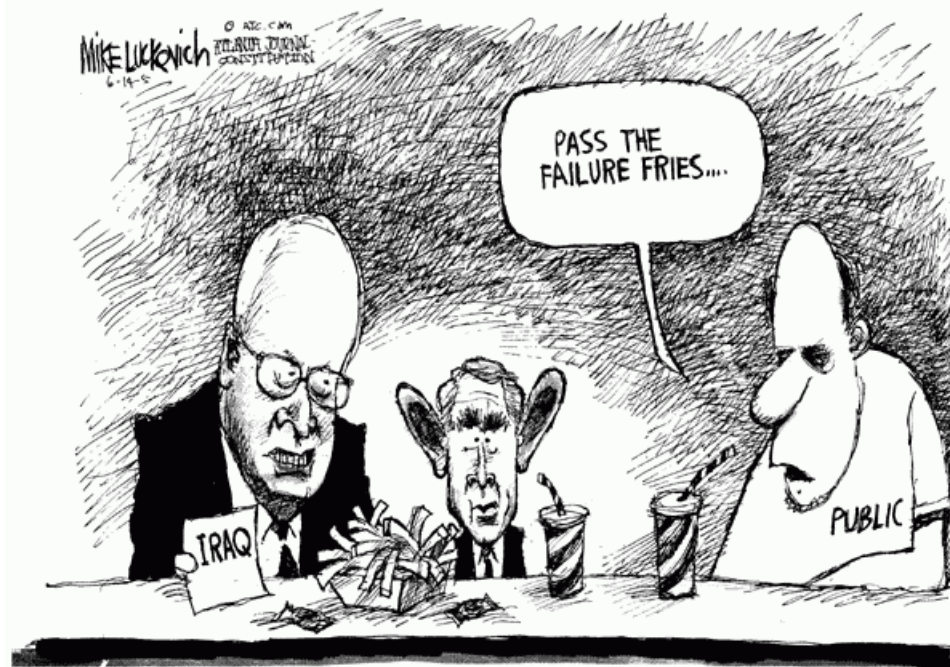
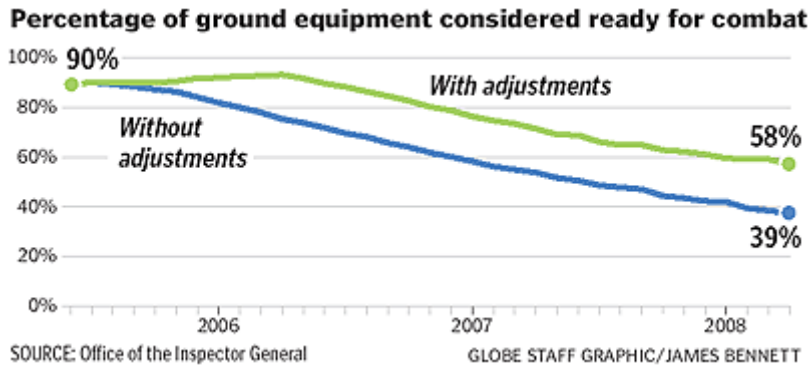


GI SPECIAL 3B67:



**Marines Betrayed By
Their Own Command:
Official Report Says They Are
Still Defenseless In Unarmored
Vehicles;
Officers “Understated” The
Problem**



The report said that about a quarter of the Humvees used by the Second Marine Expeditionary Force lacked sufficient armor to protect troops from roadside bombs, including 1,000 vehicles that have yet to be fitted with armor plates for the undercarriage.

JUNE 22, 2005 By Sabrina Tavernise, The New York Times & By Bryan Bender, The Boston Globe

Marines fighting in some of the most dangerous terrain in Iraq do not have enough weapons, communications gear or properly outfitted vehicles, according to a report by the Marine Corps inspector general provided to Congress on Monday, Bryan Bender of The Boston Globe reported from Washington.

The report, obtained by The Globe, said the estimated 30,000 marines in Iraq needed twice as many heavy machine guns, more fully protected armored vehicles and more communications equipment.

The Marine Corps leadership has "understated" the amount and types of ground equipment it needs, the report found, concluding that all of its fighting units in Iraq "require ground equipment that exceeds" their current supplies, "particularly in mobility, engineering, communications, and heavy weapons."

Complaints of equipment shortages in Iraq, including lack of adequate vehicle armor, have plagued the Pentagon for months, but most of the reported shortages have been found in the army, which makes up the bulk of the U.S. occupation force.

But the analysis of the Marines' battle readiness, which was released to Congress on Monday, showed that the corps was lacking important equipment needed to stabilize the province of Anbar, in western Iraq.

The report said that about a quarter of the Humvees used by the Second Marine Expeditionary Force lacked sufficient armor to protect troops from roadside bombs, including 1,000 vehicles that have yet to be fitted with armor plates for the undercarriage.

The report also said that if the current demands in Iraq continued, the corps would need another 650 Humvees, which have been logging an average of 780 kilometers, or 480 miles, a month, mostly over rough terrain.

And despite an agreement with the Army to repair broken vehicles at a maintenance facility in Kuwait, the Marine Corps had not scheduled any repairs as of last month.

Meanwhile, those Humvees that have received full armor -- which the report says have significantly improved the safety of troops -- are suffering excessive wear and tear because they were never designed to carry the additional weight.

The report also found that Abrams tanks and other combat vehicles are being so overused that replacements are needed quickly. It found that all of the Marines' battle tanks in Iraq have passed the normal criteria for replacing them.

Communications gear, too, is lacking. The Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters, known as Multinational Forces-West, "has command responsibilities that far exceed any level contemplated by organizational and equipment planners," the report said. Radio and satellite tracking systems are "in critical demand and constant use."

After interviewing commanders, staff members, and unit leaders, the inspector general's office concluded that the Marine Corps' current strategy to meet its communications needs in Iraq "is not sufficient to meet the current and future needs of the force."

Officials at Marine Corps headquarters and the Systems Command declined to comment on the inspector general's report, saying they were not yet familiar enough with its findings to respond to questions. [Meaning these incompetents are thoroughly unfamiliar with reality in Iraq. But then, dealing with reality is not their job.]

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)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

1ST COSCOM SOLDIER KILLED BY AR RUTBAH IED

June 21, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-06-27C

LSA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq – One 1st Corps Support Command Soldier was killed as a result of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device attack while conducting a combat logistics patrol west of Ar Rutbah June 21.

The Soldier was evacuated to a military medical facility where the Soldier was pronounced dead.

Corporal Marin Milev Passed Away In US Army Hospital In Landstul



21 June 2005 FOCUS News Agency

Sofia. Corporal Marin Milev, who was wounded in a road incident in Iraq on 14 June, passed away today at 16:22 in the US army hospital in the German town of Landstul, announced for FOCUS Agency Vladislav Prelezov, spokesman of the Defence Ministry.

The relatives of Corporal Milev have been informed of his death. As it has been already announced the health condition of the wounded during road incident in Iraq Bulgarian corporal Marin Milev deteriorated seriously in the afternoon.

Corporal Marin Milev has been rushed in the US Army Hospital in the German town of Landstul after his armoured personnel carrier fell into water while passing over a dyke last week.

2 Local Soldiers Hurt:

"I Don't Know How Much More We Can Take"

June 21, 2005 By ROGER W. HOSKINS, BEE STAFF WRITER

Finding out their sons had been wounded in Iraq overshadowed Father's Day for a pair of local dads.

Tim Fritangela of Manteca said he got the call parents dread at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

His son Dustin, 20, was severely wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a Humvee where he was a door gunner.

Dustin, a 2003 Beyer High graduate, lost his left eye and had damage to his right eye, right ear canal and shrapnel in his face.

"We don't know much," Tim Fritangela said. "We don't know if anyone else was hurt."

The Manteca father did get to talk briefly to his son. "At first he sounded just like himself, but he faded fast. He wouldn't tell me what happened. I kept telling him I loved him."

The younger Fritangela was leaving a place called Korean Village in Balad for a destination in Irbil when the bombing occurred.

"The doctors and nurses told me they were very concerned about (Dustin's) right eye and testing it every two hours."

Fritangela said he wanted to be by his son's side as soon as possible. His son was scheduled for transport to Landstuhl, Germany, and Washington, D.C., within the week.

For Rick Tellez of Ceres, the phone call he took just over a week ago was a nightmare.

"My son called from Iraq about 4 in the morning our time on June 7 and said he had been shot by a sniper," Tellez said.

Joseph Tellez said he was struck in the upper left chest and shoulder.

"He was shot while in Ramadi on patrol," Rick Tellez said. "He was running to shut a gate. He said he felt like somebody threw a rock at him and then he saw blood coming down from his chest."

The wound was serious, but not life-threatening. Tellez was not evacuated. He is spending his recovery time in a Marine infirmary and is expected to be able to rejoin his unit in July.

Being back on the firing line did not console the Tellez family. With his son on his third tour of duty in Iraq, Rick Tellez said the family is near the breaking point.

"I don't know how much more we can take," he said. "It's always bad, but with him getting shot, it makes everything worse.

Tellez said Joseph's entry wound has healed. Cpl. Tellez told his dad he is now just waiting for the exit wound to mend.

"We've gotten a lot of great support from family and friends," the senior Tellez said, singling out the father of slain Marine Michael D. Anderson Jr., the Ceres Police Department and the late Sgt. Howard Stevenson.

Soldiers Say They Feel As If They're Watering The Desert: Growing Numbers Doubt The War

"We've won every fight they've given us, but there always seem to be just as many people fighting us as when we got here," says one career Marine officer, who recently finished a tour in Iraq.

21 June 2005 By Dan Murphy, The Christian Science Monitor

But the doubters - who anecdotally seem to include a growing number of US forces on the ground - say that Iraq's war is beyond the point where it can be won by force of arms and that "staying the course" is a recipe for a deeper Iraqi quagmire.

US commanders and soldiers in Iraq frequently complain they don't have the manpower to deal anything resembling a decisive blow.

Soldiers operating in tough Iraqi provinces like Anbar say they feel as if they're watering the desert: They can win any neighborhood or mid-sized city they care to and make it "bloom" for as long as they're present in strength, but their efforts wither when they inevitably leave and move on to the next engagement.

"We've won every fight they've given us, but there always seem to be just as many people fighting us as when we got here," says one career Marine officer, who recently finished a tour in Iraq.

Anthony Cordesman, a former director of intelligence for the Office of the Secretary of Defense who is now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, and has produced a series of detailed studies on the war in Iraq, quotes a Marine counterinsurgency expert in Iraq in a recent paper as

saying "seizing the components of suicide bombs (is) like making drug seizures: comforting, but ultimately pointless.... Both sides are still escalating to nowhere."

In cities like Fallujah, once thought to be decisively won by the US, engagements are on the rise, with three firefights on Sunday ending with 15 insurgents killed. In the city of Tal Afar in the north, violence still rages, despite three major US offensives there in the past two years; and while the once notorious Haifa Street in central Baghdad was pacified by joint US and Iraqi military efforts this spring, suicide attacks continue in other parts of the city.

"The Iraqi Government and US can scarcely claim that they are clearly moving towards victory," Mr. Cordesman wrote at the end of May in "Iraq's Evolving Insurgency," a 70-page analysis of the situation. While Cordesman acknowledges large weapons seizures made by "tireless" US operations in the country, he doubts the supply of weapons and bombmaking materials is going to dry up soon.

"Few experts - if any - feel that the insurgents face any near-term supply problems given the numbers of weapons looted from Iraq's vast arms depots during and after the fighting that brought down Saddam," he writes.

Too Weak To Hold The Ground, "Intelligence" Captain Blows Smoke Instead

21 Jun 2005 By Peter Graff (Reuters)

U.S. Marines claimed success on Tuesday in another battle against insurgents in the Iraqi desert but acknowledged that the war was far from over and that guerrillas would soon recover lost ground.

After four days of bombardment and street-to-street gunbattles, the Marines cleared Karabila -- a strategic way station near the main border crossing where the Euphrates flows in from Syria.

But U.S. officers and local people in the town, badly damaged by the fighting, said the insurgents would be back.

"Yeah, in a couple of weeks they'll be back and they'll make up for these losses. But that's fine, because we're not beating them in two weeks. We're beating them in two years," Battalion intelligence officer Captain Thomas Sibley pointed out. [Sure. That's how the British beat George Washington. And His Majesty's troops died by the thousands because the politicians back in London wouldn't admit the war was lost. They never learn. Like Americans in 1776, the Iraqis are determined to be free and won't stop fighting a foreign Imperial army of occupation until they are.]

Mohammed Solfeij, 33, whose house is on the outskirts of Karabila near where the Americans first entered the town, said the insurgents would be back "as soon as the Americans leave".

"The people are suffering. Most of them have fled to live in the desert," he said

Unlike the U.S. forces that seized in November and now largely hold the former insurgent bastion of Falluja, near Baghdad, the 20,000 Marines who patrol the vast desert remainder of Anbar province -- nearly a third of Iraq's territory -- lack the numbers to stay in areas after battles.

The result has been a series of operations to clear insurgent strongholds along the Euphrates, from Syria to Falluja, after which the Marines withdraw to their bases.

The chief doctor at the area's main hospital in Qaim, Hamdi al-Alusi, said on Tuesday he had counted 25 civilian dead and feared others lay buried in the rubble of their homes. Those figures could also not be independently checked.

Whole streets were obliterated.

**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S. soldier walks away from the scene of a car bomb blast in Baghdad June 18, 2005. REUTERS/Thaier Al-Sudani

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three U.S. Troops Wounded In Bomb Blast

June 21, 2005 Associated Press, KABUL, Afghanistan

Three U.S. troops and an Afghan soldier were slightly wounded in separate bomb blasts in eastern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

The attacks occurred Sunday in Khost province, near the border with Pakistan, a military statement said. All four were treated and released, it said.

The assault on the American troops occurred as they were on patrol, while the Afghan soldier was wounded while guarding a convoy.

TROOP NEWS

x x [rip son .]

[This is a message from Rose Gentle. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now.]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: June 21, 2005
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B66: "What Are We Doing It For?"

i n memory of my boy'

gordon gentle age 19.

killied on the 28, june 04

**its hard to believe that, it is going on for one year
thait my boy was, killied in iraq,, and the iraqi people
are still suffering, thousands continue to die,
and young british and americans soldiers, are still losing their
lives. in a country that they should never been sent to in the first**

place,/

in the passt year i have gained access to 10 downing street to meet

the deputy prime minister, stood as a candidate against the arm forces minister, adam ingram in the recent general elections

being interviewed by national news papers, as well as radio and television

jurnalists, a half hour documentry, the bbc, one mothers son.

a video to mrs blair, and went all over scotland, and london. to meatings. it was me then & reg keys, now we have 18 families,

has my lief chenge yes, i will go on for my boy, and will not let

tony blair tell me to stop/ we have to get justice, we canot let

the two biggest killers, get a way with this. would i do this all over,

if i had to yes, ,

gordon love you so much

miss you more,

one more. kiss ,

mum, x x [rip son .]

Families Of Dead Troops Condemn Bush

20 June 2005 By Beth Quinn, The Times Herald-Record

The one reservation I had last week when I wrote about the Downing Street Memo was this: How will the loved ones of the soldiers who've died in Iraq feel when they read this?

Since that column ran, the loved ones of two soldiers, dead in Iraq, have told me.

Their words are far more meaningful than anything I could say, so I will turn this column over to them.

From Lauren Bowker of Middletown:

"As a loved one of Joseph Tremblay of New Windsor, who died April 27 in Iraq doing what he considered his duty for his country and fellow Marines, I have feelings of such loss and sadness – and also extreme anger.

"The article (on the Downing Street Memo) has helped me understand my anger towards the President and his underhanded, dishonest and dangerous policies in Iraq.

"I urge every American to demand that President Bush be made to answer these allegations regarding what has become known as the Downing Street Memo. I sent in the petition (demanding a hearing) and called all my family and friends, urging them to do the same.

"I am very proud of Joey and the ultimate price he paid for our country, but if President Bush had not lied and been so determined to invade Iraq, Joey would be here with his loved ones, planning his wedding and looking forward to what a young man with such promise could have contributed to the world.

"My question to President Bush is – how do you look yourself in the mirror every morning with a clear conscience knowing that 1,700 young Americans are dead based on a lie?"

From Karen Meredith of Mountain View, Calif.:

"My only child, Lt. Ken Ballard, was 26 years old when he was killed in Najaf, Iraq, on 5-30-04. My son saved the lives of 60 men that horrible night – they all got to go home to their families. He was one of three soldiers in his battalion killed after they were extended with the First Armored Division.

"After I read the notes from the meeting at Downing Street, I knew that his fate was decided and he was a dead man in July 2002, when that meeting took place.

"How sad that I didn't know then – just two months after he was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army, just two months after he took an oath to obey the orders of the President of the United States – that his fate was already determined by a corrupt administration. Members of the Bush Administration lied repeatedly to this country when they told us time and again that no decision to go to war had been made.

"And how devastating to know that if the administration had planned for more ground strength, my son might be alive today.

"I belong to a group called Gold Star Families for Peace. The most difficult thing we encounter when we speak out against the war is that most of us are not anti-military and would never malign the soldiers or their service to this country. My son was a fourth-generation Army officer.

"But our members provide witness to the lies that resulted in our children being killed. We are all trying to put some sanity in this world gone mad. "

Our soldiers in Iraq are dying on average of two per day.

How can the rest of us do nothing to protest this travesty when our silence means that, today, two more families will know such pain?

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.

Assistance For Soldiers: Check Out: A Soldiers Battle A Soldiers' Fight To Overcome Post Traumatic Stress Disorder In The Army.....

From: Dawn Marie Beals, Ft. Stewart, Georgia, United States

To: GI Special

Sent: June 21, 2005

If you are a Soldier or a friend or family member of a Soldier that needs assistance...

If anyone has a Soldier in a situation like David's this will be a good place to get help. It's just getting started and I am working with others on this, so there will be lots of organizations and support once it gets going. And they can always contact me personally. www.asoldiersbattle.blogspot.com

Thanks everyone for all of the support.

If we can help one Soldier, We have helped them all.

Dawn Marie Beals

~In War there are no un-wounded Soldiers~

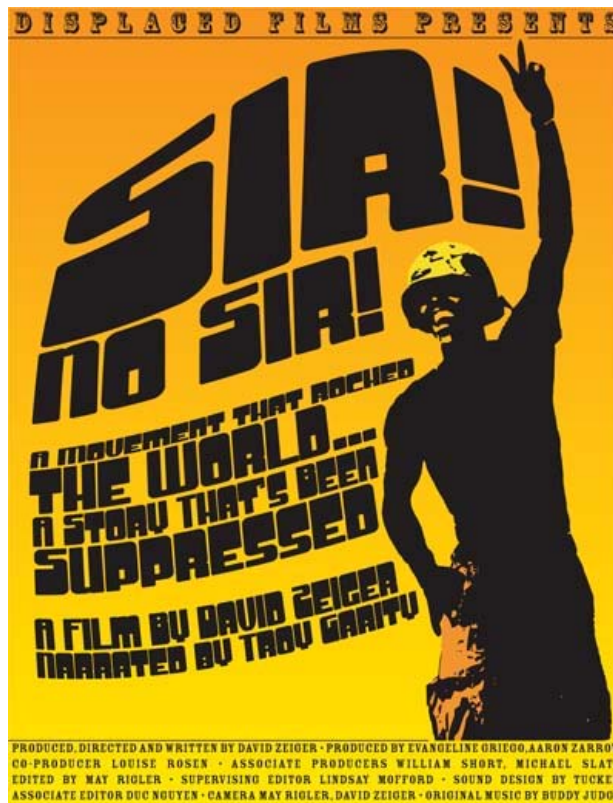
MY HUSBAND IS IN IRAQ.. WHERE IS BUSH & CHENEY?

IEDs: No Help On The Way

June 20, 2005 Defense News

Despite a high-profile campaign to add armor to U.S. vehicles in Iraq and millions of dollars spent trying to devise high-tech countermeasures, American commanders grudgingly concede they remain a step behind insurgents' ever-adapting use of improvised explosive devices.

WHEN THE TROOPS STOPPED A WAR: "Sir! No Sir" "Knowledge Is Ammunition."



Anne-Marie O'Connor wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "Anyone waging war with American troops might want to listen carefully to the largely untold story of David Zeiger's new documentary, "Sir! No Sir!," of how some of the most dedicated

troops became some of the most damaging supporters of the movement to end the war in Vietnam."

**From: David Zeiger
June 21, 2005 12:47 AM
Subject: Sir! No Sir! once more**

Dear friends,

For those of you who made the mistake of not attending the June 17 premiere of "Sir! No Sir!" at the Los Angeles Film Festival, you missed an incredible, stirring event.

But don't despair! You have another chance. There are still a few tickets left for the Thursday, June 23, 5 pm screening at the Director's Guild Theater 2, 7920 Sunset Blvd. Tickets are \$10. Buy yours in advance at <http://www.lafilmfest.com>.

And for all of you, check out the web site, <http://www.sirnosir.com>.

We have just launched the most extensive library and image gallery on the GI Movement ever seen. Over 1,600 images of front pages, photos, and cartoons from the GI underground press, the entire recently declassified reports from the military's investigations of the Long Binh Jail rebellion and the Presidio 27 mutiny case, a complete calendar of key events in the GI movement, and much, much more.

This incredible resource was researched and put together by James Lewes, writer of the stirring book "Protest and Survive--Underground GI Newspapers during the Vietnam War."

The web site is also where you can keep track of upcoming screenings of the film.

"Sir! No Sir" has already garnered strong press. The L.A. Weekly named it the "Critic's Pick" of the festival, and the Pasadena Weekly wrote:

"Debunking several myths about America's invasion of Vietnam, David Zeiger's documentary might be the most important documentary to screen in Los Angeles this year. Knowledge is ammunition."

Anne-Marie O'Connor wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "Anyone waging war with American troops might want to listen carefully to the largely untold story of David Zeiger's new documentary, "Sir! No Sir!," of how some of the most dedicated troops became some of the most damaging supporters of the movement to end the war in Vietnam."

See you there!

Displaced Films
3421 Fernwood Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90039

323-906-9249

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.

Pentagon Wants Troops To Pay More For Their Health Care!

June 18, 2005 Colorado Springs Gazette

Defense Department officials say that it is time users of military health care pay a greater share of rising medical costs, perhaps through higher co-payments and enrollment fees.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said he and other defense officials, alarmed by a doubling of military health care costs over the past five years, are discussing ways to slow the growth with military leaders and Congress. **[Well, hey, no half way measures. Let them pay for their own ammunition and transport to the war zone too. Somebody has got to make sacrifices to cover all those tax cuts for the corporations and the rich DC politicians keep coming up with, for the people who really count, of course.]**

Army Captain Guilty In Trainee Abuse Case

June 21, 2005 Associated Press

FORT KNOX, Ky. — An Army captain accused of failing to stop his drill instructors from abusing basic-training recruits at Fort Knox was convicted Tuesday of dereliction of duty and false swearing. A military judge found Capt. William C. Fulton guilty. He could get more than five years behind bars and a dishonorable discharge.

Fulton had testified that he did not witness any abuse of trainees in his company on their first day of basic training earlier this year. However, several privates said they saw him standing nearby as drill sergeants punched, kicked and threw trainees into lockers.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

Jun. 21, 2005 By Samar Kadi, News World Communications, Inc. & Anatolia.com Inc. & AP & (Xinhuanet) & By James Glanz, The New York Times

A bomber Tuesday detonated his booby-trapped car at an army roadblock in northern Iraq, killing five Iraqi soldiers.

The attack occurred in the city of Toz Khormatu, 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of the oil-center of Kirkuk, police sources said.

A Kurdish security chief and two bodyguards were killed in a car bomb in northern Iraq in the latest violence sweeping the country.

Anwar Haji Othman, the director general of internal security in the region of Shahrazouz in Iraq's Kurdistan, was killed when a bomber hit his convoy on the main road between the cities of Halbaja and Suleimaniya.

Two of his bodyguards were also killed in the blast, which occurred late Monday night.

Earlier in the day, insurgents had planted explosives in Tal Afar town hall, killing two and wounding two others, the police chief said. Guards posted at the building escaped.

But the insurgents returned, poured oil around the premises and set the building on fire. It was not known if the town hall had been burnt to the ground.

"Two days ago, the office was attacked by insurgents with machine-guns while employees were inside," he said, adding that municipal employees had escaped that attack.

Near Baquba, an Iraqi soldier was killed as he went to work, and a Turkish truck driver was shot dead as he left an Iraqi-US base east of Balad, army officers and police said.

West of Baiji, two Iraqi policemen and two civilians died in a firefight between police and guerrillas, an officer reported.

North of the capital in Shorgat the army discovered the bodies of a businessman and soldier who had been shot.

More than a dozen gunmen launched an assault on a Baghdad police station early Tuesday, wounding two policemen.

A suicide car bomber drove an explosive-laden vehicle into an Iraqi army checkpoint in Pingijan village, some 70 km east of Tikrit.

The attack took place late on Monday night, killing four Iraqi soldiers and wounding five others, it added.

After one of the attacks in Baghdad, on Al Bayaa police station, the insurgents placed burning tires across streets to hamper rescue efforts, the official said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Antiwar Sentiment Rising

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: June 21, 2005

Traveled today from Washington DC to Newark NJ wearing a 'Bring the Troops Home, End Occupation' T-shirt and got three positive comments on it.

A woman in Washington working for Amtrak said "I agree with that," another woman sat down beside me in the train saying "I like your T-shirt," and a man waiting for a bus in Newark said the same, adding that the war's been a dead end from the start.

Earlier I'd gotten similar comments on the west coast, but never yet three in a single day:

I think this is a good sign. More and more people are getting mightily pissed off at the sanctimonious cannibals who claim to be our leaders.

May their damned imperial war bite the proverbial dust as swiftly as possible, and may the soldiers come home alive and well to their families and friends!

Solidarity
Z

OCCUPATION REPORT

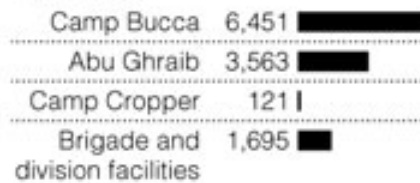
“Welcome To The Republic Of The Green Zone”

Detained in Iraq

A profile of those now being detained by coalition forces in Iraq.



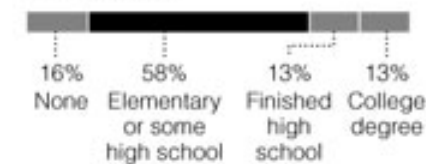
By location



By age



By education



Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Multinational Force Iraq

Almost every Iraqi family can give the name of a friend or relative who is in one of the many American prisons for no particular reason.

6.21.05 Riverbend, Baghdad Burning

Detentions and assassinations, along with intermittent electricity, have also been contributing to sleepless nights. We're hearing about raids in many areas in the Karkh half of Baghdad in particular.

On the television the talk about "terrorists" being arrested, but there are dozens of people being rounded up for no particular reason.

Almost every Iraqi family can give the name of a friend or relative who is in one of the many American prisons for no particular reason.

They aren't allowed to see lawyers or have visitors and stories of torture have become commonplace. Both Sunni and Shia clerics who are in opposition to the occupation are particularly prone to attacks by "Liwa il Theeb" or the special Iraqi forces Wolf Brigade. They are often tortured during interrogation and some of them are found dead.

There were also several explosions and road blocks today. It took the cousin an hour to get to work, which was only twenty minutes away before the war. Now, he has to navigate between closed streets, check points, and those delightful concrete barriers rising up everywhere.

It is especially difficult to be caught in traffic and that happens a lot lately. Baghdad has been cut up into sections and several of them may be found to be off limits immediately after an explosion or before a Puppet meeting. The least pleasant situation is to be caught in mid-day traffic, on a crowded road, in the heat- waiting for the next bomb to go off.

What people find particularly frustrating is the fact that while Baghdad seems to be falling apart in so many ways with roads broken and pitted, buildings blasted and burnt out and residential areas often swimming in sewage, the Green Zone is flourishing.

The walls surrounding restricted areas housing Americans and Puppets have gotten higher- as if vying with the tallest of date palms for height. The concrete reinforcements and road blocks designed to slow and impede traffic are now a part of everyday scenery- the road, the trees, the shops, the earth, the sky, and the ugly concrete slabs sometimes wound insidiously with barbed wire.

The price of building materials has gone up unbelievably, in spite of the fact that major reconstruction has not yet begun. I assumed it was because so much of the concrete and other building materials was going to reinforce the restricted areas.

A friend who recently got involved working with an Iraqi subcontractor who takes projects inside of the Green Zone explained that it was more than that.

The Green Zone, he told us, is a city in itself. He came back awed, and more than a little bit upset. He talked of designs and plans being made for everything from the future US Embassy and the housing complex that will surround it, to restaurants, shops, fitness centers, gasoline stations, constant electricity and water- a virtual country inside of a country with its own rules, regulations and government.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Republic of the Green Zone, also known as the Green Republic.

“The Americans won’t be out in less than ten years.” Is how the argument often begins with the friend who has entered the Green Republic. “How can you say that?” Is usually my answer- and I begin to throw around numbers- 2007, 2008 maximum -- Could they possibly want to be here longer?

Can they afford to be here longer? At this, T. shakes his head- if you could see the bases they are planning to build- if you could see what already has been built- you’d know that they are going to be here for quite a while.

The Green Zone is a source of consternation and aggravation for the typical Iraqi.

It makes us anxious because it symbolises the heart of the occupation and if fortifications and barricades are any indicator- the occupation is going to be here for a long time.

It is a provocation because no matter how anyone tries to explain or justify it, it is like a slap in the face.

It tells us that while we are citizens in our own country, our comings and goings are restricted because portions of the country no longer belong to its people. They belong to the people living in the Green Republic.

<p>OCCUPATION ISN’T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

FBI Complicit In Torture Of Two U.S. Citizens By Pakistani Government

May 24, 2005 Human Rights Watch

U.S. FBI agents operating in Pakistan repeatedly interrogated and threatened two U.S. citizens of Pakistani origin who were unlawfully detained and subjected to torture by the Pakistani security services, Human Rights Watch said today.

The brothers Zain Afzal and Kashan Afzal were abducted from their home in Karachi at about 2 a.m. on August 13, 2004. They were released on April 22, 2005 without having been charged.

During eight months of illegal detention, Zain Afzal and Kashan Afzal were routinely tortured by Pakistani authorities to extract confessions of involvement in terrorist activities. During this period, FBI agents questioned the brothers on at least six occasions. The FBI agents did not intervene to end the torture, insist that the Pakistani government comply with a court order to produce the men in court, or provide consular facilities normally offered to detained U.S. citizens.

Instead, they threatened the men with being sent to the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay if they did not confess to involvement in terrorism.

Said Brad Adams, Asia director of Human Rights Watch. "The United States should be condemning this, but instead it either directed this activity or turned a blind eye in the hopes of gaining information in the war on terror."

While the brothers were being detained, their mother and Zain Afzal's wife attempted to lodge an abduction case with the local police. During habeas corpus hearings, filed by their mother, Pakistani authorities denied holding the two men.

Zain Afzal's wife made frequent public pleas for the brothers' release and approached the U.S. embassy, but received no help.

Nida Afzal, the Chicago-based sister of the two men, informed Human Rights Watch that she was telephoned by an FBI agent in late October, 2004. She alleged that the agent "categorically stated" that "they are in our custody."

Later that day, two FBI agents came to see Nida Afzal at her home. The agents questioned her about her brothers' links to Afghanistan. One of the agents identified herself as Betsy A. Pryer and left a card. According to Nida Afzal, "They identified themselves and verified our identity. Though I pointed out that they had stated on the phone that my brothers were in their custody and asked repeatedly where my brothers were, the agents then refused to accept that they were in the FBI's custody."

"While U.S. officials say the safety and security of Americans overseas is paramount, the U.S. government didn't lift a finger to help the Afzal brothers until their cases were reported in the international press," said Adams.

"The U.S. knew exactly where the brothers were all along, while their family was scared stiff, not knowing whether they were dead or alive. This is profoundly wrong and should send a chill up the spine of every U.S. citizen living overseas."

The August 13 arrest was the second time Zain Afzal was abducted by Pakistani intelligence agents. On May 5, 2004, he was taken away from the same house in Karachi and released the following day. On that occasion Zain Afzal was tortured, returning home with a burst eardrum and severe lacerations on his back. He was unable to walk after being tortured in custody, and needed an operation on his ear. Medical reports corroborate these claims. Zain Afzal said he was questioned about a trip to Afghanistan, about his feelings toward the U.S.-led "war against terrorism," and about suspected links to Islamist organizations.

Kashan Afzal and Zain Afzal were abducted between midnight and 2 a.m. on August 13, 2004, in a raid that involved at least 30 armed Pakistani intelligence agents. The agents broke through the concrete exterior wall and then broke into the house. No attempt was made to enter with consent and there were no arrest or search warrants. Neighbors came out of their homes to see what was happening, but were ordered to go back inside. Witnesses identified the abductors as government agents, based on the vehicles they drove and the manner of the operation.

The intelligence agents, in plainclothes, held the Afzal family at gunpoint for an hour, threatening to kill them while they searched the house. They specifically demanded to see the U.S. passports and all other U.S. government-issued identity papers held by the brothers.

Once the papers were located, they handcuffed and hooded the brothers, and then left with the brothers in their custody in a convoy of jeeps and vans typically used by Pakistan's intelligence agencies and police. Before they left, they locked the ailing mother of the two men in a bedroom.

According to Zain Afzal: They said they had come from the "agencies" and that this was a "raid." They tied my hands, entered the house and handcuffed my brother. They also broke things in the house. They asked for all our U.S. identity papers--passports, social security number, driver's licenses and so on. For this purpose, they untied our hands so we could fetch them. They also took a licensed gun from our home. We kept asking what was going on but we got no answer. When my mother asked they said we would be back in a day or so."

Then they blindfolded us and put us in what looked like a police vehicle. All this time they had been in radio contact with others outside or elsewhere. We drove for about an hour and a half and they took us to some location. When we were inside the building and our blindfolds were removed. We were in a large office room and there were about five Pakistani military-type men there.

They said nothing about whom they were other than that they belonged to "sensitive" agencies and started beatings us with whips and rods. During this time they kept asking us what our connections with Jihadis were. I told them that this was a repeat of what had happened in May and I had told their people everything and they had let me go. They kept saying "You have links with Al-Qaeda ... tell us about that" ... and I kept repeating my life history. Though we answered everything, they still kept beating us.

We were taken to small "cell-type" rooms. They kept telling us we would be released soon. In the rooms, they kept us shackled but removed the handcuffs. My brother and I were in separate cells.

I did not see my brother for three months after this. During these three months, they only gave us daal and roti to eat. I would ask them where my brother was and they would say he was fine and in the same place but I never saw him. They would escort us to the bathroom. I saw a guard at the main gate in an army uniform. Otherwise we never saw anyone in uniform. We never went outdoors. We could not tell the difference

between night and day. The cells had no windows and no fans. It was like a grave-totally closed.

During this time, they took our clothes and gave us what looked like prison uniforms. I would be beaten regularly during this time and when I was ill with fever, they refused to give me any medicine. There were other prisoners there but I could not talk to them, but I heard people call for water. **Occasionally, they would say "you will go to Cuba" or "we will hand you over to the FBI." Often I would be beaten for asking for water or food or medicine.**

The brothers told Human Rights Watch that approximately three months into their detention their captors returned their clothes and told them that they would be going home soon. According to Zain Afzal:

They blindfolded me (and other people) and bundled us in a car. I realized my brother was also in the car as I recognized his voice. In the car, they made normal conversation with us, "You must be happy to be going home," and so on. About 30 minutes later, we arrived at some airport. We knew that as we could hear planes. They made us climb the metal steps into a small plane. I knew the plane was small because we had to bend when we entered--a Fokker perhaps.

My brother and I both began to get worried. They said "You thought we were joking! You are going to Cuba" We were shackled, handcuffed and blindfolded for the duration of the flight. One hour and a half, maybe two hours. When the plane landed, we realized we were not in Cuba. But either in Pakistan or Afghanistan maybe. The drive from the airport was about 30 minutes. Once we left the car, I was separated from my brother again. We were taken somewhere where we went downstairs to similar underground cells. I asked where we were but the guards said they did not know. I realized after a while that we were in Pakistan and that my brother must be close by. The guards all spoke Urdu.

Another week to 10 days passed. During this time, the shackles were removed. We knew it was Ramadan and we were fasting. Maybe two weeks later, I was blindfolded and taken into another room. **When my blindfold was removed I saw a Pakistani army man in plain clothes and two white men who flashed FBI badges and said that they had come from the U.S. to investigate me.**

They asked me my life history all over again. I told them everything. Then they showed me photographs and told me that the pictures were of al-Qaeda members. "Do you know them?" they asked. I saw the photos and told them I recognized no one, knew nothing. ...

The FBI officer said "We have been told you and your brother have al-Qaeda links." The FBI officers seemed to be in their 30's. This interrogation went on for 3-4 hours. During this time I told them everything about myself all over again. After that I was blindfolded and taken back into my cell. I knew nothing about my brother's whereabouts at this time. **I told the FBI that I was illegally detained and had been tortured. They said they would try to help but that all decisions were to be taken by Pakistani authorities and Pakistan was beyond their jurisdiction.**

About 7-10 days later, the same FBI officers and Pakistan Army officer showed me new pictures and asked if I knew these people. They again asked me about links to Al-Qaeda. ... I asked them that they had already held me and my brother for five months and how much longer did they intend to hold us?

I told them I had never been involved in a criminal act. If you have any proof, then show it to me. Or at least tell me how long this will take. I asked to be presented in court and to be given a lawyer. The FBI agents did not respond to the request for a lawyer or my demand to be presented in court and charged. They did tell me that "we cannot say what your crime is and how long you will be held. But you are a terrorist and you could be taken to Cuba."

The next day my brother joined me in my cell. My brother and I told each other what had been happening to us. He told me that the same things had been happening to him. We saw other prisoners including women and children. Once when we were being walked across to an interrogation, my blindfold was not tied properly and I saw many cars in a car park with Lahore number plates. I began to suspect we were in Lahore. We felt helpless and defenseless. We were treated worse than animals. But during this period, we were not beaten. We had regular interrogations, sometimes just with Pakistani military officers.

Maybe in January or February, we were interrogated by the FBI again, after about a gap of a month and a half. This time there were different officers--two men and a woman who again showed us their badges. They asked the same questions all over again and I gave the same answers all over again. This also lasted about 90 minutes or so.

By this time, it seemed we would remain imprisoned for the rest of our lives. They never even asked us different questions ... the same questions every time. My brother had become very ill with tuberculosis. They called a doctor to see him who came in a Pakistan army uniform. He prescribed medication. Periodically we would be told that we were being sent to Cuba. **Both the FBI and the Pakistan Army kept forcing us to admit our "guilt," to admit we were al-Qaeda members and that we were planning attacks in Pakistan and in the U.S. They just wanted an admission.**

Zain Afzal recounted that in another session with the FBI:

I asked them that they had already held me and my brother for five months and how much longer did they intend to hold us? I told them I had never been involved in a criminal act. If you have any proof, then show it to me. Or at least tell me how long this will take. I asked to be presented in court and to be given a lawyer. The FBI agents did not respond to the request for a lawyer or my demand to be presented in court and charged. They did tell me that, "We cannot say what your crime is and how long you will be held. But you are a terrorist and you could be taken to Cuba."

A few weeks before his release, Zain Afzal says he told his captors:

If you think we are guilty of a crime please charge us in court or release us. I pointed out that my brother was very ill. They said "we are the court."

The brothers claim they were released with one final threat:

Our last interrogation took place about 10 days before our release and for the first time my brother and I were called together. They said "Your case is almost over" and "You will be released soon. ... But we will only release you on condition that you will never speak to the press or media or speak against us. Your well-being lies in silence otherwise you and your family will be in big trouble."

Then they made us write a statement that said that we had not been held by any government or semi-government agency and were writing this statement of our own free will.

A week later, we were given clothes, blindfolded and taken to Lahore Airport where the blindfolds were removed. We were handed two PIA tickets to Karachi that were not in our names. We asked for our American passports and other ID and were told that our stuff would be delivered to us in Karachi.

This happened on April 22. So we returned home. The second or third day after our return, the "agencies" called us and reminded us of our "commitment." I asked for our passports again and was told they would reach us soon.

We have not received our passports and though we have also requested the U.S. Consulate in Karachi to reissue the passports, we have had no response.

Human Rights Watch called on the Pakistani authorities to return the U.S. passports and other personal material confiscated from the brothers when they were illegally detained.

The United States embassy should issue new passports immediately upon request if the passports are not promptly returned. Human Rights Watch also called on the Bush administration to provide full information on its role in the Afzal case.

Specifically, the U.S. must clarify whether the Afzal brothers were held in Pakistani custody at the request of the United States, and state the policy of the U.S. government when it knows or has reason to know that persons being questioned abroad are being seriously mistreated by their captors.

The Convention against Torture, to which the United States is a party, prohibits "an act by any person which constitutes complicity or participation in torture."



Received:

“Don't Be So Tough On Bob Herbert”

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: June 21, 2005
Subject: The Vast Majority Of The Parents Who Support The War Do Not Want Their Children To Fight I

Dear GI Special,

Don't be so tough on Bob Herbert. Bob Herbert's essay in the NY Times : " The Vast Majority Of "The Parents Who Support The War Do Not Want Their Children To Fight It " was in answer to Thomas Friedman's, also in the NY Times : " Let's Talk About Iraq " in which Mr Friedman wrote : " Well, we need to talk about Iraq. This is no time to give up - this is still winnable - but it is time to ask: What is our strategy?.. before we give up on Iraq, why not actually try to do it right? Double the American boots on the ground and redouble the diplomatic effort to bring in those Sunnis who want to be part of the process and fight to the death those who don't... "

Mr. Friedman, who has been a supporter of this war since before the get-go, has two college-aged daughters.

Somehow I know that they'll avoid the draft he is advocating here, will avoid sacrificing their lives in pursuit of Mr Friedman's Greater American/Israeli Prosperity Sphere. They have other priorities, I'm sure. So your children and mine will have the honor of "fighting to the death" in their place.

I guess he figured everyone likely to read his article was as likely as his family is to avoid the consequences of his "brave" resolve.

Received:

Potemkin

From: A
To: GI Special
Sent: June 21, 2005

Z's letter on Potemkin was good, especially the quote from that manifesto.

He also mentioned the Bastille. I've actually heard that the freeing of prisoners from there was incidental, and that actually people stormed the Bastille because it was an armory and they needed weapons.

Web Copies:

For back issues see GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://qi-special.iraq-news.de> , <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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