

GI SPECIAL 3B73:

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



The casket of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Piper, Marblehead, Massachusetts June 27, 2005. Piper died of wounds serving with the U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

Happy Father's Day:
Dad Picks Up \$600 Tab To Get
Marine Battle Ready,
“Even Though Dad Doesn't
Believe American Troops Should
Be In Iraq”

[Thanks to a military family for sending this in. They write: Father's Day today. Read the article below for how a Father of a soldier is being gifted by this nation on Father's Day. Still 2 + years later military families are having to subsidize

taxpayer's dollars to properly equip their young being sent into combat. Disposable troops, while others amass wealth at the expense of young lives. From dyingwarriors.blogspot.com/]

Jun. 18, 2005 12:00 AM

John Tod of Mesa had been prepared to face Father's Day worrying about his son's pending date with the war in Iraq.

Then Uncle Sam stepped in with more disappointing developments.

Marine Pfc. Jeremy Tod called home with news that his superiors were urging him and fellow Marines to buy special military equipment, including flak jackets with armor plating, to enhance the prospects of their survival.

The message was that such purchases were to be made by Marines with their own money.

"He said they strongly suggested he get this equipment because when they get to Iraq they will wish they had," Tod said.

Total estimated cost: \$600.

Tod said his son's call about two weeks ago from the Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma was a sobering reminder that the military is not prepared to equip Pfc. Tod and fellow Marines with the best equipment.

Besides the essential flak jacket with steel "trauma" plates, the shopping list for the young Marine included a Camelbak (water pouch) special ballistic goggles, knee and elbow pads, a "drop pouch" to hold ammunition magazines and a load-bearing vest.

Tod, 45, is picking up the tab for a son who blew most of his savings on a new pickup truck. And dad says he is tempted to forward the bill to the Pentagon. "Or maybe I can write it off in taxes," he said with a grin.

It's not the cost that concerns him, even though the self-employed home repairman will have to dig deep for the cash.

"We're supposed to have a professional army," he said, "the best in the world. And we're not providing them with the type of gear they need to protect themselves as they do their jobs."

Marine Maj. Nat Frahy, a spokesman in Washington, said the military issues equipment, but it's possible that young Tod's commanders told him that it was perfectly OK to buy equipment that would help him on the battlefield. ["Clueless lame brained bastard waste of fucking space and bane of all human existence," with thanks to Soldier X for the words.]

Told about the Marine request, U.S. Rep. J. D. Hayworth, the Republican whose 5th District includes Mesa, said he has never heard of a service person being told to buy his own equipment.

Hayworth said he will contact the military to "find out what on earth is going on and why isn't that stuff there for them already. If it involves bottlenecks and glitches to get equipment to them then there should be a voucher system where military personnel can be reimbursed."

Tod refers to himself as a regular, middle-class, blue-collar guy who is a fairly close fit to the economic demographic of most families with sons and daughters serving in the armed forces. His son, now 19, enlisted last year after graduating from Mesa's Westwood High School.

His dad says America was better served with the military draft because today's professional army is not representative of the country's economic and cultural spectrum.

Yet Tod is proud of his youngest son's decision to serve even though dad doesn't believe American troops should be in Iraq.

In a recent interview, Tod recalled the kid who made an unassisted triple play in Little League and the boy who became his father's best fishing buddy before he went to Marine boot camp in San Diego.

"When I close my eyes I can see him looking up at me and asking, 'Pants on swimming, dad, can I, huh?' when he wanted to go for a swim," Tod said.

On Father's Day, Tod will hang out at his home in north central Mesa and hope that Jeremy, the 5-foot-5 155-pound Marine, will get time to call as he trains with about 2,800 fellow Marines in Yuma.

"I'll probably get to see him before he leaves for Iraq," Tod said. "I just hope and pray nothing happens to him."

[Now, where is the enemy? Iraq? Or Washington DC? Bad enough to see families sending their sons and daughters off to a rotten Imperial war, but making them pay for the dishonorable mission as well?

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

AH-64 Apache Shot Down In Al-Mashahda, Pilots Killed



US Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter

US and other foreign helicopters have crashed or been shot down in Iraq with increasing regularity.

27 June 2005 Aljazeera.Net & BBC & AP

Two American pilots have been killed in a helicopter crash north of Baghdad.

The US Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter crashed in a field and burst into flames at about 11.45am on Monday in al-Mashahda, 30km north of the capital.

Iraqi journalist Ziyad al-Samarai told Aljazeera that the aircraft was hit by a rocket in the farm-rich area.

"I saw a missile hit one of the helicopters and black smoke come from it before it went down," said one man, who gave his name as Abu Mustafa.

Witness Mohammed Naji told Associated Press Television News he saw two helicopters flying toward Mishahda when "a rocket hit one of them and destroyed it completely in the air."

The journalist said a meeting of officials was being held in al-Mashahda police station at the time and US military vehicles and helicopters had surrounded the area.

Al-Samarai reported that the rocket directly hit the helicopter and downed it immediately, adding that columns of smoke could be seen rising from the crash scene as US forces sealed off the area.

US and other foreign helicopters have crashed or been shot down in Iraq with increasing regularity.

Task Force Baghdad Soldier Dies

June 27, 2005 MNF Release A050627g

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- A Task Force Baghdad Soldier died June 27 from wounds sustained during a small-arms fire attack in central Baghdad around 10:15 a.m.

The Soldier's unit was assisting Iraqi Police at the scene of a vehicle fire when it came under attack. The Soldier was evacuated to the 86th Combat Support Hospital where he later died of his injuries.

Wisconsin Guard Member Killed By IED



Army National Guard Spc. Charles A. Kaufman, 20, from Wisconsin was killed after a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee, authorities said June 27, 2005. Kaufman, of Fairchild, Wis., was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry in Eau Claire. (AP Photo)

Bomb Kills Louisville Native Phelps; Army Sergeant Was Male High Graduate

June 27, 2005 From Courier-Journal and AP reports

Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher W. Phelps, a Louisville native and Male High School graduate, was fatally injured Thursday in Iraq. He was 39.

Phelps died in Baghdad after a makeshift bomb detonated near his Humvee, the Defense Department announced yesterday.

He was assigned to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based at Fort Carson, Colo., and was sent to Iraq in April, according to one of his brothers, Kenny Phelps of Louisville.

Christopher Phelps had been in the Army for 19 years and also had served in the first Gulf War as a tank driver.

He had planned to retire from the military next March, and he and his family had just bought a house in Colorado, Kenny Phelps said.

"Before he left I let him know I loved him," he said.

Christopher Phelps leaves his wife, Bobbie, and three children and a stepchild, ages 9 to 23.

"Chris was a great guy and one of the best athletes around," said a childhood friend, Mark Woods of Louisville, who recognized that Phelps had athletic talent when they played in a league together in middle school.

Kevin Wigginton said he got to know Phelps when they were seventh-graders, and the two became close friends and teammates at Male and later in college. "We had a lot of good memories," Wigginton said yesterday.

Phelps didn't tell Wigginton of his decision to join the Army until the day he left. "He didn't want to tell me because he knew I would try to talk him out of it," Wigginton said.

They last saw each other about a year ago, just before Phelps left Fort Knox -- where he had been stationed for a few years -- for his next assignment in Colorado.

After his arrival in Iraq this past spring, Phelps wrote to one of his sisters about his newest assignment in the Middle East, Kenny Phelps said.

He wrote that he "just couldn't believe some of the things that he was seeing and that was going on," but he didn't elaborate, Kenny Phelps said.

In the explosion last week, Christopher Phelps lost both legs and one arm, his brother said.

He underwent surgery and was to return to the operating room as doctors tried to stabilize him so he could be flown to a hospital in Germany, but he didn't survive, Kenny Phelps said.

In addition to his wife, children and brother Kenny, Christopher Phelps is survived by another brother and five sisters. All of his siblings but one live in Louisville.

Phelps was the 24th service member with a Kentucky city listed as a hometown of record to die in Iraq.

Centralia Sailor Killed In Iraq Remembered For Her Strength

June 27, 2005 BY LISA PEMBERTON, THE OLYMPIAN

Friends of Regina "Regi" Clark, a Naval reservist from Centralia who was killed in Iraq last week, said they'll always remember the strong connection she had with her 18-year-old son, Kerry.

"Her whole world was her son," said Sherry Haubrick, 39, of Chehalis. "He meant everything to her."

"She was so proud of every little step he made," said Dayna Hurtado of Winlock. "She was so proud of him. She was a single mom, and she worked her butt off for him."

Clark, 43, is believed to be the first Lewis County resident to die in the Iraq war, according to news reports.

Haubrick worked with Clark for several years at Fuller's Market Place in Centralia. She said her boss called to tell her the news Friday.

"I was hoping she was kidding," Haubrick said. "I said, 'Please tell me this is a bad joke.' And she said, 'No.' "

News of Clark's death spread fast and rocked the community, where the service member had worked in the bakery and deli departments at a local grocery store for several years.

Her son had taken his phone off the hook Sunday and couldn't be reached.

Several of Clark's former co-workers and friends said they spent the weekend crying and sharing their memories.

"There's a lot of sadness," Haubrick said. "There's a lot of churches that are praying for the family. Regi was known all over."

Clark, 43, was deployed nearly five months ago with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18 out of Tacoma. She was a petty officer first class, a culinary specialist or mess cook, according to Chief Petty Officer Jeri Robinson at Navy's Trident submarine base at Bangor.

Clark's son, Kerry, 18, told KING 5 TV during the weekend, "I relied on her as much as she relied on me." He said he wasn't sure what he will do now.

Family friend Kim Elliott said they knew Clark was in dangerous territory because a few days before she died, a man right behind her was shot. Elliott said Clark was up to the challenge.

"She is by far the strongest human I've ever known," she said. "Not woman, but human."

Clark was born in Kassel, Germany. She went to college on softball scholarships, according to Elliott. After she was laid off from her job at Fuller's Market Place in

Centralia in 2004, she went to work at the Cedar Creek Correction Center near Little Rock.

Elliott said Clark planned to retire when she returned from Iraq.

"She was done this time, this was it," she said. "She had enough money to retire.

Bosnian Mercenary Killed

June 27 (KUNA)

A Bosnian citizen was killed by unknown militants a few days ago in Iraq, the foreign ministry said Monday.

It added in a statement that Ljubisa Aleksic was slain in an attack on a supply convoy. Aleksic was guarding the convoy in southern Baghdad.

An American company, which hired Aleksic, informed the Bosnian embassy in Kuwait about the killing incident, said the statement.

It added arrangements were underway to transfer the body of the Bosnian to his country.

Around 100 Bosnians are working as guards or drivers with different companies in Iraq.

Soldier From Smethport Area Injured

06/27/2005 By KATE DAY SAGER, The Times Herald

A U.S. Air Force sergeant who is a native of Hazel Hurst in McKean County, Pa., was injured Saturday in Iraq when the vehicle she was riding in hit a landmine.

Family members confirmed that Staff Sgt. Jamie Himes Dana, 28, was seriously injured Saturday when her vehicle struck a landmine in the Baghdad area.

Sgt. Dana's aunt, Bonnie Himes of Bradford, Pa., said today that Sgt. Dana is currently at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany recovering from head and internal injuries.

Her parents, Jeff "Randy" Himes and Karen Rakieski flew from Bradford Regional Airport early today and will make connecting flights to Germany to be with their daughter and son-in-law.

Mrs. Himes said the last report on her niece was that she was in stable but guarded condition.

“We’re just praying she’ll be all right,” Mrs. Himes said. “We’ve been just a mess this weekend trying to keep up with what’s going on.”

She said her niece grew up in Hazel Hurst, a village on Route 6 between Mount Jewett and Smethport, and graduated from Smethport Area High School.

Sgt. Dana has been with the Air Force for approximately 10 years and works in the K-9 division.

Marie Shaw, military spokeswoman with the Landstuhl hospital, said Sgt. Dana is in the intensive care unit at the hospital and is in serious condition.

Somebody Finally Noticed

27 June 2005 AP

The violence has continued despite crackdowns and U.S.-led offensives on insurgent strongholds, showing that militants have the depth and resilience to pin down a large U.S. military contingent as well as a fledgling Iraqi security force.

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



US troops at the scene of a car bomb explosion in southern Baghdad. (AFP/Ali Al-Saadi)

U. S. Commands’ Recruiting Drive Wildly Successful:

General Says Resistance Has Grown To 26,000!



Another Busy Day Recruiting For The Resistance

U.S. soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division arrest an Iraqi youth during a patrol in Baghdad June 21, 2005. Photo by Thayer Al-Sudani/Reuters

Jun. 27, 2005 JOHN J. LUMPKIN, Associated Press

Gen. George Casey, the U.S. commander of the multinational coalition in Iraq, told reporters on Monday that the worst-case estimate of the size of the Iraqi insurgency is less than one-10th of 1 percent of the country's population - that is, a top end of 26,000 people.

The insurgents are responsible for 450 to 500 attacks a week around the country, Casey said during a Pentagon press conference. It's a pace on the level with much of last year, although officials reject any notion the fight has become a quagmire. **[Right. They'll admit it's a quagmire when they're running for the helicopters on the Embassy roof.]**

TROOP NEWS

Silly General Doesn't Get It

June 27, 2005 BY NEDRA PICKLER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The top U.S. commander in the Middle East appealed for public support of the soldiers and their mission.

"We don't need to fight this war looking over our shoulder worrying about the support back home," Gen. John Abizaid told CNN's "Late Edition."

["We" are sitting on our fat ass in perfect safety, not fighting any war more life-threatening than the competition for another step up the career ladder, menaced only by the risk of a bad sound bite in a media interview.

[And he need not worry about troops' morale: everybody in Iraq knows that the American public has turned against this stupid, losing war and wants the troops to come home. And that's the best thing for morale since Bush and the politicians started this lunatic misadventure for oil and Empire.]

Honoring War Dead Now A Crime



[Thanks to a military family for sending this in. From dyingwarriors.blogspot.com]

June 20, 2005 By Paul Rolly, Salt Lake Tribune

Since Mike Norton, of Layton, began displaying the pictures of American soldiers killed in Iraq on an illuminated sign in his front yard, his home has been vandalized, cars have stopped in front of his home and honked horns in the early morning hours and he has received anonymous harassing phone calls.

Now the city of Layton has gotten into the act.

Norton, who was told by a city official last winter that the sign in his yard did not violate zoning ordinances, received a letter from the Layton City Attorney's Office recently informing him that, upon further review, the sign does violate the ordinance and he would have 10 days to take it down.

The sign currently contains 1,715 postage-stamp-sized pictures of each dead soldier that Norton downloads from CNN's Web site. The number is updated whenever there is a new casualty. Above the pictures is a large bold-faced headline denoting the latest number of Americans killed in Iraq. Next to the sign is an American flag.

Norton says that by day, many people, including veterans, stop by and thank him for keeping the sacrifices of the soldiers and their families in the public eye. But by night he is harassed by anonymous antagonists, including one who shined a spotlight into his 6-year-old daughter's window.

The letter, from Layton Assistant City Attorney Stephen Garside, said the city inspector who told Norton six months ago that his sign was OK used the wrong code section in reviewing the sign.

Norton responded by telling the city to cite him, because he could find nothing in the code to indicate a violation and, he noted, the city code specifically exempts memorials. His sign is a memorial to the soldiers.

Norton has obtained an attorney and is prepared to fight. "I will go to jail before I will pay a fine for displaying a sign that honors the war dead," he said.

172nd To Be Largest Alaska Deployment Since Vietnam: More Rolling Coffins Head For Iraq

June 26th, 2005 By TATABOLINE BRANT, Anchorage Daily News

The 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, about 3,800 soldiers total, is slated to leave for Iraq in August in the biggest Army deployment out of Alaska since Vietnam.

Commanders hope to bring everyone back alive but recognize theirs is a dangerous mission. The two other Stryker brigades that have gone to Iraq have had members killed or wounded, according to the commander of the 172nd, Col. Michael Shields.

The commander led the men out of the assembly area and onto a nearby road. The companies ran three to five abreast and chanted as they went. Some of the phrases were funny, others serious. Some were both. A pacer standing outside the line shouted the verses first and the entire company repeated them.

"I used to drive a Cad-il-lac!" one pacer said at the beginning of the run.

"I used to drive a Cad-il-lac!" shouted the soldiers.

"Now I wear it on my back!"

"Now I wear it on my back!"

"I used to eat at Mickey Ds!"

"I used to eat at Mickey Ds!"

"Now I'm chokin' MREs!"

"Now I'm chokin' MREs!"

"The Army colors -- the colors are red!"

"The Army colors -- the colors are red!"

"To show the world the blood we shed!"

"To show the world the blood we shed!"

Almost every soldier interviewed Friday said they intend to spend their vacation with loved ones, or as 24-year-old 1st Lt. Anthony Fennell put it, put in some "serious family time."

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Carswell, 31, a hand-to-hand combat instructor, is taking his newborn son home to Georgia to show his mom. Sgt. Dave Reynolds, 21, is taking his new wife, from Palmer, home to meet his parents in Washington state. Staff Sgt. Van Do, 32, said he's going to take his 2-year-old son to visit family in Illinois. Do said that he's ready to go to war but that it will be hard to leave his son behind. He said he plans to take a miniature T-ball bat with the boy's name on it with him as a reminder, along with pictures.

Several soldiers said they plan to stay in Alaska for their vacation.

Maj. Pat Mangin said he hopes to catch salmon on the Klatina River with his folks, who are coming to visit from Ohio. Sgt. Morgan Evans, 23, is heading for the Russian River. Spc. Thomas Peterson, 20, is going there too, with a buddy. Peterson, the fourth boy in his family to go to war, also hopes to snag some northern pike out of Mirror Lake.

Other soldiers said they plan to split their last two weeks of vacation before war between here and elsewhere. 1st Lt. Rob Snyder, 23, said he plans to spend about a week visiting family in Santa Maria, Calif. ("home of the Michael Jackson trial"), and another week exploring Alaska with his wife and his husky, Ranger.

"I want to drive in different directions and see what I can find," he said.

Pfc. Jose Reynoso, 21, also plans to go home to California after checking out Metlakatla, in Southeast, where he'll meet his new in-laws and fish.

Pfc. Ian Wilson, 26, says he's simply going to relax. How? "By not waking up at 5:30 every day," he said while standing in formation Friday, drawing laughter from other soldiers. "By not running every day."

[Another useful expenditure of time would be reading the dozens of reports, ranging from Hackworth to Army Times, about how these rolling coffins are worthless, underarmored, overweight pieces of deadly shit. But hey, they made millions for the war profiteers who sold them to the Army, and who lobbied to make sure the truth about them stayed buried under happy talk by traitor procurement officers looking forward to a fat paycheck from the war profiteers after retirement.

[Hopefully, at least a few people in this outfit have been well trained in how to get out in the middle of the countryside, after the Stryker comes to a dead stop, to check the tire pressure six times a day, for just one example of why Strykers are to die for.]

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)

Bush Regime Comes Up \$1 Billion Short In Money For Vets Health Care; Gets Caught Lying About It: Congressional Republicans Look Like Fools

Richard Fuller, legislative director of the Paralyzed Veterans, said the money problems this year and next were obvious to anyone visiting VA clinics and hospitals.

"You could see it happening, clinics shutting down, appointments delayed," Fuller said.

[Thanks to Frank M who sent this in.]

June 24, 2005 By Thomas B. Edsall, The Washington Post

The Bush administration, already accused by veterans groups of seeking inadequate funds for health care next year, acknowledged yesterday that it is short \$1 billion for covering current needs at the Department of Veterans Affairs this year.

The disclosure of the shortfall angered Senate Republicans who have been voting down Democratic proposals to boost VA programs at significant political cost. Their votes have brought the wrath of the American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and other organizations down on the GOP.

The \$1 billion shortfall emerged during an administration midyear budget review and was acknowledged only during lengthy questioning of Jonathan B. Perlin, VA undersecretary for health, by House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer (R-Ind.) at a hearing yesterday.

At a noon news conference yesterday, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), a member of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee covering veterans affairs and the lead sponsor of Senate Democratic efforts to add \$1.9 billion to the VA budget, accused the Bush administration of unwillingness "to make the sacrifices necessary to fulfill the promises we have made to our veterans."

In a rare display of bipartisanship on the polarized issue of veterans spending, Sen. Larry E. Craig (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee appeared with Murray at the news conference and said he agreed with many of her comments.

Murray cited an April 5 letter written by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson to the Senate in a bid to defeat her amendment: "I can assure you that VA does not need emergency supplemental funds in FY2005 to continue to provide timely, quality service that is always our goal," he had said.

Murray aides said they obtained a draft copy of the midyear review in early April, suggesting that the department knew of the budget problems at the time Nicholson wrote the letter.

VA spokesman Terry Jemison refused to release a copy of the document, saying, "We don't provide information about pre-decisional budget passback and midyear reviews." [Drop his worthless ass in Ramadi and see if that improves his ability to speak clearly. Where do they find these brainless shitheads?]

The House has already approved a \$68.1 billion Department of Veterans Affairs appropriation for fiscal 2006 that has been sharply criticized by the American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Disabled American Veterans.

Richard Fuller, legislative director of the Paralyzed Veterans, said the money problems this year and next were obvious to anyone visiting VA clinics and hospitals.

"You could see it happening, clinics shutting down, appointments delayed," Fuller said.

Veterans groups are particularly angry with House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), who was specially chosen by the House leadership to chair the House Veterans Affairs Committee to keep spending down. Buyer was selected to replace Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), who had alienated House leaders by pushing for high levels of spending on veterans programs.

Buyer recently sparked new controversy in an interview published by the American Legion Magazine in which he said the department should concentrate on serving a "core constituency," and he disputed assertions that "all veterans are veterans and all veterans should be treated the same."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Islamic Army In Iraq Denies Alleged Negotiations With American Officials

June 27, 2005 By SITE Institute

The Islamic Army in Iraq, in a statement issued yesterday, June 26, 2005, denies allegations that members of its group have been negotiating with American military officials, and outlines several points concerning these "lies... to break the unity of the mujahideen and confuse them."

Among their points, the group maintains that collaboration between American officials and the Iraqi government that "want to sell jihad and the mujahideen and their blood and large sacrifices in exchange for little benefits which Americans grant them," is a "trick" to destabilize the insurgency groups.

Any unauthorized "official work" or impersonation of the Islamic Army's leadership, according to the statement, "will be duly punished."

Further, the statement indicates that another purported American goal is to distinguish between Iraqi and foreign mujahideen; however, the group avers that: "all Jews and Christians in the whole world are not worth one drop of blood of a Muslim, Iraqi or not.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Why can't they have gay people in the army? Personally, I think they are just afraid of a thousand guys with weapons going, "Who'd you call a faggot?" Jon Stewart

The Enemy Is Closer Than You Think



"We put him on a Medevac helicopter, that had the word, " WHY " painted on the front."
[Photo by Mike Hastie]

From: Mike Hastie
Sent: June 27, 2005

To G.I. Special:

A couple of weeks before I got to my unit in Vietnam, an enraged soldier murdered another soldier with his M-16.

A couple of months after I got to my unit, an enlisted soldier murdered a Captain with an M-16.

About the same time, a couple of soldiers in my unit got into a fight, and one of them put a knife to the other's throat. Luckily, a couple of us talked the guy out of killing him.

A couple of months later, a 19 year-old heroin addict blew his brains out with his M-16.

As an Army medic, I had blood all over me, to include brain matter.

A month later, another soldier in my unit shot himself in the head with a pistol. I unzipped the body bag to examine his wounds.

Shortly after that, another medic in my unit tried to commit suicide after he got a " Dear John " letter from his girlfriend.

Later that same month, two soldiers got into a shoot-out with their M-16's, resulting in the death of one of them.

We put him on a Medevac helicopter, that had the word, " WHY " painted on the front.

The worst wound that Vietnam veterans suffered from, was BETRAYAL.

It was the internal cancer that destroyed tens of thousands of American soldiers when they returned home.

The war in Iraq is a cash register, just like Vietnam. And, when American soldiers returning from Iraq see the big lie, they will do exactly what a lot of us Vietnam veterans did--they will turn on their government.

And, that will be the beginning of their healing.

The enemy is closer than you think.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71**

Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (Contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) for more of his outstanding work. T)

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Reporter Killed In Baghdad: He Had Gathered Evidence Of U.S. Occupation Mass Murder Campaign

Salihee was a special correspondent. He was shot and killed last week in Baghdad in circumstances that remain unclear. Special correspondent Mohammed al Dulaimy also contributed to this report from Baghdad.

"We cannot admit that our police are doing it; it would make them look weak," Jasim said.

Jun. 27, 2005 By Tom Lasseter and Yasser Salihee, Knight Ridder Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Days after Iraq's new Shiite-led government was announced on April 28, the bodies of Sunni Muslim men began turning up at the capital's central morgue after the men had been detained by people wearing Iraqi police uniforms.

Faik Baqr, the director and chief forensic investigator at the central Baghdad morgue, said the corpses first caught his attention because the men appeared to have been killed in methodical fashion.

Their hands had been tied or handcuffed behind their backs, their eyes were blindfolded and they appeared to have been tortured. In most cases, the dead men looked as if they'd been whipped with a cord, subjected to electric shocks or beaten with a blunt object and shot to death, often with single bullets to their heads.

Marks on the bodies were similar to the injuries found on prisoners who were rescued from secret Interior Ministry jails by representatives of the Iraqi ministry for human rights, according to family accounts and medical records.

Iraqi and American officials said the murders aren't being investigated systematically, but in dozens of interviews with families and Iraqi officials, and a review of medical records, a Knight Ridder reporter and two special correspondents found more than 30 examples of this type of killing in less than a week. They include 12 cases with specific dates, times, names and witnesses who said they might come forward if asked by law enforcement.

The Interior Ministry, which oversees the Iraqi police, denies any involvement in the killings. But eyewitnesses said that many of the dead were apprehended by large groups of men driving white Toyota Land Cruisers with police markings. The men were wearing police commando uniforms and bulletproof vests, carrying expensive 9-millimeter Glock pistols and using sophisticated radios, the witnesses said.

If the killers are proven to be Sunni insurgents masquerading as Shiite police, the murders raise troubling questions about how insurgents are getting expensive new police equipment. The Toyotas, which cost more than \$55,000 apiece, and Glocks, at about \$500 each, are hard to come by in Iraq, and they're rarely used by anyone other than Western contractors and Iraqi security forces.

Further evidence that a police force created, trained and funded by the United States has been abusing human rights, on the other hand, would complicate the Bush administration's efforts to muster greater domestic support for its Iraq policy and more international support for the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al Jaafari.

The U.S. government has appropriated more than \$11 billion for training and equipping Iraqi security forces, including the police.

Raad Sultan, an official in Iraq's ministry of human rights who monitors the treatment of Iraqis in prisons and detention centers, said some Interior Ministry employees have tortured Iraqis whom they suspected of supporting the insurgency.

Officials in the Interior Ministry's intelligence division deny having detainees, saying they only question those in Iraqi prisons. But one investigation by the Human Rights Ministry found 32 detainees, and another found 67 in Interior Ministry intelligence facilities. The majority of the detainees had been tortured, Sultan said.

Most of those who were tortured had their hands cuffed behind their backs, were blindfolded and had been beaten by cords or subjected to electrical shock, Sultan said. Baqr, at the morgue, said the bodies that have been brought to him handcuffed and blindfolded had been similarly abused.

But when battered corpses turn up outside Interior Ministry facilities, Sultan said, "How can I prove it is the security forces?"

Ghathanfar al Jasim, who sits on Iraq's national judicial council and functions as an attorney general, said it's difficult to discuss extrajudicial murder.

"We cannot admit that our police are doing it; it would make them look weak," Jasim said, adding that Sunni insurgents often target Iraqi security forces, especially commando units such as the Interior Ministry's Wolf Brigade.

"When a man kills another man (from their group), what do you think will be the result?" he said. "How do you think the Wolf Brigade would behave? If you arrested (Osama) bin Laden, what would you do with him?"

Asked who he thought was behind the upsurge in such executions, Baqr said, "It is a very delicate subject for society when you are blaming the police officers. . . . It is not an easy issue.

"We hear that they are captured by the police and then the bodies are found killed . . . it's obviously increasing."

Baqr said he's been unable to catalog the deaths because so many bodies have been brought through his morgue and because he doesn't have enough doctors. Before March 2003, he said, the morgue handled 200 to 250 suspicious deaths a month, about 16 of which included firearm injuries. He said he now sees 700 to 800 suspicious deaths a month, with some 500 having firearm wounds.

Many Iraqis say the giveaway that the abductors are at least connected to the police is the preponderance of reports involving Land Cruisers, Glocks and other expensive equipment.

On May 5, for example, 14 Sunni farmers were picked up from an east Baghdad vegetable market. The farmers had driven to the capital from Madain, a town south of Baghdad where the month before Sunni insurgents allegedly had kidnapped and executed a number of Shiites.

The bodies of the farmers were discovered in shallow graves the next day. They'd been blindfolded and tortured, and their hands had been cuffed behind their backs.

In separate interviews this week, two men who were at the east Baghdad market at the time said they saw a large group of police detain the farmers.

"A patrol of more than 10 police vehicles drove up and parked," said Ali Karim, a fruit vendor. "They were running through the street with their guns, saying that the farmers had a car bomb with them. They pushed them against the walls and asked them for their IDs."

Another vendor, Ahmed Adil, gave a similar account in a separate interview.

"We were sitting, and the police cars pulled up and spread in different directions," Adil said. "A neighborhood guard asked the police what they were doing - he said these are just farmers - and the police said don't get involved, they have a car bomb with them."

A brigadier general in the Interior Ministry, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said his brother was taken during a large raid on May 14 in his working-class Sunni neighborhood in western Baghdad.

His brother's body was found a day later. It bore signs of torture.

The general, who wasn't there when his brother was detained, said he canvassed the neighborhood and interviewed one family after the next.

The descriptions of the abductors were identical in every case, he said: They came in white police Toyota Land Cruisers, wore police commando uniforms, flak vests and helmets. They also had Glockes.

The general said he's tried, through the Interior Ministry, to find out which commando unit was in that neighborhood when his brother disappeared. He also said colleagues have told him that his own life is now in danger.

A day before the general's brother disappeared in west Baghdad, Anwar Jassim, a Sunni welder at Iraq's ministry of industry and minerals, went missing from his south Baghdad home.

Jassim's family said he was taken by a large group of men dressed and equipped like police commandos.

Another man taken in Jassim's neighborhood, a local grocer who gave his name as Abu Ahmed, said he was taken to the same detention facility as Jassim. While he was there, he said, he and other men sat on the floor blindfolded and handcuffed. They listened to other prisoners screaming.

When the other prisoners were brought back into the room, Abu Ahmed said, they said they'd been pummeled with long wooden staffs.

"When we were in detention, they put blindfolds and handcuffs on us. On the second day, the soldiers were saying, 'He's dead,' " said Abu Ahmed. "Later, we found out it was Anwar."

The abductors dropped Jassim's body at Baghdad's Yarmuk hospital the next day, hospital staffers said. According to hospital records, Jassim had a bullet wound in the back of his head and cuts and bruises on his abdomen, back and neck.

The man in charge of the Yarmuk morgue, who gave his name as Abu Amir, said he remembers the day the commandos brought Jassim's corpse.

"The commandos told me to keep the body outside of the refrigerator so that the dogs could eat it because he's a terrorist and he deserves it," Abu Amir said.

The killings didn't stop in May.

Saadi Khalif's body was also found at Yarmuk. The 52-year-old Sunni, along with his brother Mohammed, was taken from his home in western Baghdad on June 10.

His abductors rode up in pickup trucks painted with Iraqi police insignia, his family said. About 10 came into the house, while about twice as many fanned out in the street outside, forming a security perimeter. They had radios, uniforms, flak vests and helmets, family members said.

"The doctor told us he was choked and tortured before they shot him," said Ahmed Khalif, one of Saadi's brothers. "He looked like he had been dragged by a car."

Mohammed Khalif, 47, also beaten and shot, still had on metal handcuffs at the Yarmuk morgue.

[The next time you run into some lame “anti-war” asshole whining about how the Iraqi resistance movement is too violent, have a copy of this story ready shove down their throat, figuratively of course. As for anybody so stupid as to say, “But that’s not the occupation, that’s the Iraqi collaborators doing it,” just walk away. If they haven’t figured out by now that nothing on this scale could happen unless the people who run Iraq sanction it, and that the people who run Iraq live in Washington DC, you’re talking to the brain dead.]

The Butcher Of Baghdad



(AFP/File/Paul J. Richards)

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

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: **Shaikh Critical Of Occupation Arrested**

27 June 2005 Aljazeera.Net

The Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq (AMS), a Sunni Muslim group, has issued a statement saying that Iraqi police commandos raided the al-Dakhiliya mosque and arrested Shaikh Omar Raghieb, a member of the group.

The AMS said it holds the interim Iraqi government responsible for any harm done to Shaikh Omar, and considers this an attack against the AMS itself.

The AMS has been outspokenly critical against what it considers the US occupation of Iraq and has called the interim Iraqi government illegitimate.

Welcome To Liberated, "Sovereign" Iraq: U.S. Prisons To Expand: "Business Is Booming" General Babbles

The decision by American commanders to add to the detention facilities instead of their planned decommissioning would be seen as an admission of just how much the situation is out of control more than two years after invasion.

27 June 2005 By Kim Sengupta, Independent News & Media (UK) Ltd

Faced with unremitting violence, the United States is building new detention areas at Iraqi prisons including the notorious Abu Ghraib.

President George Bush had declared that Abu Ghraib would be torn down in a symbolic gesture after shocking pictures emerged of Iraqi inmates being abused and tortured by American forces.

But the continuing insurgency and rising death toll has meant that not only can the US not hand over Abu Ghraib to the new Iraqi government, according to a planned timetable, but other prisons including Camp Bucca in the British-controlled south of the country are being expanded.

The numbers of prisoners being held by the US in Iraq has reached record levels this month, with 10,783 in custody, up from 7,837 in January and 5,435 in June last year. American Iraqi officials agree there is no sign of the resistance or the prisoners it produces abating soon.

"It's been a challenge" said Col James Brown, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade. "Many of the people we have captured have not given up the struggle." [Hey, it's an old story. The Brits had the same problem in the USA around 1776 or so.]

The decision by American commanders to add to the detention facilities instead of their planned decommissioning would be seen as an admission of just how much the situation is out of control more than two years after invasion.

Major-General William Brandenburg, who oversees US-run prisons in Iraq, said US forces would have been out of Abu Ghraib under an original timetable by spring next year.

But he now says: "I believed it until mid-December, but the numbers just weren't going that way. *Business is booming.*" [It takes a real happy idiot to say that to the media. Unless he's referring to mortar attacks and IEDs.]

Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca, near the Kuwaiti border, are at their maximum capacity with 10,178 detainees between them. US guards have shot several prisoners at Camp Bucca, leading to public expressions of concern by the Iraq's former interim government and privately by senior British officers.

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.

Received:

CORRECTION:

Thanks for posting. It should of course be 10:30AM and 11:00AM. --P.

COLLEGE NOT COMBAT

HELP US GATHER SIGNATURES ON SATURDAY JULY 9TH!

THE CAMPAIGN to get an anti-military recruitment/pro-schools proposition on San Francisco's November ballot is on its way to success! Help us make one last big push to ensure that San Francisco has the opportunity to resoundingly voice "money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation!" in the Fall!

**Final Petitioning Effort: Saturday, July 9th
16th & Mission St, San Francisco**

10:30 AM

Rally with SF Supervisor Chris Daly; Aimee Allison, Oakland Green Party; and others
TBA*

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

City-wide petitioning blitz! Let's capture the hearts and signatures of San Franciscans everywhere!

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