

GI SPECIAL 3B88:

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



The coffin of Lance Cpl. Holly Charette at graveside service, Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter, R.I., July 2. Charette, 21, was killed in Iraq. (AP Photo/Joe Giblin)

The Throw-Away Soldiers: Payback Is Overdue: Wounded? Really Fucked Up? Tough Shit; Army Says Get Out And Go Away

[Thanks to Frank M, who sent this in. Also PG]

“The Army tried to get rid of him,” Lefever said. “It was immoral and unethical. The Army owes these kids.”

Dunn just shrugs when asked why he joined and later volunteered for duty in Iraq. "It was a terrible, terrible mistake," he said. "I was a fool."

July 12, 2005 LES BLUMENTHAL; The News Tribune

The day before his 22nd birthday, a bomb hanging from a tree along a road near Fallujah exploded above Rory Dunn's Humvee.

Dunn's forehead was crushed from ear to ear, leaving his brain exposed. His right eye was destroyed by shrapnel; the left eye nearly so. His hearing was severely damaged.

"I remember a bright flash. The trees lit up, and the Humvee was shaking," Dunn recalled during a recent interview while curled up in an easy chair in the living room of his mother's Renton home.

Within minutes of the May 2004 explosion, he was strapped on a stretcher and flown by helicopter to a hospital in Baghdad – the first step in his 10-month struggle to recover.

Yet, even as Dunn fought to overcome his traumatic brain injury and other wounds, his mother, Cynthia Lefever, fought the Army to ensure her son continued to receive critical care from Army specialists. Lefever said the Army tried to pressure her son into accepting a discharge before he was ready – pressure other severely wounded soldiers say they've experienced, too.

Lefever and other critics say the Army's medical system, particularly Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., has been overwhelmed by the number of wounded returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

They accuse the Army of attempting to discharge wounded soldiers before their essential medical needs are met and transfer them to Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

"The Army tried to get rid of him," Lefever said. "It was immoral and unethical. The Army owes these kids."

John Fernandez, a 27-year-old retired 1st lieutenant from New York who lost part of each leg in Iraq, told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this spring the Army tried to discharge him before he received the medical care he was entitled to.

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Seattle), a member of the committee, said she heard similar stories from other wounded soldiers and their families.

Doctors initially gave Rory Dunn little chance of survival.

As he clung to life in the Baghdad hospital, they glued his left eye back into its socket and placed him in a deep medical coma to ease brain swelling. Five days later, Dunn was flown to a hospital in Germany, where his family had gone on "imminent death

orders” to say their goodbyes. If he lived, they were told, he might need full-time care for the rest of his life.

Almost six weeks after he was wounded, Dunn emerged from his coma at Walter Reed, where he had been transferred. Days later, Lefever said, the Army asked her son to begin the discharge process. She objected.

During the coming months, before his skull was rebuilt, before a cornea transplant, before speech and physical therapy, the Army made at least three attempts to get her son to accept a discharge, Lefever said.

In one instance, she said a top medical officer showed up in her son’s room in Ward 58, the neuroscience ward at Walter Reed, and said Dunn needed to immediately sign papers formally starting the discharge process. [Name this piece of shit. He deserves national recognition, and appropriate rewards for his activities. There are no doubt some veterans who would be delighted to express their appreciation to him personally.]

“We all understood he couldn’t return to the Army, but he hadn’t even started his treatment,” Lefever said, adding that her son had just emerged from his coma.

In the fall of 2004, roughly five months after he was wounded, Lefever said her son was told to attend a meeting without his mother. During the meeting, which Lefever insisted on attending, Dunn was given three days to sign papers starting the discharge process or the Army would do it without his authorization. At that point, Dunn had not received the surgery that would rebuild his forehead.

“I felt bullied,” Lefever said.

During a six-week period stretching into February, Lefever said the Army stepped up the pressure, at one point offering to send her son to a hospital in Palo Alto, Calif., that specializes in traumatic brain injuries – but only if he first agreed to a discharge.

“I was disgusted,” Lefever said.

Though Dunn wanted out, Lefever said he wasn’t ready and felt the Army was trying to play her son off against her. In phone calls and in meetings, Lefever said her son was repeatedly told that his discharge was “none of his mom’s business.”

“Rory left his right eye, his forehead and his blood in the dirt in Iraq because the Army sent him there,” Lefever said in one e-mail to medical officials at Walter Reed. “Rory went and did his job as ordered by the Army, and deserves so much better than to sit and wait ... depressed, angry, frustrated and contemplating suicide. Rory deserves the opportunity to ‘come back’ 100 percent both physically and mentally.”

Feeling overwhelmed, Lefever said she sought assistance from a veterans group, Disabled Veterans of America, as well as Sen. Murray’s office. The veterans group assigned an advocate named Danny Soto to Dunn’s case.

Soto said lots of soldiers feel they're being "pushed out the door." He blames the military for failing to adequately explain to the families of wounded soldiers that there will be a "continuity" of medical care after discharge.

After a series of meetings involving Dunn, Soto, a Murray aide, Lefever and Army officials, an agreement was reached that allowed Dunn to be sent to Palo Alto for treatment, then accept a discharge.

"All I wanted was the best for my son," said Lefever, who made her feelings known to a string of Army officials, including generals at the Pentagon and then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

Lefever's fight wasn't unique.

Fernandez, the retired 1st lieutenant, was injured in a friendly fire incident in Iraq in April 2003. His right leg was amputated below the knee, as was his left foot. He was fitted with eight prosthetics before he found ones that were comfortable.

A graduate of West Point, where he captained the academy's lacrosse team, Fernandez studied the regulations and was able to "push back" and fend off the discharge for months.

"I had to fight to stay on duty," Fernandez said, adding he didn't want to be discharged until the Army provided him with the care he felt he deserved.

"A private just out of high school who doesn't know his rights might just go with the flow," he said. "You are dealing with injuries that will affect you and your family for the rest of your life. It's an emotional time. Then you get overwhelmed with all this information."

Former Staff Sgt. Jessica Clements of Canton, Ohio, suffered a traumatic brain injury when a bomb – the military calls them "improvised explosive devices" – detonated while she was riding in a convoy near the Baghdad airport.

To relieve brain swelling, Clements said, a neurosurgeon at the Baghdad hospital clipped off a piece of her skull and temporarily inserted it into her belly for safe keeping.

"I could feel it," said Clements of the piece of skull stored in her belly for four months before it was removed and reattached.

As she lay in a bed at Walter Reed, Clements said, she received repeated telephone calls from an Army official telling her she needed to start the discharge process.

"I had no idea what was going on," she said in an interview. "It was only two months after I was injured. I felt I was being rushed. My skull was in my stomach, and I was doing eight hours of therapy a day. It was very frustrating."

Medical advances help reduce the number of deaths in wars. With more soldiers surviving near-fatal wounds, hospitals are overburdened.

“It’s obvious when you go to Walter Reed,” said Cathy Wiblemo, the American Legion’s deputy director for health care. “They are running out of room.”

Wiblemo said she has no specific knowledge that the Army has moved to discharge wounded soldiers too quickly. But she said she wouldn’t be surprised.

“The Army’s medical bills are going up, and it’s encroaching on other things they have to pay for,” she said.

[There it is. The whole thing was, and is, about money. The Imperial war was for money, the war still is for money, the fucking over the troops get is for money, and the people running the government care about only one thing: money. How much they can get their hands on, how much their friends and their class can get their hands on, how much the war profiteers can get their hands on, and how much money working class people, including troops, can be screwed out of. These people are the enemy. The problem isn’t that the Iraqis are fighting back against the Imperial warlords of Washington. The problem is that the troops aren’t, or at least not yet. Payback is overdue.]

[You think not? Check the next story below and find out what the Lt. Col. says the army is all about. Oops. He told the truth.]

Murray, who has taken a personal interest in Dunn’s case and awarded him his Purple Heart in June, said she has talked with soldiers who feel the Army has tried to “push them out.”

“Rory Dunn is just one of many,” Murray said. “It strikes me as amazing that Rory needs an advocate in the U.S. Senate. He shouldn’t have to go through this.”

As Dunn’s physical scars fade, the emotional ones linger, as do the memories of that day outside Fallujah a year ago.

“It got me, boy did it get me,” Dunn said of the explosion. “The last thing I remember was stumbling around shouting, ‘Charge, charge,’ and my buddies trying to get me to sit down.”

Though his forehead has been rebuilt, Dunn covers it with a purple baseball cap that says “Combat Wounded” and has the symbol of a purple heart. With thick glasses, he can see out of his left eye. With hearing aides, he can hear.

Lefever said she was surprised when her son joined the Army about a year after high school. She remembers him as a good student who played football and basketball. She said he also had a rebellious streak and was sort of a “cowboy.”

Dunn just shrugs when asked why he joined and later volunteered for duty in Iraq.

“It was a terrible, terrible mistake,” he said. “I was a fool.”

Dunn fidgets as he talks. His attention span is short. He ducks out for a cigarette and to play with his dog Duke, a 6-month-old German shorthair. His memory is intact, as is his sense of humor. He remembers the name of the girl he took to the senior prom. He's looking forward to getting his own apartment and a driver's license.

He's also angry and impatient.

"I feel better, but I wish I could get on with my life," he said. "I lived in hospitals and rehab for a year. It was the worst thing I ever had to go through."

Lefever said she refused to give up until her son received the care that she says Army regulations require.

MORE:

The Army Is A "Large, Major Corporation"

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

July 13, 2005 NY Times

Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke of the Air Force, a Pentagon spokeswoman, rejected the notion that poor and working-class Americans are singled out by recruiters and make up a disproportionate share of war casualties.

"Like other large major corporations, we want the best and the brightest that our country's schools have to offer. That's who we are recruiting,"

[Right. And when an employee who works for a corporation gets too fucked up to work, they get tossed out the door. You thought you were doing something honorable in Iraq? Shit, you're just another Wall-Mart drone heaping up profits for the people who really matter, the people on top. So sorry.]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIER DIES; 1750 So Far

12 July 2005 Aljazeera.Net & HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL
COMMAND NEWS Release Number: 05-07-07C & Middle East Online

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- A Task Force Baghdad Soldier died of injuries sustained July 11 around 9 a.m. when his patrol west of Baghdad hit a land mine.

Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack.

The latest death brings to 1,750 the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq since the start of the US-led invasion in March 2003 based on the latest Pentagon figures and excluding five US Department of Defense civilian employees.

Two Western Pa. Marines Killed

7/12/2005 (AP)

Two Marines from western Pennsylvania were killed during fighting in an insurgent stronghold in Iraq, military officials said Monday.

Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Goodrich, 32, of Pittsburgh, and Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Kovacicek, 22, of Washington, were killed by "indirect fire" in Hit on Sunday. Hit is on the Euphrates River in western Iraq.

Family members were told Kovacicek and Goodrich were killed while taking cover behind a building, according to Kovacicek's brother-in-law, Ron Salvitti.

The two Marines were assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Moundsville, W.Va.

Humvee Damaged In Baghdad Attack: Casualties Not Announced

12 July 2005 Aljazeera.Net

Iraqi police said they had initial reports of an explosion that struck a US military convoy in eastern Baghdad, damaging one Humvee. But the US military said it did not have any information on the report.

Humvee Damaged By Samarra IED; Casualties Not Announced

7.12.05 By Robert H. Reid, Associated Press

A roadside bomb exploded against an American convoy Tuesday in Samarra, damaging a Humvee, Iraqi police said. There was no U.S. comment on the report.

Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Mahmoudiya Mine

7.12.05 By Robert H. Reid, Associated Press

Three soldiers were injured in the land mine explosion Monday, which occurred near Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Lost Commando Is Found, Killed In Afghan Firefight

July 11, 2005 Daniel Cooney, AP

The body of the fourth U.S. Navy SEAL was found Sunday in Kunar province by a search and rescue team, the military said.

U.S. military spokesman Col. James Yonts said the injuries on the commando's body were consistent with "a firefight, a combat operation with small arms fire, RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) rounds."

Yonts said the commando's body was found near the chopper crash site in an area "that we had looked over before, but where his body was located was hard to find."

Collaborator Soldiers Slaughtered

July 11, 2005 Daniel Cooney, AP

Suspected Taliban guerrillas ambushed a border patrol in the desert near the frontier with Pakistan, killing and beheading 10 Afghan soldiers, a provincial governor said Sunday.

The 25-member patrol was attacked Saturday in southern Helmand province by militants in four four-wheel-drive pickups, said provincial Gov. Sher Mohammed Aghunzada.

The insurgents killed 10 soldiers; 15 fled the ambush, Aghunzada said.

"The Taliban cut the heads off all the soldiers who were killed," he said. Aghunzada said the dead soldiers' bodies had been recovered.

Twelve other Afghan soldiers were killed Sunday when a land mine exploded under their vehicle in Paktika province, also near the border with Pakistan, provincial deputy police chief Ghulam Nabi said.

TROOP NEWS

GOT THAT RIGHT!

Jimmy Kimmel talking live on national television to a group of U.S. Soldiers in Iraq:

"If there was one thing we could send you to help you out, that would make things better over there, what would it be?"

US Soldier: "A plane ticket."

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.

Army, Air Guard Miss Recruiting Goals Again;

RA And Army Reserve Squeak Through With Lower Goals; "We're Reaching The Bottom Of The Barrel"

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

July 12, 2005 By Joseph R. Chenelly, Army Times staff writer & By John J. Lumpkin, The Kennebec Journal (Maine) & 11 July 2005 By Eric Schmitt and David S. Cloud, The New York Times

Both parts of the Guard Bureau — the Army National Guard and Air National Guard — missed their monthly recruiting goals in June.

The Army Guard has missed every monthly goal so far in fiscal year 2005, which runs from Oct. 1, 2004, through Sept. 30.

Both components are short of their year-to-date missions as of the end of June. The Army Guard has achieved 77 percent and the Air Guard is at 83 percent.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum also told a group of defense reporters in Washington that the Army National Guard's overall end-strength is about six percent, or 19,700 soldiers, below what it needs to be.

The Guard, which has yet to make a monthly goal this fiscal year, is 23 percent, or 10,500 people, short of its year-to-date goal and has missed its recruiting target during at least 17 of the last 18 months.

The Guard's quota climbs in July by a little more than 900 accessions.

Guard troops make up more than one-third of the soldiers in Iraq, numbering six brigades plus a division headquarters.

The Regular Army and Army Reserve each made their quota.

The Regular Army accessed 6,157 individuals into its ranks in June. That was 507 more than its target of 5,650.

But even achieving 109 percent of its June mission still leaves Army Recruiting Command about 8,300 active duty soldiers shy of where it had aimed to be at this point of the fiscal year, which runs through Sept. 30.

The active-duty's goal for June was the second lowest of the year.

The Army Reserve last month brought in 3,651 — 51 more than its goal.

The Reserve had missed each monthly goal since December. Now the Reserve is about 2,300 people, or 15 percent, off its year-to-date goal.

The Army is running perilously low on its Reserve and National Guard soldiers who largely fill certain critical support jobs, like military police and civil affairs officers and truck drivers. Marine Corps reservists are facing similar constraints.

"By next fall, we'll have expended our ability to use National Guard brigades as one of the principal forces," said Gen. Barry McCaffrey, a retired four-star Army commander who was dispatched to Iraq last month to assess the operation.

"We're reaching the bottom of the barrel."

A main reason for the shortages is that more and more of these troops who have been involuntarily mobilized are nearing their 24-month maximum call-up limit set by the Bush administration, military personnel specialists say.

To fill the pivotal support jobs for deployments to Iraq, Army and Pentagon planners are increasingly turning to the Navy and Air Force to provide truck drivers and security personnel.



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Guard General Whines That Recruiting Difficult Because Iraq Deaths “Exaggerated”

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Jul 12 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

The risk to National Guard soldiers of getting killed or wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan has been exaggerated, making recruiting more difficult, the general in charge of all National Guard forces said Tuesday.

"It is dangerous, but it is — I shouldn't say it to this group but I'm going to — it is misrepresented, how dangerous it really is," he said.

The casualty rate for Guardsmen is "remarkably low," compared with any previous armed conflict, Blum said.

In all, more than 1,750 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in March 2003 — the vast majority since President Bush declared the end of major combat operations in May 2003.

Deaths “Exaggerated”?



**“I Will Never See Combat, Even If
There Is A War. I Will Only Be In A
Support Role”
(KIA 04/04/04)**



Cindy Sheehan, of Berkley, Calif., wipes away a tear July 11 at San Francisco City Hall, while discussing the death of her son Casey on April 4, 2004, five days after he arrived in Iraq. Sheehan said that the recruiter who persuaded her son to join the Army four years earlier promised Casey he would never see combat and reneged on most of the signing bonus he was guaranteed. (AP Photo/John M. Harris)

July 11, 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Cofounder of Gold Star Families for Peace, A BUZZFLASH GUEST CONTRIBUTION [Excerpts]

Tia from Baltimore writes (her stepson was KIA in Iraq):

But I will never forget one thing: the day we dropped David off for boot camp - the day his father and I first met the recruiter - the recruiter put out his hand, smiled at me, shook my hand and said "you'll never have to worry about him again". I was shocked. I can only speculate what this person was telling David.

This is an immoral war that our troops never should have been sent to in the first place, and once they are there and have done their time, it is very difficult for them to get out of the distant mental desert and come home to their loved ones.

Not only are the backend policies of retention shady, but the front-end policies of recruiting our vulnerable youth are often downright unethical. Few citizens in our country (I know I didn't) realize that an enlistment contract is only binding on the recruit.

Once the recruit raises his/her right hand and swears allegiance to the government, that recruit becomes the property of Uncle Sam and is bound by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Ethics, promises, and moral correctness often fly out the window as servitude, hardship, and heartache fly in.

The only recruiting story I know by heart, and can effectively comment on, is my son Casey's.

I have heard too many similar stories, however.

When he was recruited in May 2000, he was promised the moon to get him to join, and he ultimately got an early grave.

He was promised a \$20,000 signing bonus: he received \$4500 and was told that he could use the rest for college. Casey wanted to be a deacon in the Catholic Church, so when he enlisted in the Army, he was promised he could be a Chaplain's Assistant (don't believe the Army Band stories, either). When he got to boot camp, he was told that his promised specialty wasn't open, and he had the choice of being a Humvee mechanic or a cook.

His recruiter told him he could finish college while in the military; he could never even get approval to take one class.

All of these broken promises mean nothing to me. One does, however. After Casey enlisted, he knew I was upset. He told me, "Mom, you don't have to worry, Sgt. (I forget his name) told me that since I scored so high on the ASVAB (military competency) test, I will never see combat, even if there is a war. I will only be in a support role."

I can still hear his voice saying those exact words to me. Those words chilled me to the bone then, and have haunted me since 9/11. First of all, because I thought Casey would be sent to fight terrorists (and "terrorists") wherever they might be, and I could see George and his warmongering band of neocons rushing us into a crazy invasion of Iraq.

My premonition came true and Casey was KIA 04/04/04: a mere 5 days after his unit arrived in Sadr City, Baghdad: IN COMBAT. The most troubling thing is, though, that some recruiters are still promising young people that they won't have to go to Iraq if they sign up. I am being told that all the time by young people who talk to the multi-level marketers working towards their bonuses -- oops, I mean military recruiters.

As long as our young people are being lied to and used so dishonorably in an unjust invasion and occupation of another country; as long as they are fighting for a corrupt government and still without the proper equipment, food, training, or leadership; as long as moms are having to hold bake sales to buy their sons body armor; as long as our soldiers are being held against their wills long after they have done their duty; as long as they are being sent to kill innocent people; military service should be opposed.

Let's affirm life in the fullest for everybody: the unfortunate, uncounted people living Iraq who are "acceptable" collateral damage to the war hawks, and our own indispensable loved ones.

The only way to support our troops is to bring them home from this mess --now.

Thank you.

Cindy Sheehan
SCindy121@aol.com
Cofounder of Gold Star Families for Peace
<http://www.GSFP.org>

“I'm Getting A Little Tired Of Civilian Contractors”

June 29, 2005 Posted by Nameless Soldier, Iraq

I would just like to say that I'm getting a little tired of civilian contractors.

Some of them make sense. There is a lot of equipment that we use that is relatively new, so it's nice to have someone who works for the company that designed it set it up and show us how to use it, but our contractor doesn't just do that.

The guy we have is formor army, and is basically doing the same thing that he did when he was enlisted, except that he gets paid and treated much better. He gets paid like a Colonel, and uses all of our facilities as if he was an actual soldier.

The only things that he can't do are things that we hve to pick up the slack for. As an example, he's not allowed to drive military vehicles, but that doesn't stop him from going wherever he wants, one of us just have to drive him. In addition to this, he is allowed to go home whenever he wants, no questions asked.

Aside from personal jealousy, I can't understand why it is good policy.

As I already said, he isn't obligated in any way to stay for a given amount of time or obey orders. He can just pick up and leave whenever he feels it gets to dangerous. Anyone with even the most elementary understanding of the military can understand why this could be a problem. Although, our guy doesn't do much, we do rely on him from time to time. If he decided today that he was going back to the US there would be a real hole in our operations.

There would be a very real possibility that our equipment would go down and we wouldn't be able to fix it until someone came, and that could take at least a day.

Aside from the inherent unreliability of contractors, they cost much more than a regular service member does. Although he is allowed to use all of our facilities, such as laundry and food service, free of charge, he still gets paid much, much more than any enlisted soldier, and most officers.

How is this good policy? They can't be relied on as much as soldiers that cost less to support.

MORE:

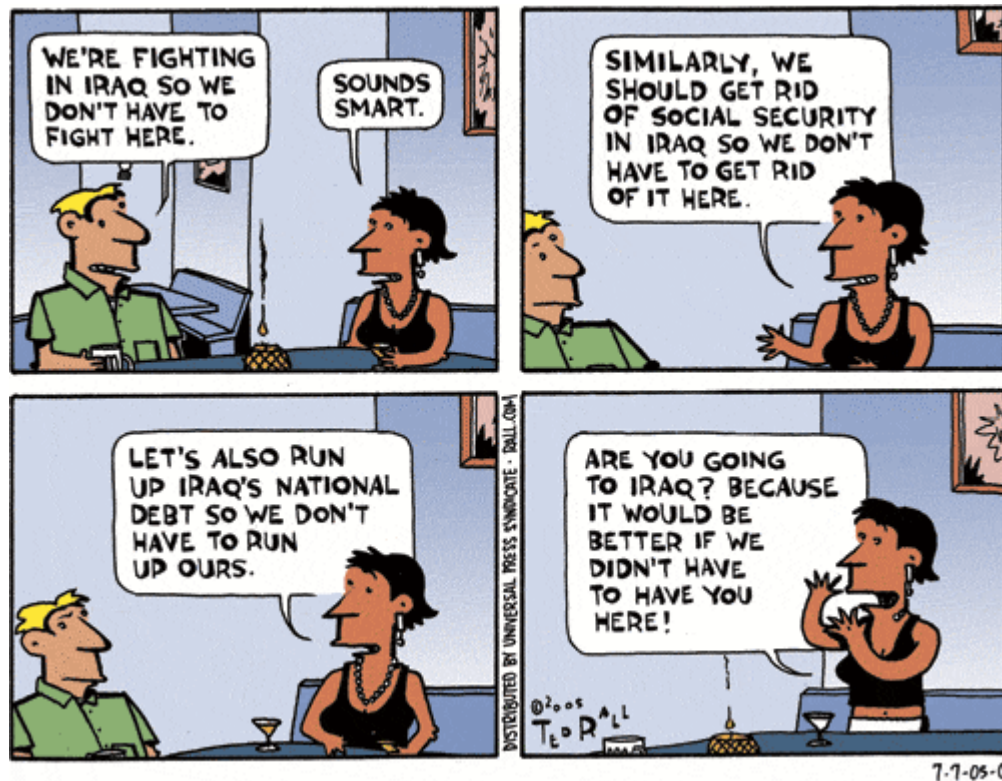
July 11, 2005 By Liza Porteus, Fox News

Most military personnel are deployed on yearlong missions and some have been deployed two to three times already. Many contractors, on the other hand, get

more flexible rest and relaxation (R&R) time and often do get to see their families more often.

Crowder, of Johnson City, Tenn., considers herself lucky. Her husband was able to come home every nine months and she had a direct line to his office in Iraq.

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.



[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

Pentagon Misses Deadline On Troop Withdrawals: Defies Congress

July 12, 2005 Boston Globe

The Pentagon failed to meet a 60-day deadline set by Congress to provide a detailed plan for training Iraqis and for likely American troop withdrawals. [Given

that Congress is composed of Democrat and Republic Empire-loving shits, why be surprised if the Pentagon treats them like Empire-loving shits?]

Teens Think War For Shit

July 11 PRNewswire

A new poll of U.S. youth aged 13 to 18 conducted by Harris Interactive® shows that one-quarter (24%) of teens support the war in Iraq, down from 47 percent who felt this way in April 2003, shortly after the war began.

Compared to 2003, fewer teens support the war in Iraq and think the United States will win

These are some of the results of a Harris Interactive survey conducted online in the United States among 754 youth aged 13 to 18 between June 15 and 20, 2005.

A comparison of the two polls shows a sharp decline in support for the war among teens:

Less than one-third (30%) rate President Bush's handling of the war as excellent or pretty good, down from 54 percent in April 2003.

More than half (54%) feel that the United States will win the war, down from the 83 percent who felt this way in April 2003.

One-quarter (25%) say the war makes them feel proud of their nation, falling from 48 percent in April 2003 who said this.

Four in ten (41%) say the war is not worth fighting at all, up from 28 percent in April 2003.

The war in Iraq seems to have had a clear impact on recruitment for the U.S. military. In April 2003, 28 percent of teens said they would be likely to volunteer to fight in the war in Iraq if they were old enough, a percentage which has fallen to 11 percent now.

"Overall, do you favor or oppose the United States being at war in Iraq?"

Base: Youth aged 13 to 18

	April 2003	June 2005
	%	%
Favor	47	24
Oppose	30	55
Not Sure	23	21

RATING OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S HANDLING OF IRAQ

"How would you rate President Bush on his handling of the war in Iraq?"

Base: Youth aged 13 to 18

	April 2003	June 2005
	%	%
Excellent	23	10
Pretty good	31	20
Only fair	19	7
Poor	19	46
Not sure	8	7

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action:

12 July 2005 Aljazeera.Net & By Robert H. Reid, Associated Press & Reuters

Two roadside bombs struck U.S. and Iraqi convoys north and west of Baghdad, injuring six Iraqi soldiers and damaging one Humvee.

In Baghdad, armed men killed an Iraqi police officer who used to accompany the technical undersecretary for the Iraqi interior ministry.

Armed men also killed Brigadier Amir Mozer. Mozer was an official at the major crimes investigations unit of the Iraqi Interior Ministry. Mozer's driver was wounded in the attack.

Police said a captain in their force was shot dead in a separate attack.

In Beiji north of Baghdad armed men assassinated the liaison officer between the US army and the Iraqi police in the town.

An Iraqi policeman was killed and two others wounded in Baghdad when an explosive device blew up in the centre of the city.

A car bomb in Kirkuk exploded in an industrial district as pedestrians were passing by. **Police then came under fire and three were wounded, one critically,** police Col. Ahmed Hamawandi said.

Guerrillas stormed the offices of a construction company in western Baghdad, killing four people and wounding one, police said. The manager of the firm and the director of a human rights charity were among the dead.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

“Getting The Occupiers Out Of Iraq”

Jul. 12, 2005 BY AAMER MADHANI, Chicago Tribune

In many ways, life in Sadr City is on the mend. But peace in this slum that is home to 2.5 million is fragile, and anti-American sentiment [translation: anti-U.S. Occupation] holds firm.

"This is like halftime in a soccer match," said Sheik Ghaith al-Kadhemi, an imam and al-Sadr loyalist in the slum. "The Americans are adjusting their strategy, and Muqtada al-Sadr is also making adjustments to what our strategy will be in getting the occupiers out of Iraq."

On Sadr City's main streets, portraits of al-Sadr angrily waving an index finger are posted everywhere. **Residents complain that U.S. soldiers periodically sweep through the neighborhood tearing down the posters. [Welcome to liberated Iraq, where the assholes in command of the Occupation Army tell you whose picture you can display.]**

The U.S. military and al-Sadr reached a detente last year. Al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army was to put its weapons down and disband. **But in Sadr City, residents say the militiamen are in the background and can instantly be called to action.**

"Instead of pulling down posters, they should be fixing the water," said Ali Jabbar Hanish, 23, a laborer in Sadr City, of the U.S. soldiers. "Because of Mahdi Army, these are the safest streets in all of Baghdad."

In his sermons and messages to his acolytes, which are most often delivered by his deputies, al-Sadr claims that no Iraqi government can be considered legitimate while there is an outside military in the country.

"The Sayid (meaning direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad) Muqtada Sadr will never participate, he will never give legitimacy to a constitution written under this occupier government," Nasser al-Suadi, a member of the transitional National Assembly said. "But in the end, Muqtada Sadr's thoughts will be brought (to) the table and will be represented."

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

Notes From A Lost War:

The Resistance Are “Very Intelligent”: “A Few Hundred Dollars Can Buy You Information”

July 12, 2005 By Michael Georgy (Reuters)

New security forces charged with restoring stability can barely protect themselves.

"These are very intelligent people who knew that they could not win the war against the United States so they patiently prepared for an insurgency," said a Western security consultant.

"They took measures like building tunnels and hiding weapons and now it has all evolved."

"They are able to do a lot of surveillance. They know how to gather a lot of information and analyze it better than anyone else," said a police official who asked to remain anonymous.

"During Saddam's time people were thoroughly investigated before joining the police department. They were questioned on their family, their history, whether they had any political views," said one serving police officer.

"Now anyone can join. A few hundred dollars can buy you information on officers' movements."

Iraq Shiites In Campaign To Get Rid Of All Occupation Troops Now

Jul 11 Agence France Presse

Radicals within Iraq's Shiite majority community launched a petition for the withdrawal of US-led troops, which they said was drawing support from across the sectarian divide.

Supporters of firebrand cleric Moqtada Sadr, who led a bloody six-month uprising against the coalition last year, said they were aiming to secure one million signatures inside four days.

"We started this morning and so far we have had a good response, not only from Shiites -- Sunnis and Christians have also been coming to our office to show their support," said Ibrahim al-Jaberi, an official in Sadr's movement.

"We have also received more than 100 calls from Iraqis living abroad in support of our initiative," he said, adding that more than 400,000 people had signed the petition by midday (0800 GMT).

The petition, which Jaberi said would be submitted to the Iraqi government and United Nations, reads: "I hereby declare my rejection of the forces of occupation and demand their withdrawal".

In the radicals' Baghdad stronghold of Sadr City, Zayer Lafta refused a pen, insisting on applying his bloodied thumb to the petition sheet.

"I will sign with my blood, because the country is awash with blood," the 44-year-old said.

"The departure of the occupiers will only benefit the country. Every day they are here the closer Iraq gets to its demise."

Khaled Zuwayed, 23, came with five friends to sign.

"Foreigners have not come to solve this country's problems but to make them worse. We only see car bombs and terrorist attacks," he said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**True Then:
True Now**

**"Here's where the unwilling are made to do the unnecessary for the ungrateful."
That's one of the most important lessons learned from Vietnam. Horace Coleman,
Vietnam Veterans Against The War, contact for Long Beach, California in The Veterans,
Spring 2005**

OCCUPATION REPORT

**Many Troops Quit 5th Brigade Of Iraq's
Collaborator Army**

July 12, 2005 Los Angeles Times

Uncomfortable, unsanitary conditions at an abandoned Iraqi airfield, where more than 2,000 members of Iraq's fledgling 5th Brigade are posted, have caused many troops to quit.

Taxi Drivers Defrauded And Shot When They Protest: “The Real Terrorists In This Country Are The Police”



A crowd protests against Iraqi government regulations in Basra July. The crowd was demanding the governor repeal a ban on right-hand drive cars. REUTERS/Atef Hassan

July 12 2005 Turks US Daily News

Three people were injured when Iraqi police opened fire on taxi drivers forcing their way into Basra governorate on Tuesday to protest the ban on right-hand driven cabs.

Taxi drivers in the southern Iraqi city of Basra staged a demonstration on Tuesday to protest a ban by Basra governorate on right-hand driven cabs.

The crowd marched towards the governorate, attempting to force their way into the building but they were stopped by Iraqi police and soldiers.

Police and soldiers charged the crowd with batons and opened fire on the angry protesters.

Three taxi drivers were wounded in the incident.

Drivers said that the right-hand driven vehicles were sold them by government and now they were banned. They also complaint of the price of left-hand driven vehicles that varies between 3,000 and 4,000 USD.

Meanwhile, a governorate official called the drivers to be calm and said the issue will be resolved until Saturday. He told drivers, "Until the beginning of 2006, right-hand driven vehicles will be removed. The government will give you money to convert your cars into left-hand driving".

Hussein Rahem, a taxi driver, said, "When we heard that the right-hand driven cabs were banned, we staged a demonstration but an officer opened fire on us. Our three colleagues were injured. We make a living with our cabs. **They first sell them the cars now ban them. It is injustice**".

Another taxi driver claiming he was beaten by the police, said, "Am I Zionist? Am I a terrorist? We came here to make our voices heard and our problems to be resolved but they opened fire on us like we are terrorists. They say democracy existed in Iraq. This is not democracy. The real terrorists in this country are the police".

The demonstrators chanting slogans against the police, threatening to "avenge".

Recruiting-For-The-Resistance Campaign Rolls On: Command Idiots Arrest Sunni Tribal Leader Of 30,000

12 July 2005 Aljazeera.Net

US forces have arrested a senior Iraqi tribal leader from the predominantly Sunni Arab area around Samarra, north of Baghdad, Iraqi police say.

Shaikh Talal Abd al-Karim al-Matar, the head of the Samarra tribal council and chief of the al-Sood, was taken away late on Monday night by US troops from his home in al-Muatasim, east of Samarra, said Lieutenant Colonel Mahmud Mohammed of Iraqi police on Tuesday.

The 30,000 strong al-Sood is one of the most powerful tribes in Samarra.

OCCUPATION HAITI

Lula da Silva, The Butcher Of Port-Au-Prince: His Occupation Forces Massacre Haiti's Poor

July 8, 2005 News HaitiAction.net

From: Kiilu Nyasha

Just ONE DAY before the London bombings, approximately the same numbers of deaths and injuries were happening to Haitians in Cite Soleil at the hands of UN terrorists. Yet the mass media has been almost silent about this blatant massacre of innocent civilians, including children. The struggle is global. Let's connect the 'hoods.

On Wednesday morning, July 6th, at approximately 3:00 AM, UN occupation forces in Haiti carried out a major military operation in the working-class neighborhood of Cite Soleil, one of the poorest in Port-au-Prince and also a stronghold of support for Haiti's majority political party Lavalas and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Presumably, the purpose of the operation was to crack down on illegal "gang activity", in particular on "gang" leader Dread Wilme.

In actuality, a US trade union and human rights delegation in Port-au-Prince discovered evidence of a massacre conducted by the UN forces, targeting the larger community itself.

According to accounts from many different members of the community, many of whom chose to remain anonymous, as well as from journalists who were on the scene during the operation, UN forces surrounded two neighborhoods within Cite Soleil, Boisneuf and Project Drouillard, sealing off the alleys with tanks and troops.

Two helicopters flew overhead.

At 4:30 AM, UN forces launched the offensive, shooting into houses, shacks, a church, and a school with machine guns, tank fire, and tear gas. Eyewitnesses reported that when people fled to escape the tear gas, UN troops gunned them down from the back.

UN forces shot out electric transformers in the neighborhood.

People were killed in their homes and also just outside of their homes, on the way to work. According to journalists and eyewitnesses, one man named Leon Cherry, age 46, was shot and killed on his way to work for a flower company. Another man, Mones Belizaire, was shot as he got ready to go work in a local sweatshop and subsequently died from a stomach infection. A woman who was a street vendor was shot in the head and killed instantly.

One man was shot in his ribs while he was trying to brush his teeth. Another man was shot in the jaw as he left his house to try and get some money for his wife's medical costs; he endured a slow death. Yet another man named Mira was shot and killed while urinating in his home.

A mother, Sena Romelus, and her two young children were killed in their home, either by bullets or by a 83-CC grenade UN forces threw.

Film footage of many of these deaths was shared with the US human rights delegation. Eyewitnesses claimed that the offensive overwhelmed the community and that there was not a "firefight", but rather a slaughter.

The operation was primarily conducted by UN forces, with the Haitian National Police this time taking a back seat.

Seth Donnelly, a member of the US human rights delegation in Port-au-Prince, visited Cite Soleil with Haitian human rights workers on Thursday afternoon, July 7th. The team gathered testimony from many members of the community, young and old, men, women, and youth. All verified the previous statements we had received from journalists and other eyewitness accounts.

These community members spoke of how they had been surrounded by tanks and troops that sealed off exits from the neighborhoods and then proceeded to assault the civilian population. The community allowed the team to film the evidence of the massacre, showing the homes -- in some cases made of tin and cardboard -- that had been riddled by bullets, tank fire and helicopter ammunition, as well as showing the team some of the corpses still there, including a mother and her two children.

The team also filmed a church and a school that had been riddled by ammunition. Reportedly, a preacher was among the victims killed. Some community members allowed the team to interview them, but not to film their faces for fear of their lives. People were traumatized and, in the cases of loved ones of victims, hysterical.

Many community members -- again young and old, men and women -- spoke highly of Dread Wilme, referring to him as their "protector" or "father", and expressed fear for the future. One member said that he heard that another UN operation against the community was planned for later Thursday night or early Friday morning.

Multiple community people indicated that they had counted at least 23 bodies of people killed by the UN forces. Community members claimed that UN forces had taken away some of the bodies. Published estimates indicate that upwards of 50 may have been killed and an indeterminate number wounded, and that more than

300 heavily armed UN troops took part in the assault on this densely populated residential neighborhood.

"There was systematic firing on civilians," said one eyewitness to the killing. "All exits were cut off. The community was choked off, surrounded -- facing tanks coming from different angles, and overhead, helicopters with machine guns fired down on the people. The citizens were under attack from all sides and from the air. It was war on a community."

The Labor/Human Rights Delegation from the United States, sponsored by the San Francisco Labor Council, had been in Haiti since late last month to attend the Congress of the Confederation of Haitian Workers (CTH), the country's largest labor organization, and interviewed hundreds of Haitian workers, farmers and professionals about the current labor and human rights situation in Haiti.

[Of course the idea these are "UN" troops is a convenient smokescreen. The bulk of the troops have been sent by the Brazilian government, presided over by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

[The difference between him and Bush is that he's just a two-bit wanna-be Imperial dreamer, reduced to killing impoverished Haitians in his bloodthirsty effort to extend the reach of the Brazilian ruling class he whores for. Well, Imperial killer scumbags have to start someplace, and for da Silva, it's Haiti.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Lord God To Destroy Bush



(Larry Downing/Reuters)

"For thou are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not sojourn with thee.

The boastful may not stand before thy eyes; thou hatest all evildoers. Thou destroyest those who speak lies; the Lord abhors bloodthirsty and deceitful men."
David, Psalms 5:4

Received:

An Offer Of Help For Leonard Clark

From: kathy@vitw.org
To: GI Special
Sent: July 11, 2005 12:06 AM
Subject: **Re: GI Special 3B86: Anti-War Soldier Arrested**

We'll greatly appreciate advice about any way that we might be of assistance to Leonard.

Staughton Lynd, a U.S. historian/author, has written good amicus briefs for Kevin Benderman and Camilo Mejia.

Institute for Policy Analysis has a very comprehensive media list and regularly puts out antiwar media alerts -- would it be good to alert folks there? Email address is: sam@accuracy.org - I'd be glad to get in touch with them if that would be useful.

Thanks also for circulating the anonymous C.O. plea.

I know this work is beyond "full time," -- you'd have to imagine a very huge echo chamber to grasp appreciation for the bridge you've created.

Sincerely,
Kathy

Reply: By all means, spread the word. The more people who take an interest in Leonard Clark's arrest, the more likely the command will be to take that into account in deciding what to do to him. It's those nobody notices, or fights for, that get the world dropped on them. Respect to you for taking action! T

Received:

A Letter From London

From: POH

To: GI Special
Sent: July 11, 2005

Thanks for your fine work - I'm in London at the moment and have just walked past King's Cross railway station where 21 people were killed last Thursday.

I arrived in London this morning on the overnight train from Edinburgh which terminates at Euston, about half a mile from King's Cross. Life seemed to go on much as normal but there were more police around than usual and a helicopter flew overhead.

I felt a mixture of sadness and anger, sadness at the seventy or so wasted lives and anger that the policies of Blair and Bush in attacking Iraq had brought this on.

On walking past both Russell Square and King's Cross underground (subway) stations you see photos of those who are still missing. It's very poignant and reminded me of my visits to Ground Zero and the Ameriyah air raid shelter in Baghdad.

It is always the innocent who suffer. Terrorists simply cannot get anywhere near the likes of Bush, Blair, Belusconi or Bin Laden.

The media tells us that we can take it and that we are `defiant` - that's so easy for `them` to say when they don't have to `take it`.

I felt privileged to be able to walk around London in what felt like comparative safety and I will stay tonight in a comfortable hotel.

We should spare a thought for all those who are bereaved by this attack and remember the continuing ordeal of the Iraqi people who are roasting in the boiling heat of the summer with little water or electricity in an illegal and brutal occupation.

Keep up your good work Thomas and let's all try to work for a better world,

Best to you and all your readers from a sad Paul in London.

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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