deep gloom enveloped them. The people who had dispatched them to Siberia had known all along they would die in the snow like this. Sprawled cozily under stove-heated quilts they were no doubt praising the beauty of snow. Even if they were to hear of the soldiers' deaths, they would merely say, "Is that so?" Nothing more.

They struggled on through the snow. They had not lost their consciousness, though, nor their rage, resistance, or hatred.

The soldiers' bayonets, as if of their own accord, swung toward the chest of the man who had abused them, the agent of those who had sent them here*Major Chikamatsu. Wildly the blades converged.

[Excerpted from 'The Sleigh,' a 1927 story by Japanese writer Denji Kuroshima.

[In 1919 Kuroshima was drafted to serve in the Siberian Intervention, a doomed war waged by Japan--allied with the US and Britain--against the newly emerged Soviet Union. He became a lifelong antimilitarist.]

Solidarity, Z

<p>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.</p>

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



An Iraqi woman watches US soldiers inspect cars in Baghdad. (AFP/Yuri Cortez)

Clues:

- 1. The photo is from Baghdad, a city in Iraq.**
- 2. The vehicles belong to Iraqis, who are civilian citizens of Iraq.**
- 3. The soldiers are members of the United States army.**
- 4. The soldiers, who are not citizens of Iraq, and have no police powers in Iraq, are “inspecting” vehicles belonging to Iraqis, who are civilian citizens of Iraq.**
- 5. There are no Iraqi police anywhere to be seen.**
- 6. According to George Bush, Iraq is a sovereign nation and there is no occupation.**
- 7. There are, however, citizens of Iraq to be seen observing United States soldiers, carrying deadly weapons, who have no police powers in Iraq, “inspecting” vehicles belonging to Iraqis, who are civilian citizens of Iraq.**
- 8. If an Iraqi asks to see an order in writing giving armed foreigners the authority to inspect vehicles belonging to Iraqi civilian citizens, and says nobody will inspect his or her vehicle without lawful authority, what do you suppose would happen to the Iraqi?**
- 9A. What do you suppose a reasonably proud, patriotic Iraqi citizen will make of this?**
- 9B. Wouldn't it save time and effort to simply hand Iraqis a flyer with the address of the nearest Iraqi resistance recruiting office along with a starter kit of light arms, rather than go thru all this tedious walking-around-looking-at-vehicles bullshit? In the end, the result is the same.**

10. If a bunch of Iraqi soldiers, fully armed, were walking down a street in your home town “inspecting” your vehicles, when they weren’t setting up checkpoints and killing your neighbors if they didn’t stop in time, would you kiss their ass and say “Thank you for liberating me” or would you A.) starting talking to some close friends and B.) make sure your weapons are in order?

For immediate advancement two pay grades:

- A. Who are the bad guys?
- B. Why the fuck are you still there?

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.

“The U.S. Is Now Part Of The Problem, Rather Than The Solution”

May 17, 2005 By Robert Scheer, LA Times

By all accounts, the disparate elements of the Iraqi insurgency do agree on one thing: their desire to drive the U.S. military out. **Thus, the U.S. presence is the fuel for the conflagration it claims to be stamping out.**

Yet instead of accepting that the occupation is the chief recruiting tool for both would-be martyrs and less-suicidal nationalist fighters, there is widespread bipartisan agreement in our government that the heavy-handed U.S. presence is the key to restoring order.

Leaders of both parties have bought into the fantasy that the January elections proved that a stable, democratic Iraq that will be friendly to the U.S. is just around the corner.

As usual, they are wrong.

Foreign jihadis will keep coming across Iraq's porous borders in search of a bloody martyrs' heaven, Sunni Iraqis will keep fighting for the wealth and power they believe is their birthright, and Shiite radicals such as cleric Muqtada Sadr, popular with Iraq's teeming poor, will continue to denounce the U.S. presence, as he did Monday in Najaf.

The answer is to leave the Iraqis to control their own affairs, rather than pretending to govern from half-empty legislative meetings in the locked-down Green Zone in Baghdad. The U.S. is now part of the problem, rather than the solution.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION COMMAND LAUNCHES NEW RECRUITING DRIVE FOR IRAQI RESISTANCE



U.S. soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division break into a house in central Baghdad June 6. U.S. troops cordoned off an area in the New Baghdad district on June 6 and 7 to search for insurgents as part of 'Operation Determined Fury'. Photograph shot under green awning giving coloured effect. REUTERS/US Army/Spc. Ben Brody/Handout

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

**Iraqis Bitter About Occupation
Gulags:
Prisoners Held Months Without
Charges**



May 29, 2005 By Doug Smith and Raheem Salman, L.A. Times Staff Writers, ABU GHRAIB, Iraq

A year after the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal erupted, Iraqi anger has flared anew over the growing numbers of detainees held without charge at the notorious detention center and another prison in the south.

In the battle against the insurgency, U.S. military sweeps net many guerrillas, but also thousands of people whose offenses are nonexistent, minor or impossible to prove. They are often held for months, only to be released without explanation.

The population of long-term detainees at Abu Ghraib and the larger Camp Bucca, near Basra, has nearly doubled since August and now tops 10,000. With a large operation by Iraqi security forces underway in Baghdad, that number could rise.

The military has established a multitiered system to ensure that innocent people caught up in chaotic events are not held for extensive periods. Records provided by the military, however, show that the evidence against suspects justifies prolonged detention in only about one in four cases. Nonetheless, more than half are held three months or more before being freed.

After secret reviews of their cases, some are released. But the futures of those who remain in custody is unclear. There is no limit to how long they can be held.

U.S. military officials did not respond to questions from The Times about why so many detainees have been held so long before being freed.

Almost without fail, those who know someone in detention contend that he is a loyal citizen who did nothing wrong. The high rate of release shows that, at the least, it is difficult to prove them wrong.

Mazin Farouq, a 35-year-old photo lab technician, was held for six months. Farouq was shot by U.S. soldiers as he and two friends drove home to Baghdad one November night last year after a vacation in Syria. He said they did not see a checkpoint but fled in panic when they heard shots hitting their car. Several soldiers drove up and searched them. Finding nothing, the soldiers immediately freed the two friends and took Farouq to nearby Abu Ghraib for treatment at its field hospital.

He said he received excellent medical care and expected to be released. Instead, he was placed in detention. Two months later, he was transferred to Bucca. After making numerous calls and visits to the ministries of interior and human rights, Farouq's parents were finally told that his case would be reviewed in early May. Farouq was released May 9.

In an interview, he said he believed his incarceration was a cover-up.

"They did not suspect me, but I think they made a mistake, and all these procedures are to protect the soldier who committed this mistake," he said.

Long internments such as Farouq's have raised the ire of civil rights groups, Iraqi media outlets and some political leaders, who accuse the U.S. of being indiscriminant in its search for insurgents.

Some have called for the immediate transfer of custody to Iraqi authorities. [What? They're not in the custody of "sovereign" Iraq? Why, how can such a thing be? Unless all that stuff about "sovereign" Iraq was a pack of lies and the country is ruled by a U.S. Military Dictatorship commanded by Traitor-In-Chief and Enemy Foreign And Domestic George Bush. Perish the thought!]

"This is the Iraqi perception — let the Iraqi people judge them," said Ahmed M. Salih, a professor of linguistics at Tikrit University and spokesman for the governor of Salahuddin province, echoing a common theme.

"The majority of Americans depend on bad information. They come immediately to arrest you without asking for more information."

Abbas Sweedi, head of the Iraqi Civil Society Commission, said his group was formed by 15 organizations "to stop the indiscriminate detention of the people."

He has urged street protests against the U.S. and Iraqi security forces, such as the elite Wolf Brigade, which has been accused of using torture to extract confessions from innocent people.

"We will stand against (the Wolf Brigade) or the American troops if there is any Iraqi who is detained without reason," he said.

A Times request to view the Abu Ghraib prison through a 24-hour cycle was denied, as was a request to photograph the facility.

A three-hour visit was limited to a tour of the yard, where 3,500 inmates live in tents, and a walk through the field hospital, where insurgents injured by U.S. troops receive emergency care alongside the Americans they were battling.

Military intelligence activities were off-limits, as well as the assembly area where family members arrive to visit inmates.

Rudisill, the spokesman, said Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca allow visits for 150 detainees a day, six days a week. At that rate, Abu Ghraib inmates could receive visitors once every 23 days; those at Camp Bucca, once every 40 days.

While acknowledging that living conditions, medical care and food services were greatly improved in the last year, Hamza Kafi, administrator of the Human Rights Organization in Iraq, a group known for its moderate views, said detainees' families consistently complain about visiting procedures and the difficulty of getting information about their loved ones.

After making the daylong trip to Bucca, he said, visitors are sometimes turned away when objects as innocuous as paper clips are found during searches. Then they must wait for another cycle.

Finding information about detainees is also fraught with obstacles.

In Baghdad, people seeking information must go to one of three government buildings. One is in the heavily fortified Green Zone. To get there, women in flowing black abayas must negotiate narrow aisles of concertina wire and several searches. Then they face questions to identify the detainee: What was the date of arrest, his full name and date of birth?

"There are 15 ways to spell Mohammed," said Lt. Col. Darwin Concon, the officer in charge of the center in the Green Zone.

At two lower-level detention facilities, one at brigade level and the other at a division headquarters, lawyers examined each case file to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to hold a detainee. A more intensive review begins when the detainees move from brigade level to a larger facility at division headquarters. There they are held for up to 14 days.

Records provided by the 42nd Infantry Division, which covers north-central Iraq, show that since February, 36% of detainees have been released after the second review.

Those retained at the division level are moved to Abu Ghraib, about 30 miles west of Baghdad. Once in the Abu Ghraib prison, a detainee enters a more elaborate and time-consuming judicial process. A board made up of three representatives from the United States and six from the Iraqi ministries of interior, defense and human rights reviews each case within 90 days, Rudisill said.

Family members are not informed of the board's decisions or the dates of proceedings involving the detainee. For those retained after the initial review, additional reviews are required every six months.

The board, established in August, had reviewed about 9,400 cases through late April, Rudisill said.

More than half of the prison reviews resulted in releases for insufficient evidence. About 2,200 were released unconditionally and about 3,100 were released under the signature of a guarantor, such as a tribal leader, figures provided by Rudisill showed.

He would not characterize the circumstances that would require a guarantor. Requests to interview a member of the board were turned down.

But Amin, the former human rights minister, said it was his understanding that release with a guarantor meant that the evidence was weak, and unconditional release indicated "very weak" evidence.

Amin was pushing for faster reviews so that such incarcerations would be shortened.

Releases, however, have not kept pace with arrests. From August to late April, the number of Iraqis in U.S. custody climbed from 5,495 to 9,946.

In early April, dozens of insurgents attacked the Abu Ghraib prison, nearly breaching the wall with a truck bomb that exploded at an entrance.

Their goal? To cause a mass breakout.

MORE:

28 May 2005 CPTnet

IRAQ UPDATE: 17-21 May 2005

Tuesday 17 May Joe Carr and Greg Rollins went to Scania Military Base (aka FOB Falcon) south of Baghdad to enquire about detainees held at the base.

He referred the CPTers to a higher-ranking soldier but that soldier apologized and said that the Army could not comment because the CPTers are not journalists.

On the way out, Rollins, Carr, and their translator talked to two Iraqi men.

[One] said the conditions at Scania were bad, guards only gave them biscuits and water, took them to the bathroom four times a day, and only allowed a two minute shower every two days. The cells are about 6 x 8 meters and hold fourteen to fifteen detainees.

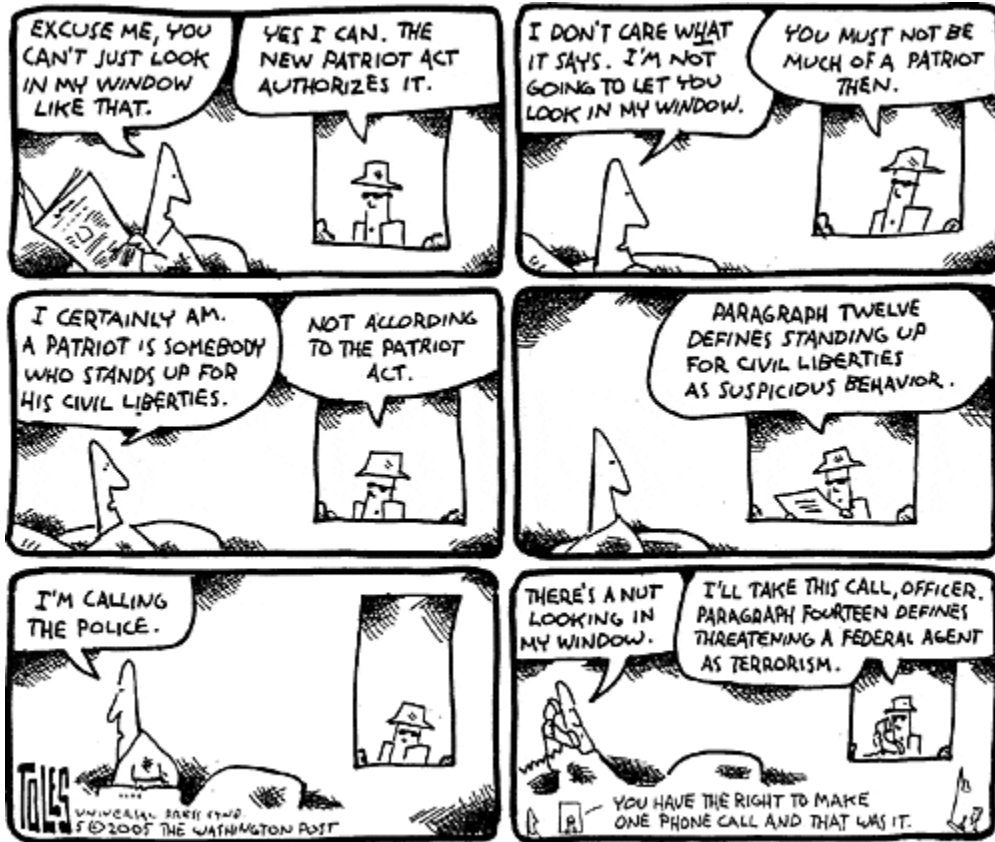
He said the American soldiers had not beaten him, but Iraqi soldiers had. He saw other Iraqis with injuries sustained in beatings by Iraqi soldiers.

He said he saw U.S. soldiers take copies of the Koran off his refrigerator and step on them and saw an American soldier kick a ten-year-old boy who was frightened.

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION

BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



5-22-05

[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace, and Phil G]

Bush, Congress Break Disapproval Record: "Iraq News Is Daily Bad News"

10 June 2005 By Will Lester, The Associated Press, WASHINGTON

When it comes to public approval, President Bush and Congress are playing "how low can you go." Bush's approval mark is 43 percent, while Congress checks in at 31 percent, an Associated Press-Ipsos poll found. Both are the lowest levels yet for the survey, started in December 2003.

"There's a bad mood in the country, people are out of sorts," said Charles Jones, a presidential scholar and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Iraq news is daily bad news."

The public also is showing concerns about the direction of the country as the war in Iraq drags on. Only about one-third of adults, 35 percent, said they thought the country was headed in the right direction.

Forty-one percent said they supported Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, also a low-water mark.

While Bush has gotten generally low scores for his handling of domestic issues for many months, Americans have been more supportive of his foreign policy. Not any more.

The poll conducted for AP by Ipsos found 45 percent support Bush's foreign policy, down from 52 percent in March.

Received:

Reaction

From: t eto
To: GI Special
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2005 9:57 AM

Unfortunately neither 'official' backlash, nor its effectiveness, should be a surprise, forewarned is forearmed: The repression faced by activists at San Francisco State has already had a chilling effect on student activism locally.

On April 20th, Students on many California campuses participated in a walkout to protest budget cuts in education and support the faculty union.

In the SF State campus newspaper, The Golden Gate Xpress, California Faculty Association office manager Laurie Owen stated that "many student groups feel too reluctant to risk incurring yet more wrath from the gods of SFSU to engage in yet more civil disobedience. Because so many groups pulled out of the walkout, it essentially fell apart."

Received:

NEW ORLEANS, LA
2005 SUMMER OF RESISTANCE
SOULSTICE EXPERIENCE

JUNE 18, 2005

From: Ward Reilly; Veterans For Peace, wardpeace@hotmail.com
Sent: June 10, 2005 7:55 PM

Join Cindy Sheehan, Dennis Kyne, and hundreds more, for a Rally at Congo Square on North Rampart Street in New Orleans... a 12:00 Noon March to Jackson Square, to the Blue Nile on Frenchman, & Family Picnic at Washington Square (corner of Royal and Frenchman) June 18th

Come early, stay late...Also come see the world premier of the documentary movie "Jazz Funeral For Democracy" on Friday evening, the 17th...contact wardpeace@hotmail.com

ALERT: * SOULSTICE HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE FRENCH QUARTER.**

The dust has now settled from the Global Day of Action surrounding the second anniversary of the illegal invasion of Iraq and, as promised, we now begin planning for the major antiwar protest in the City of New Orleans for the 2005 "Summer of Resistance". There will be marches and a festival.

We will acknowledge our deep pounding passions and reinforce our intense sense of will along determined paths from various points throughout the City to the gathering of the tribes at our Jackson Square home on Saturday, June 18th.

Drawing upon the mysticism of the season, we will personify life's greatest treasures and decry its most extreme violations. Our fist in the air, we will display our strength united with the gentility of love in upbeat, but unwavering, defiance.

We will have live music with drumming, dancing, chanting and purification, a speakers' alley with celebration, dedication and empowerment, street car parties, dog parade, poster exhibit, kite flying, bubble blowing and group picnic. This is the time to experience the force within, to be conscious of how we use our gifts and to exert our own true power.

It is only through awareness and deliberate action that we can bring the Movement to the forefront. This will set the standard for Southern Resistance against the evil which confronts us all.

Are you ready for the experience?

If so, email us immediately and we will include you on our new email group list created SOULY for the implementation of the SOULSTICE EXPERIENCE:
info@newdemocracyrising.com. <http://www.newdemocracyrising.com/>

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

