

GI SPECIAL 3B94:

**THIS IS THE PRICE OF LESSONS UNLEARNED:
THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME**



The coffin of Filipino-American U.S. Army Sgt. Maurice Keith Fortune, KIA in action Ar Ramadi, Iraq during burial, Pampanga, Philippines, Nov. 19, 2004. Fortune, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat team, Camp Hovey, Korea, died on Oct. 29, 2004 when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Iraq. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

Lessons Unlearned, Continued:

**Operation No-Name & Operation
Blunder Honor An Old Tradition:
Losing A War Of Occupation**

Comment:

[The first two items are news stories describing traditional Vietnam-style sweeps, proving command has learned nothing and forgotten nothing in the last 40 years: still the same old stupid, self-defeating, lumbering, bring-up-the-armor kick-in-the-door sweeps revealing the same old blind ignorance of counter-insurgency warfare.

[They are followed by more from Asprey about how the sweeps are brilliantly designed to help the armed resistance to occupation grow and strengthen.]

[Finally, after Asprey, a current news item about the number of U.S. wounded hitting 40 *per day*, as resistance forces have grown to 20,000.

[The only remaining question is how the resistance leadership infiltrated and took charge of the U.S. military command in Baghdad. What other possible explanation could there be for strategy and tactics so perfectly designed to insure resistance success? T]

#1:

7.18.05 AP

Iraqi forces reported a new offensive against the insurgents in Baghdad. An Iraqi general, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons [as if the resistance hasn't noticed?], told The Associated Press that Operation Thunder began last week on the west side of the Tigris River, which divides the city.

#2:

July 18 (KUNA) & By Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writer

Eyewitnesses said the US military launched a wide-scale operation in a number of locations in Rawa village, in Al-Anbar constituency.

Rawa locals evacuated the village during the attacks where US tanks were seen roaming the area and stationed at the city's hospital during armed clashes, medical sources said.

Both Iraqi and US forces took part in the un-named mission, launched early on Monday.

Overlooking the wreckage at the base of the bridge is a city welcome sign bearing a graffiti message that, translated, states "Fighting Americans is the duty of every Muslim."

Before entering the city, Sheik Raad Naif Haroush, commander of an Iraqi Army battalion out of Qayarrah, told the Americans that the people here were friendly the last time he visited in 1997.

But a few minutes later, insurgents waiting in ambush attacked the column of four Strykers and eight Iraqi Army pickup trucks.

“Friendly my ass,” B Company, 3-21 commander Capt. Mark Ivezajj says. “Every time someone has said that to me we have gotten hit – every single time.”

Despite an exhaustive search, the insurgents who launched the ambush had vanished.

Later Sunday evening, Ivezaj characterized the enemy’s first ambush as nothing more than the opening round.

“All they did today was to figure out what type of response we have, and what we can bring to bear,” he said.

“That’s all they did today.”

Lessons Unlearned: “The Seeds Of Important Failure”

“As elsewhere in South Vietnam, search-and-destroy tactics continued to antagonize people who had to be won over. “Marines were operating in a vast sea of fear that could easily turn to hatred, and frequent fire fights, no matter how carefully conducted, could not but exacerbate the situation—moving bullets are promiscuous.”

From: WAR IN THE SHADOWS: THE GUERRILLA IN HISTORY, BY Robert B. Asprey; William Morrow And Company; New York, 1994

A second blur centered on the ground war and Westmoreland’s choice of attrition strategy and search-and-destroy tactics.

The problem faced by allied forces was essentially pacification that demanded a qualitative and selective approach. The tactical task was to clear an area of Viet Cong so that civil teams could move in to build a viable and secure community.

The military tactic thus required was clear-and-hold. The first task was to free an area from main-force guerrilla control. This called for fragmenting, dispersing, and destroying main-force units.

But that was only the beginning.

Having cleared an area, military units had to “hold” it—that is, they had to provide area security while helping police forces to root out the all-important Viet Cong infrastructure, while, simultaneously, other specialized government forces undertook area rehabilitation and established viable government.

Military strength was insufficient to clear and hold all enemy-infested, or even challenged, areas simultaneously. This meant that priority areas of operation had to be established, along with “economy of force” areas, which received only limited military pressure. Some challenged areas would perforce have had to be ignored until later in the pacification process.

The real target was the peasant, not the guerrilla, and the only way the peasant’s support could be gained was by establishing secure and viable local-area government—a slow and difficult task amply demonstrated throughout history.

American strategy and tactics did not respect this essential requirement.

Large “sweeps” through an area, though uncovering supply dumps and killing a few enemy, essentially answered nothing. Neither did search-and-destroy tactics respect the essential military task.

On rare occasions, enemy concentrations, such as those in certain areas of the DMZ, could be countered by conventional warfare methods.

As a rule, such methods inflicted grievous damage on people whose co-operation was necessary if the over-all mission was to be accomplished.

<p>Instead of clearing and holding small areas as first essential steps in Winning peasant support, marine and army units pushed out in all directions in huge, awkward attempts to “kill” the enemy.</p>
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<p>The results were several, and each contained the seeds of important failure.</p>
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The second result of promiscuous search-and destroy tactics was frequent damage to either person or property or both of peasants who remained and whose strength was necessary to effectively counter the insurgency.

The third result was frequently to tire the troops with “Yorkish” operations that produced no real benefits:

*The noble Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men,
He marched them up to the top of the hill,
and he marched them down again.*

The fourth result was to flood the country with foreign troops.

The fifth result was to increase the troop commitment and eventually relieve ARVN of combat duties, which, in turn, called for a larger American military investment that merely compounded incipient failures.

By end of 1966, then, it was becoming clear that American troops had undertaken a task for which they were neither organized nor trained, a task that they did not understand ---- indeed a task that could only have been accomplished by the South Vietnamese themselves.

It is a great pity that the innate ineptness of Westmoreland's strategy and tactics was not more obvious.

Unfortunately, the "indicators," or criteria selected by the military, to judge progress in Vietnam seemed reasonable to many Americans, who at first trusted their government and armed forces.

But, as any number of experts had earlier pointed out and as Bernard Fall once again emphasized in 1966, MACV and the JCS continued to judge progress by such military measurements as troop increases, expended ammunition, enemy dead, structures destroyed, rice confiscated, and weapons captured—conventional criteria meaningless in a counterinsurgency.

"Our mission was not to win terrain or seize positions," Lieutenant Philip Caputo later wrote,

"but simply to kill. ... Victory was a high body-count, defeat a low kill-ratio, war a matter of arithmetic. The pressure on unit commanders to produce enemy corpses was routine, and they in turn committed it to their troops. This led to such practices as counting civilians as Viet Cong. 'If it's dead and Vietnamese, it's VC,' was a rule of thumb in the bush."

Despite the barrage of statistics fired by MACV and III MAF at all visitors, pacification was not going well anywhere.

The marines in I Corps area erred in several respects.

As elsewhere in South Vietnam, search-and-destroy tactics continued to antagonize people who had to be won over.

Marines were operating in a vast sea of fear that could easily turn to hatred, and frequent fire fights, no matter how carefully conducted, could not but exacerbate the situation—moving bullets are promiscuous.

Marine bands could play, and marines could distribute food and clothing, and doctors could help villagers, but these advantages paled when one, two, or more villagers were killed in a fire fight or by bombs, rockets, naval shells, or napalm.

MORE:

**Average 40 U.S. Troops A Day
Wounded:
Resistance Forces Up To 20,000**

7.15.05 By Martin Sieff, UPI Senior News Analyst

293 U.S. soldiers were injured in Iraq from July 6 to July 13, an average of well over 40 a day.

Not only was this far worse than the previous figure of 146 wounded in the previous nine days -- an average of only 16 a day, but it was even worse than the figure of 24 wounded in the eight days before that, an average of around 30 a day.

In other words, over the past week, the level of insurgent violence and attacks in Iraq has ramped up again very significantly against heavily armed and armored U.S. forces.

It underlined the failure of the massive counter-insurgency operations of May and June that attempted to lock down Baghdad to significantly dent the operational capacity of the insurgents.

Indeed, given the significant number of at least 1,200 suspected terrorists netted in the Baghdad operations, their continued, sustained level of attacks and casualties inflicted strongly suggests that U.S. and allied Iraqi tactical intelligence on the inner command circles of the insurgency remains very poor indeed, and is not yet improving.

U.S., British and most Middle East intelligence analysts estimate the numbers of the active insurgents through out the nation of 25 million people as being around 20,000.

They continue to stymie U.S. forces of around 140,000 troops -- a number that counter-insurgency experts around the world have long argued was far too small to establish order and defeat an insurgency in a nation of such size.

[Especially when Command acts like they're still facing Russian armor at Fulda Gap, not engaged in a dishonorable war against an occupied people fighting for their national independence. 40 a day wounded, assuming not one KIA, is a heavy brigade every 125 days. You do the math. Game over. Time to come home. Using strategy and tactics designed by incompetent fools in an impossible war only insures more useless death, both U.S. and Iraqi.]

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

**ENOUGH:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers walk past an army lorry as it burns after being attacked by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad June 14, 2005. Photo by Ali Jasim/Reuters

ONE TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED BY IED NEAR BALAD

July 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-07-11C

TIKRIT, Iraq -- One Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed by an improvised explosive device at about 10 a.m. July 17 near Balad in Salah Ad Din Province.

Two Soldiers were wounded and taken to a Coalition Forces medical treatment facility.

ONE TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED BY KIRKUK PROVINCE IED

July 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-07-12C

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed and two were wounded by an improvised explosive device at about 4 p.m. on July 16 in Kirkuk Province.

The two wounded Soldiers were taken to a Coalition Forces medical treatment facility.

SOLDIER KILLED BY VBIED NEAR ISKANDARIYAH

July 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-07-10C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- A Soldier assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died July 16 of wounds received July 15 from a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

The incident occurred during combat operations near Iskandariyah.

MARINE DIES FROM RAMADI NON- HOSTILE INCIDENT

July 18, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-07-13C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died as the result of a non-hostile incident July 17 at Camp Blue Diamond, in Ramadi, Iraq.

Guard Soldier Killed By Blast

Jul. 17, 2005 Associated Press

A Mississippi Army National Guard soldier stationed in Iraq was killed over the weekend by an improvised explosive device, officials confirmed Sunday.

Sgt. Travis S. Cooper, 24, of Macon died Saturday from injuries he sustained the day before, according the Department of Defense.

Cooper, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment headquartered in Starkville, was injured by a bomb that exploded near a vehicle he was searching.

Cooper was part of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, which is made up of nearly 3,500 Mississippi Guard soldiers and others from throughout the country.

Northern Kentucky Soldier Killed: He Had Been Scheduled To Be Discharged In January, But He Was Ordered To Go Back

Jul. 18, 2005 BRUCE SCHREINER, Associated Press & By Peggy Kreimer, The Cincinnati Post,

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Bill O'Banion considered his son-in-law, Army Spc. Ronnie D. Williams, one-in-a-million. They shared laughs and fishing holes until Williams left for Iraq.

On Monday, the 26-year-old soldier's family in Kenton County mourned his death in Iraq, just months before he planned to leave the military and come home to northern Kentucky.

Military officials told the family that Williams died this past weekend when his tank fell into a ravine and he drowned, O'Banion said in a phone interview. "I don't know the reason - whether he ran over a land mine or what, we do not know what the reason was," he said.

Williams and O'Banion's daughter, Darlene, were married in December. They were together just a couple of months before he shipped back out for Iraq. Williams became the stepfather of 2-year-old Houston. "He loved that baby. He's the only daddy this baby ever knew," said O'Banion.

Not including Williams, whose death had not been publicly announced by the military Monday afternoon, **there have been 25 service members with Kentucky hometowns of record killed in Iraq. In addition, more than 60 soldiers from Fort Campbell, along the Kentucky-Tennessee border, have died in the war.**

O'Banion remembered his son-in-law as an avid hunter and fisherman who enjoyed making people laugh. "He wanted everyone around him to be happy." Williams jokingly took credit for teaching his father-in-law how to fish.

"If I had a choice out of a million boys to be my son-in-law, he would have been number one," O'Banion said.

When he returned to Iraq in March for his second combat tour, Williams called home at least three times weekly, and talked to his wife and his 2-year-old stepson, Houston, on Saturday before heading out on a mission as a tank operator.

"He told his son and my daughter that he loved them both and he'd be calling them back," O'Banion said.

"I come home, and I saw the Army man at the end of my road and I knew something was up," O'Banion said. He called his wife and asked her to bring Darlene home.

Williams' wife left a family reunion Sunday to be informed her husband had died.

She told WCPO-TV in Cincinnati that her husband joined the Army after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. She talked about her husband as she sat on a couch that had military fatigues and a cap draped over it.

"I knew when we got married that he was leaving again, but I always said I could handle it," a sobbing Darlene Williams told the station. "It was rough, but I always thought he would never be taken away from me because I was living my dream and he was living his."

Darlene and "John Boy" Williams had grown up next door to each other. "They were childhood sweethearts," said O'Banion. Williams and O'Banion's son, Jonathan, were hunting and fishing buddies.

Ronnie Williams, nicknamed "John Boy," came home on leave for about two weeks in May and June. He spent much of the time fishing with his family, and hauled in a 42-pound catfish at a lake in Ohio, his father-in-law recalled. Williams threw the fish back, which was customary.

"They fished all the creeks, the ponds, everything around here," O'Banion said. "That was his enjoyment was his family and fishing and hunting."

Williams had been scheduled to be discharged from the Army in January, but he was ordered to go back, O'Banion said. He planned to return to civilian life, O'Banion said. He was weighing possible jobs in construction or law enforcement, he said.

"There was nothing out here for a young kid. He wanted to get a new start in life. It worked out great for him. He wasn't going to re-enlist. He was looking forward to getting out and starting his new life with his new family. His main goal in life was his family," O'Banion said.

"I've known him since he was 4 years old," O'Banion said. "He was like my own son."

He said his son-in-law seemed satisfied with his mission in Iraq until three weeks ago.

"I could tell something was wrong with him," O'Banion said. "He was telling me that he didn't sign up to get shot at and not be able to shoot back. He was being shot at and they were telling him it was too destructive for him to shoot back."

O'Banion said his son-in-law's mood had brightened in the past week.

"I guess things had settled down, because he had a different personality," he said. "He was happier the last week than he had been."

Williams was a 1998 graduate of Simon Kenton High School in Independence.

Williams's father is Howard Williams of Morning View. His mother is Sherry Williams of Campbell County.

O'Banion said he asked a friend to contact TV stations and newspaper reporters about Williams' death.

"I didn't want something that just said a local boy died. He was more than that. A lot of people don't give young kids any recognition. He had a good goal. He was looking to the future for him and his family."

He said the Army told them Williams' body would be sent home in seven to 10 days.

Utah National Guard Soldier Killed, Two Wounded

July 18, 2005 DAILY HERALD & The Herald Journal

DRAPER -- Staff Sgt. Ronald T. Wood, Bravo Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery Battalion, based in Logan, died Saturday in Kirkuk, Iraq, when the Humvee in which he was riding was struck by a roadside bomb. All three were members of the Guard's Bravo Battery, based in Logan.

Wood, of Cedar City, enlisted in the Utah National Guard in 1994 with the 2-222nd Field Artillery. He transferred to the 1-148th in 2003. He was a full-time employee of the Guard when his unit was mobilized in June 2004.

Sgt. Christopher L. Olsen of Logan and Spc. Eric J. Lund of Providence were treated for shrapnel wounds.

Lund had wounds to the back of his head, his back, and legs. His leg was broken in three places. His wife said he underwent surgery and was in good spirits.

Olsen suffered cuts and bruises and had shrapnel wounds in his left leg. His wife said he underwent surgery to remove the shrapnel and was doing well.

Khalidiyah IED Destroys U.S. Fuel Tanker; Casualties Not Announced

7.18.05 (DPA)

In Khalidiyah, 70 km west of here, another roadside bomb targeting a US tanker exploded. Columns of smoke were seen rising from the scene. There was no immediate information about casualties.

Nebraska Guard Member Hurt In Roadside Bombing

July 18, 2005 The Associated Press

MINDEN, Neb. -- Nebraska National Guard Spc. Rachelle Spors of Minden was hurt in a roadside bomb in Iraq that killed another Nebraskan last week.

Spors' mother said her medic daughter was driving an ambulance ripped apart by the bomb on Thursday.

Another medic, Tricia Jameson, of Omaha, died in the blast.

Spors is being evaluated by doctors at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Afterward, she will be transported to the hospital best suited to meet her needs. Her mother said she suffered shrapnel wounds to her chest and back, has holes in her arm, and injured her shoulder blade.

Spors graduated from Minden High School in 2000 graduate. She left for Iraq on Thanksgiving Day.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Occupation Ally Killed

18 July 2005 By Justin Huggler, Independent News & Media (UK)

A tribal leader and ally of President Hamid Karzai has been kidnapped and hanged by the Taliban as violence in Afghanistan continues to intensify in the approach to elections planned for September.

The murder of Malik Agha Jan, a prominent tribal chief in Zabol province, in the southern Afghanistan Pashtun heartlands, is the latest in a series of killings of prominent Karzai supporters by resurgent Taliban forces.

A vital ally of President Karzai in the battle against the resurgent Taliban, he was abducted along with his two sons, a brother and two nephews from his home on Friday.

His relatives were released unharmed but Agha Jan's body was later found. Abdul Latif Hakimi, a Taliban spokesman, said he was killed because he was an American spy.

TROOP NEWS

The Sounds Of Hope



July 18, 2005 by Cindy Sheehan, LewRockwell.com. **Cindy Sheehan (send her mail) is the mother of Spc. Casey Austin Sheehan, KIA 04/04/04. She is co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.**

*Have you ever heard the sound of a mother screaming for her son?
The torrential rains of a mother's weeping will never be done.
They call him a hero, you should be glad he's one, but,
Have you ever heard the sound of a mother screaming for her son?*

*Have you ever heard the sound of a father holding back his cries?
They say he must be brave because his boy died for another mans lies.
The only thing he allows himself are long, deep sighs.
Have you ever heard the sound of a father holding back his cries?*

*Have you ever heard the sound of taps played at your brother's grave?
They say he died so the flag will continue to wave,
But I believe he died because they had oil to save.
Have you ever heard the sound of taps played at your brother's grave?*

*Have you ever heard the sound of a Nation Rocked to Sleep?
The leaders want to keep you numb so the pain won't be so deep,
But if we the people let them continue, another mother will weep.
Have you ever heard the sound of a Nation Rocked to Sleep?*

*~ A Nation Rocked To Sleep/For Casey
By Carly Sheehan
Copyrighted 2004*

The sounds my daughter wrote about in her inspired poem, so poignantly and amazingly a few weeks after her brother, my son, was killed in Iraq, have been repeated over and over again too many times since the criminal invasion/occupation of Iraq began in March of 2003.

These sounds are imprinted in my DNA. I will never, ever forget the night of April 4, 2004, when I found out that Casey had been killed.

After what seemed an eternity, I finally began to wonder who or what was making those horrible screaming noises. Then I realized it was me. It couldn't have been Casey's father, because he was paralyzed in stunned silence holding the pair of pants he had been folding when the deliverers of death news arrived.

I will also never forget the day when we buried my sweet boy, my oldest son. I'll never forget the playing of taps, or the violent, and in hindsight, thoughtless, volley of the 21-gun salute. If I live to be a very old lady and forget everything else, I will never forget when the general handed me the folded flag that had lain on Casey's coffin, as his brother and sisters, standing behind me, sobbed.

The saddest thing about the obscene sounds of violence is that they never should have been heard in the first place.

From Maine to California, and from Baghdad to Falluja, these dirges were unnecessary. In my travels, and from hundreds of emails, phone calls, and cards and letters, I am discovering that people who formerly supported the invasion of Iraq are withdrawing their support.

I even believe that many of our fellow citizens who still support the ignominy of Iraq are doing so because they are clinging to the deceptions so desperately, because they want the deceptions to so be the truth.

It will be painful to come to terms with supporting the lies of this administration. It will be painful to know that wholesale killing of innocent people occurred because you and so many others believed the betrayals, but acknowledging the mistake is the first step to correcting it. And believe me, acknowledging the mistake is not as painful as hearing those devastating sounds.

Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) has realized that he had been duped into supporting the invasion. I have spoken to him about his change of heart, and he is so sad that his wholehearted support of the administration helped cause so many good people to hear those gut wrenching sounds of grief.

But he is going forward to do what he can to end this occupation as soon as possible. He has co-sponsored a bi-partisan bill (HRJ 55) with other Congressional leaders like Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and Ron Paul (R-TX) to force our administration into a troop withdrawal beginning October 1, 2006.

The bill is a good first step to ensuring that families here in America and all over the world do not have to suffer needless death in war. However, I would like the withdrawal to begin tomorrow, because I don't even want to try and imagine the sounds Casey heard before he died.

I don't want to imagine the sound of the bullet strong enough to pierce the Kevlar coating on his helmet to rip through his skull.

I don't want to know the sounds of a mother in Iraq wailing for her entire family. These sounds need to stop immediately.

It is time to bring our troops home.

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.

Oh No!

Disaster On The Drill Field: Privates Know Their Rights And Fight Back

Drill sergeants hate their jobs and must fight to keep their power base against privates who know how to fill out a sworn statement against a drill sergeant before they can march.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
7.18.05

As a Reserve drill sergeant, I just completed annual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Morale of the active cadre was very low, trainees were babied, and I can't mention beer or wine in a cadence.

The numbers game has gone so far that if you are breathing, you are in. Disrespect to an NCO gets a private a stern talking to, not the Article 15 that is justly deserved. And once one gets away with it, some of the rest follow.

Drill sergeants hate their jobs and must fight to keep their power base against privates who know how to fill out a sworn statement against a drill sergeant before they can march.

Marching, what's that? drill and ceremony are almost off the training schedule. I guess it doesn't build a team after all. Sorry, Baron Von Steuben.

To save their feet, privates can't run in boots for the first three weeks. So injuries occur in Week 4 instead of Week 1.

I hate any form of abuse and won't be around it, but we, as trainers and leaders, aren't doing the sons and daughters of our country any favors by being soft on them in basic.

We're sending them to war — not cheerleading camp.

Staff Sgt. William D. Maldonado
Fort Devens, Mass.

Comment:

Sending them to war for now, but when privates start pushing back, how much longer they can be fed into an Imperial slaughterhouse is an open question.

The Sgt. is right about the purpose of basic training; teaching survival skills. And the Sgt. is right: failure to toughen up troops means more will die in the hell of Iraq.

But the privates are right too: they sense that the Imperial governments' desperation for warm bodies to go die in a lost war gives them an edge. Seeing the weakness of your opponent, and pushing the offensive when you have an edge, is the most basic of all survival skills. More power to them. In fact, all power to them. T

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Oil Sabotage Up 30% This Year

5 Jul 2005 (IRIN)

315 attacks on oil facilities took place in the two years from June 2003 to June 2005, causing a massive loss of revenue from oil exports at a time when international prices for are high.

The cost of repairing the damage to the nation's primary source of income has been more than US \$12 billion.

Despite US assertions that the insurgency is being tamed, thirty percent of the costly attacks took place this year.

Assorted Resistance Action

18/07/2005 AFP & Aljazeera & Associated Press & (DPA)

Police said that a roadside bomb targeted a joint US-Iraqi military patrol near Fallujah in western Iraq, causing casualties and material damage, police said.

The bomb exploded on the highway 20 km north of Fallujah, destroying an Iraqi army vehicle and causing Iraqi casualties.

The incident led to the Baghdad-Amman Highway being cut off to traffic for two hours, police spokesman Mohammed Ibrahim said.

In the western Baghdad district of Khadra, eight policemen died in a gunbattle with insurgents, police said. It was unclear if the insurgents suffered casualties.

Resistance fighters also killed at least five other police officers, including a colonel, in attacks around the capital, police and hospital officials said.

Three civilian government employees were killed in separate ambushes in Baghdad, police reported. One was a worker for the Iraqi Trade Minister killed in the southern neighborhood of Dora.

A policeman died in a shootout between insurgents and security forces just north of Baghdad in Taji, police said.

Three soldiers were also killed fighting insurgents in the Iraqi capital.

In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, guerrillas killed a police colonel, an Interior Ministry official and three Iraqi soldiers in a series of attacks.

In the north, guerrillas killed two Iraqi soldiers in eastern Mosul and assassinated Abdul-Ghani al-Naimi, whose brother is a member of the Iraqi parliament.

A municipal worker was killed and another wounded in a drive-by shooting on a highway between the cities of Samarra and Balad north of Baghdad, police Capt. Laith Mohammed said.

A Turkish trucker, was also killed by unidentified fighters near Baiji.

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

Al-Sadr Quotes Bush Saying Iraqi Armed Resistance To U.S. Occupation Is “Legitimate”

7.18.05 BBC & Aljazeera

Moqtada Sadr, the radical Iraqi Shia cleric whose militia led uprisings against US troops in Najaf has told the BBC armed "resistance is legitimate".

Speaking to Newsnight, Mr Sadr said that even US President George W Bush would agree that fighting an occupation force was a correct course of action.

"Resistance is legitimate at all levels be it religious, intellectual and so on.

The first person who would acknowledge this is the so-called American President Bush who said: 'If my country is occupied, I will fight'."

"Resistance is legitimate at all levels be it religious, intellectual and so on," Mr Sadr said, in his first interview with Western media.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"I love my country, it's the government I'm afraid of."

[Thanks to D, a soldiers' mom, who saw the bumper sticker.]

Dead Letter Day

The Veteran, Spring 2005, Vol. 35, #1. Vietnam Veterans Against The War

He sent the letter to the guy's wife
The same day,
Leaving out the following:
"About 2 in the morning the automatic went off
And nobody moved, we just waited for the morning
Light and the order to recon.
There were two of them. One was dead.
The other hung on all night,
Waiting to blow away some round-eyes
Before he bought it too.
He shot the second man, missing the point.
The point opened up and somebody threw a frag
And it was all over. Except that your husband
Took a bullet through his helmet that tore a
Gash in his head, and going down shot the man
In front of him. The blood was deep, dark red;
He was lying flat on his back, in shock;
His eyes were wide open and lifeless,
As if he could see everything.
They say he lived a few days in the rear,
Even got up and spoke. Then died.
Head wounds are like that."
She wrote back. First thanking him and the platoon
For writing her, then going on for pages asking
About his last moments. You could tell she was crying;
And he cried too, and did not reply to the desperate
Letter, and has desperately not replied ever since.

—Marc Levy

(automatic: automatic ambush: an American booby trap)

Get The Hell Off My Property: "The US Will Lose Because It Can't Win"

Reality isn't concerned with anyone's opinion about it. And the reality is that the US will lose because it can't win.

The fact that some military brass agrees with me is more significant than the fact that the president agrees with you.

July 16, 2005 Daniel Stoffel, LewRockwell.com. [Excerpt] **Dan Stoffel writes from Western NY and served in the 101st Airborne Infantry in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.**

Think about it – a foreign government has sent its military personnel, and all their toys, to the US of A. They have converted the nearby 7-11 to a holding cell, where your pregnant friend's husband is being held, for questioning; the Marriot is now officer barracks, the McDonald's a chow hall.

The foreigners are telling you to be concerned about some damned fool election coming up, but your family is literally dehydrating to death because the idiot foreigners can't get the water lines up and running again. You're actually surprised by this. They seemed to have so much fun blowing this stuff up the first time you might think they want to do it again.

Every day, as promises of rebuilding bear no fruit, and your family gets hungrier and thirstier, you began to despair that things can ever get better this way.

You'll take the old over the new any day. And who the hell asked for their help anyway!?

Then your former neighbor shows up. Bob tells you he's been fighting in what its participants are calling the Second American Revolutionary War.

"Wow," you say to Bob. "It sure is good to see you alive and well."

"Same here, my friend, same here" Bob replies as he passes his water canteen to your five-year-old daughter. "Listen, I came to ask you an extremely important question."

"What's up?" you ask, your curiosity piqued.

Bob gives you a man's look, eye-to-eye and sternly confident. "How'd you like to get the water lines running again?"

I believe I know how a significant mass of Americans would eventually respond to such an environment.

We would fight back with a ferocity and a vengeance with few historical equals. Whatever religious, political, racial, or financial motivations existed before become irrelevant, both within the society and with regards to the foreigners.

And we would chase those foreign devils, those bastards, all the way to the skids of their withdrawing choppers. Those not fortunate enough to make the final departing flights, well, let's just say their futures will be short and painful.

It would happen this way because we are human. We have been chasing others from our property since we discovered the good caves and hunting ground. I also believe that hard-wired into most of us is a basic respect for the boundaries between "my property" and "not my property." "Dude, don't worry, I won't let my dog crap in your yard" is an accurate summation of the basic and unspoken understanding that has existed between tribes and families for millennia.

There's also a global neighborhood, and guess what – a bunch of Iraqis think the US opened the whole kennel into its yard. Can anyone, truly, be surprised by what is now occurring in Iraq? Can any but the most deluded not see the writing on the wall?

Our boys and girls are in a bad-to-worse scenario.

I'll anticipate the neo-con refrain, hopefully coming soon, that the US lost because of the lack of support of people like me. So, let me say this to clear up the matter – my opinion makes no difference on the ultimate outcome.

Reality isn't concerned with anyone's opinion about it. And the reality is that the US will lose because it can't win.

The fact that some military brass agrees with me is more significant than the fact that the president agrees with you.

Get the hell off my property! That's all there is to it.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Iraqis And The Vanishing Food Rations

July 17, 2005 Raed in the Middle blogspot

After his American employers left and monthly food rations began to shrink, Hussein Hadi started selling his furniture. His bed was the last thing to go. Now Hadi, his wife, sister, mother, two brothers, three children and a nephew sleep on his living- room floor in Baghdad, their blankets sewn from flour sacks. Some nights they fall asleep hungry.

"Hope is small," said his wife, Zainab.

Like many Iraqis, the Hadis depend on food rations distributed by the government.

Sometimes the sugar they receive has been hardened by rainwater and the rice is crawling with maggots. The soap is so harsh it causes rashes. On the rare occasions when the Hadis received all the items - sugar, rice, flour, baby milk, tea, vegetable oil and a few other essentials - they thought themselves lucky.

RECRUITING FOR THE RESISTANCE



A mourner fires a hand gun into the air as others carry the body of Iraqi policeman 1st Lt. Anmar Yassin Salman during his funeral in Baghdad, Iraq Friday, July 1, 2005. **Anmar Yassin Salman was arrested with his brother by the anti-terrorism Wolf brigade and died in custody, his family said. Bashar Yassin Salman, brother of the dead police officer, said that he and his brother were placed in a room with hundreds of other detainees and tortured without being accused of any crime.** (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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

***Whine Whine Whine:* Collaborators Can't Collect Their Billions**

7.18.05 AP

In Jordan, Iraq's planning minister criticized the shortfall in donations pledged by foreign countries to rebuild his country, telling a global reconstruction conference that most aid had been spent on security.

Barham Salih said of \$32 billion in loans and grants pledged two years ago, Iraq has received only \$7 billion.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

They're Not Afraid



7.15.05 An Zionist occupation guard argues with a Palestinian demonstrator during a rally in the occupied Palestine West Bank village of Bilin. (AFP/Mladen Antonov)

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

OCCUPATION HAITI

5,000 In Haiti Protest As UN Massacres More In Cite Soleil: “The People In Haiti Finally See That They Don't Have Any Choice But To Fight”

July 14, 2005 Kevin Pina interviews Georges Honorat, Flashpoints Radio

Kevin Pina: From Berkeley California this is Kevin Pina on Flashpoints radio here on Pacifica.

With me now direct from Port au Prince is Georges Honorat, a Haitian journalist who works with Haiti-Progres.

Georges we're hearing today about a large demonstration in Cite Soleil. Of course we know Cite Soleil was the site of an alleged massacre by United Nations forces a few days ago, last week on July 6th. Georges what do you know now about what's going on in Cite Soleil?

Georges Honorat: Ok, two days ago the Lavalas base in Cite Soleil announced a big demonstration...as you said, to protest the massacre of Wednesday, July 6th organized by the MINUSTAH and the National Police, where a minimum of fifty people died among them children and women

And since one or two o'clock this morning MINUSTAH, the soldiers of MINUSTAH from their tanks in Cite Soleil, mainly in Cite Boston, that is part of Cite Soleil. They fired upon peoples houses where - we don't have the names yet - but three children died, nine years old, five years old and four years old.

Pina: You're saying at one o'clock this morning the United Nations forces, who are also called MINUSTAH, opened fire on Cite Soleil again?

Honorat: Yes, since midnight I would say, midnight, one o'clock and they were firing on Cite Boston...and they killed three children...we can't find their names yet but we will.

They also fired upon the church, Notre Dame Immacules, and the front door made of steel blew up. And certainly they attacked the people to intimidate them in order not to participate in the demonstrations.

But the people threw bottles and rocks at the MINUSTAH so they had to drive back and the people cut the roads so the tanks could not enter Cite Soleil.

Finally, the demonstration started around 10:30 A.M. and they were like five thousand strong and protesting against, asking for the illegal government to leave the country so that President Aristide could return and finish his mandate and organize free fair and democratic elections. The demonstration finished in peace around 12:45 P.M.

Pina: People here are asking me and they're having a hard time understanding it; after the horrible brutal killings that the United Nations performed on July 6th ...and again as you said they killed children in the early hours today, how on earth can more than 5,000 people get out and demonstrate again? Obviously it's terrible repression, what is motivating people to risk their lives and take to the streets in those numbers, to continue demonstrating?

Honorat: **Yes, that's a good question Kevin, and I think that the people in Haiti finally see that they don't have any choice but to fight.**

I would say that the three elections that the people tried to vote their leaders in, in 1987 the Macoutes backed up by the CIA and the old army they killed thousands of people, mainly in Port au Prince and so that we didn't have those elections.

In 1990 the masses voted the President Jean Bertrand Aristide and after seven months, September 1991 and there was a coup d'etat. And again Aristide returned in 2000

where the people choose him again and in 2004, February 29th, the United States, France and Canada, they organized a kidnapping and they sent President Aristide away.

The people say now, 'what's going on?'

They want to kill them, and the elite, mainly the group, they call themselves, 184, backed by the United States and now by MINUSTAH, the United Nations, probably want to finish with the Haitian masses, so that's probably what motivates them so they will continue the fight until victory.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

British Defense Minister Says Running Away From Bush Won't Help

18 July 2005 Libération

Defense Minister John Reid declared on the BBC: **"The idea that the beast will not come after us if we run away when it approaches is completely mistaken, as any child on the playground knows."**



Downing/Reuters)

“Why Do You Hate Freedom”

[Thanks to John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

How many Bush Administration officials does it take to screw in a light bulb?

None. Nothing is wrong with the light bulb; its conditions are improving every day.

Any reports of its lack of incandescence are a delusional spin from the liberal media. That light bulb has served honorably, and anything you say undermines the lighting effect.

Why do you hate freedom?

FBI Caught Spying On Anti-War Groups

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

"If the F.B.I. has taken the time to gather 2,400 pages of information on an organization that has a perfect record of peaceful activity for 34 years, it suggests they're just attempting to stifle the voices of their critics," Mr. Passacantando said.

July 18, 2005 By Michael Dobbs, Washington Post Staff Writer & By Eric Lichtblau, The New York Times

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has collected at least 3,500 pages of internal documents in the last several years on a handful of civil rights and antiwar protest groups in what the groups charge is an attempt to stifle political opposition to the Bush administration.

The F.B.I. has in its files 1,173 pages of internal documents on the American Civil Liberties Union, the leading critic of the Bush administration's antiterrorism policies, and 2,383 pages on Greenpeace, an environmental group that has led acts of civil disobedience in protest over the administration's policies, the Justice Department disclosed in a court filing this month in a federal court in Washington.

The content of the records, which were generated since 2001, is not known.

FBI agents monitored Web sites calling for protests against the 2004 political conventions in New York and Boston on behalf of the bureau's counterterrorism unit, according to FBI documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The American Civil Liberties Union pointed to the documents as evidence that the Bush administration has reacted to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States by blurring the distinction between terrorism and political protest.

"It's increasingly clear that the government is involved in political surveillance of organizations that are involved in nothing more than lawful First Amendment

activities," said Anthony Romero, executive director of the ACLU. "It raises very serious questions about whether the FBI is back to its old tricks."

"I'm still somewhat shocked by the size of the file on us. "Why would the F.B.I. collect almost 1,200 pages on a civil rights organization engaged in lawful activity? What justification could there be, other than political surveillance of lawful First Amendment activities?"

The A.C.L.U., which went to court in a separate case to obtain some 60,000 pages of records on the government's detention and interrogation practices, said the F.B.I. records on the dozens of protest groups could total tens of thousands of pages by the time the request is completed.

A Sept. 4, 2003, document addressed to the FBI counterterrorism unit described plans by a group calling itself RNC Not Welcome to "disrupt" the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York.

Six pages of internal F.B.I. documents on a group called United for Peace and Justice, which led wide-scale protests over the Iraq war, discuss the group's role in 2003 in preparing protests for the Republican National Convention.

"It's one thing to monitor protests and protest organizers, but quite another thing to refer them to your counterterrorism unit," said Leslie Cagan, national coordinator for United for Peace and Justice.

A memorandum by counterterrorism personnel in the F.B.I.'s Los Angeles office circulated to other counterterrorism officials in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Washington makes passing reference to possible anarchist connections of some protesters and the prospect for disruptions but also quotes at much greater length from more benign statements protesters had released on the Internet and elsewhere to prepare for the Republican convention.

One section of the F.B.I. memo, for instance, quotes from a statement put out by protesters to rally support for convention protests: "Imagine: A million people on the street, representing the diversity of New York, and the multiplicity of this nation - community organizers, black radicals, unions, anarchists, church groups, queers, grandmas for peace, AIDS activists, youth organizers, environmentalists, people of color contingents, global justice organizers, those united for peace and justice, veterans, and everyone who is maligned by Bush's malicious agenda - on the street - en masse."

The debate over the F.B.I.'s practices intensified last year during the presidential campaign.

The F.B.I. questioned numerous political protesters, and issued subpoenas for some to appear before grand juries, in an effort to head off what officials said they feared could be violent and disruptive convention protests.

And the Justice Department opened a criminal investigation and subpoenaed records regarding Internet messages posted by critics of the Bush administration that listed the names of delegates to the Republican convention.

At Greenpeace, which has protested both the Bush administration's environmental record and its policies in Iraq, John Passacantando, executive director of the group's United States operation, said he too was troubled by what he had learned.

"If the F.B.I. has taken the time to gather 2,400 pages of information on an organization that has a perfect record of peaceful activity for 34 years, it suggests they're just attempting to stifle the voices of their critics," Mr. Passacantando said.

Web Copies:

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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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