

GI SPECIAL 3C16:

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



Casket of Marine Staff Sgt Chad Simon Aug. 8, 2005 at Roselawn Memorial Park in Monona, Wis. Simon, 32, of Madison, Wis., died Aug. 4 in an explosion Nov. 8, 2004, in Babil Province, Iraq. Following behind the casket are Simon's wife, Regina Simon, and son, Dylan, 6. (AP Photo/Steve Apps, Pool)

War Support Drops Bigtime

07 August 2005 (AFP)

US President George W. Bush took a political beating this weekend after a second opinion poll, taken after a spike in US casualties in Iraq, showed a sharp drop in public support for his Iraq policy.

The previously rock-solid commitment to maintaining a US military presence in the country for as long as it would be necessary to establish a stable and democratic government there also appears to have been shaken.

Just 26 percent of those polled now said they supported keeping large numbers of US military personnel in Iraq for as long as it takes to achieve US goals.

Thirty-eight percent argued they would support keeping troops there less than a year while 13 percent were willing to maintain that commitment for up to two years, according to the survey.

As much as 12 percent said troops should be brought home now.

The survey by Newsweek magazine indicated only 34 percent of Americans approved of the way Bush was handling the situation in Iraq while 61 percent expressed their disapproval.

The findings, made public Saturday, represented the president's lowest rating on Iraq ever, which thus far has hovered above the 40-percent mark.

Reflecting a gloomy mood setting in in the country, half of those polled said the United States was losing ground in its efforts to establish security and democracy in Iraq. Only 40 percent had the opposite point of view.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



US soldier in sandstorm, 3rd ID, Camp Taji, northwestern of Baghdad. (AFP/Liu Jin)

Milford Twp. Soldier Killed



Spl. Kurt Krout of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 111th Infantry Regiment

Aug 8, 2005 THE MORNING CALL Inc.

A Milford Township, Bucks County, man was killed in Iraq Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near his armored Humvee, military officials said Monday.

Kurt Krout, 43, was a specialist with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 111th Infantry Regiment. Back home, Krout was a manager at the Quakertown Wal-Mart in Richland Township.

Lexington Marine Killed

August 8, 2005 (AP)

A Marine from Lexington died in Iraq on Saturday, family members said.

Chase Johnson Comley, 21, was a lance corporal in Bravo Company Second Amphibious Assault Vehicle Battalion, said his brother, Clinton Comley.

The military said a Marine was killed Saturday in a suicide car bombing in a village west of Baghdad.

Comley joined the Marines in February 2004 and had been in Iraq since March, his father, Mark Comley, told the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Comley played baseball and basketball at Sayre High School and graduated in 2002.

"He was full of beans and spirit and naughty enough so you loved him," school headmaster Clayton Chambliss told the Lexington newspaper. "But under all of that was just a really tender kid."

Comley was a catcher for the Sayre baseball squad.

"I think he pretty much won just about every award there was to give," said baseball coach Scotty Sutton. "He was somebody that was just full of life, somebody that I could chew on for doing something wrong and then literally 10 minutes later, he would do something that would have me laughing out loud. He was so much fun to be around."

After graduating from Sayre, Comley enrolled at Lexington Community College, but left after about a year, Clinton Comley said.

"He wasn't sure what path he wanted to lead," Clinton Comley said.

Chase Comley helped his father, a self-employed marketing professional, but then decided to join the Marines.

"He didn't want to lie around and do nothing all day," said Mark Comley.

Chase Comley was scheduled to return home in October. Funeral arrangements have not been completed, but Clinton Comley said the family intends to set up a memorial fund.

Army Guard Soldiers Killed Boost Pa. Casualty Toll To At Least 87

Aug. 08, 2005 MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - Two Pennsylvania Army National Guard soldiers were killed and three others injured when an improvised explosive device struck their convoy in Iraq, Gov. Ed Rendell announced Monday.

Sgt. Brahim Jeffcoat, 25, of Philadelphia, and Spec. Kurt Krout, 43, of Spinnerstown, Bucks County, died Saturday after the blast caused their vehicle to roll over in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

The weekend deaths raised the number of soldiers with Pennsylvania ties who have died as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom to at least 87, an Associated Press database shows.

Three others from Pennsylvania were injured when the explosives struck the convoy. They were identified as Sgt. James Newman, 33, of Schwenksville; Spec. James McIntosh, 38, of Johnstown; and Spec. Rudolph Roberson Jr., 27, of Philadelphia.

Roberson, who was listed in serious condition with a head laceration and leg fracture, was transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Newman and McIntosh were not seriously injured, Rendell said.

Jeffcoat, a youth counselor, joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1998.

Two Soldiers Wounded In Ramadi

August 08, 2005 (AP)

Two Vermont Army National Guard soldiers have been injured, one seriously, during an attack in Iraq.

Spc. Benjamin Perez was in serious condition with injuries to his stomach and chest, Adjutant Gen. Martha Rainville said Monday.

Sgt. Joseph Caron was in good condition with wounds to his hands and chest, Rainville said.

Both men were being treated at the 86th combat support hospital in Baghdad and were expected to be transferred to a hospital in Germany for further treatment.

The Vermont National Guard had few details about Saturday's attack. The two men were patrolling an area in Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 70 miles west of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle, when they were attacked.

"They were out on patrol when they came under small arms fire," said Lt. Veronica Saffo, a spokeswoman for the guard.

Perez is a member of 86th Field Artillery of Waterbury. Caron is member of 1st Battalion of the 172 Armor Regiment, based in St. Albans.

They were serving in support of Task Force Saber, a brigade combat team led by the Pennsylvania National Guard.

**"There's Not Much We Can Do"
"They Know When We're Coming
And Going"**

“Mujahadeen Are Everywhere, But They Did Not Know Where To Find Them”

[A classic report about why and how the Bush Regime lost this war. Everyone knows everything the foreign occupation troops do every minute of every day. As you'll read below, the cell phone has replaced Paul Revere, but the dynamics of resistance to Imperial occupation hasn't changed. And the foreign occupation force is faced with a whole armed people fighting for their independence and national liberation. This is no contest. Unwinnable Game over. Come on home. T]

In a formation of Iraqi troops behind Sommers, Sgt. Ahmed Waheed said he thought most insurgents had hidden their weapons and gone back to tending their gardens or herding sheep.

"We cannot recognize the enemy because he dresses like a civilian and he drives in a civilian car. He looks like everyone else."

Aug. 07, 2005 By Tom Lasseter, Knight Ridder Newspapers

HAQLANIYAH, Iraq - The U.S. and Iraqi troops trudged through the narrow, dusty alleyways looking for an enemy that disappears like a ghost and hoping a rocket-propelled grenade would not come screaming from the rooftops. They squinted at graffiti calling for their execution, and tore down leaflets bragging about 20 Marines killed nearby last week.

With most of the fighting over after a large-scale invasion of the western Iraq town Friday, the troops in Haqlaniyah spent hours Sunday under a fiery sun looking for an adversary that often shoots and vanishes without a trace.

The guerrilla fighters often leave a rear guard to fight advancing U.S. forces, while moving the majority of their men on to other towns where the Marines have no presence and the police have fled or been disbanded.

As troops walked in and out of houses Sunday, they heard phones ringing.

An Iraqi interpreter working with the Marines, who gave his name as Sabah, picked up phones when he could reach them in time. When he hung up, Sabah smiled. The callers said to be careful - the Americans are on their way.

Standing in front of their homes, Haqlaniyah's sons said the insurgents - called mujahadeen, or holy warriors, here - are everywhere, but they did not know where to find them.

Army Capt. Terrence Sommers spent much of the day with the Iraqi troops he advises, looking for some hint of the enemy.

Khalif Hamadi, a paunchy, middle-aged man with a bemused grin, told Sommers that the mujahadeen run the town of Haqlaniyah.

"You say the area is bad, but where do the bad people live?" Sommers asked.

"I see them driving on the roads but I don't know where they live," Hamadi said. "I don't know where they're going."

Hamadi and Sommers stood for awhile, staring at each other, both knowing that Hamadi was not telling all he knew.

Hamadi broke the silence: "Nobody can say anything about them because they are dangerous people."

Down the street, there was a newly built wall between two buildings that, from the street, looked like the back of a small home. On the other side, though, was a footpath that led to another footpath that led to a road a couple of blocks away.

"Damn," Sommers said, "that's a great escape route."

In a formation of Iraqi troops behind Sommers, Sgt. Ahmed Waheed said he thought most insurgents had hidden their weapons and gone back to tending their gardens or herding sheep.

"I know the difference between a foreign Arab fighter and an Iraqi, but when the fighter is Iraqi, I cannot tell who he is," Waheed said.

"We cannot recognize the enemy because he dresses like a civilian and he drives in a civilian car. He looks like everyone else."

The men found traces in some houses. Three brothers were found with a high-powered pair of binoculars. A man had a flour sack of new tennis shoes hidden in a barrel behind a goat pen. And a medical clinic had fliers on the wall extolling the virtues of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein.

Rifling through the bag of shoes, Sommers frowned.

"The doctor heals them, these guys give them shoes, another guy is the forward observer - it's like an assembly line," said Sommers, 34, of Augusta, Ga. **"They know when we're coming and going. There's not much we can do."**

Late in the morning, Sommers and his men stopped to speak with an elderly man and his son, Mohammed, an employee in Iraq's Ministry of Oil.

The old man, who did not give his name, was busy warning about the dangers of the insurgency as Iraqi troops searched his son's truck.

There was a stack of cassette tapes. They popped one in and turned up the volume. A man's voice wailed: "The people must come to Jihad in Iraq. The Americans are here, come to Jihad."

As Sommers walked through the downtown market area later, his translator called out the meaning of graffiti spray-painted on almost every storefront - "Allah is our God, Jihad is our way"; "Long live the mujahadeen"; "Long live jihad"; "It is your duty to fight for jihad in Iraq"; "Death to those who collaborate with Americans."

Sweat poured down Sommers' face. His uniform was caked with dirt. An Army reservist who has a private legal practice in Augusta, Sommers had just 16 days before finishing his tour in Iraq. It was something he looked forward to, he said.

Back in the Iraqi formation, Waheed said he didn't know where the insurgents were, but he was certain of one thing: "When we leave, they will come back."

Fallujah:

As Collaborator Mayor Worries About Getting Home Alive, U.S. General Says Resistance Will Be Defeated Again And Again And Again

August 8, 2005 By John Hendren, L.A. Times Staff Writer

FALLOUJA, Iraq — Nine months after U.S. and Iraqi troops killed an estimated 1,000 insurgents here in a battle that also cost more than 70 American lives, intelligence suggests that rebels are trying to filter back into the former capital of Iraq's guerrilla movement. [***Trying***? **Two weeks ago a collaborator official said, "They kill one or two of us ever day." What's this lame "trying" bullshit? Oh, must be one of those in-bed reporters.]**

As the Marines continue to relax restrictions on the city's entry points, **intelligence leads suggest that insurgents who have already entered Fallouja and others who may soon return have continued to plan attacks on Americans. [So, it's not "trying" after all, is it?]**

Fallouja Mayor Dari Ersan reflected that concern as he prepared to leave the barricaded fortress that serves as City Hall after a recent meeting.

As a Marine officer explained the procedure for arming the city's new squadron of personal security guards, Ersan cut him off.

He was worried about getting home that night.

"Just give me a pistol," he said. "I'm talking about my own security."

Marine Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Johnson, commander of coalition forces in western Iraq, said it was not surprising that insurgents would want to return to Fallouja. **As he spoke, eight U.S. artillery blasts, apparent retaliation for a guerrilla mortar or rocket strike, rattled the windows behind him. Johnson didn't flinch.**

"Every time a bomb goes off in Fallouja, people say, 'Here they come. Here it comes again.' We expect that there will be insurgent activity in town. And if he tries, **we will continue to defeat him as we have in the past,**" he said. **[Meaning of course, not defeated. Duh.]**

Still, beneath the seeming placidity lies a hostile city, said Staff Sgt. Ryan Powell, a Marine reservist who in his civilian life is an LAPD officer who patrols one of Los Angeles' most volatile neighborhoods.

"It's a lot like South-Central," Powell said with a shrug. "Nobody wants to talk to you. They say, 'If I talk to you, I'll be a target.' But in L.A., you don't have to worry about someone driving a car and turning into you at the last minute to blow you up."

The current insurgency has deep roots here, and before the U.S. push to drive them out, "they were everywhere, like rats," fruit vendor Fareed Hamad Khalaf said as his melons baked in a 120-degree swelter. "Some are killers. **Some are like me, wearing civilian clothes. We don't know who they are. Some of them will sneak back into the city. Some already have.**"

When a dozen town leaders lined up to enter the makeshift town hall, Marine Sgt. Kent Padmore committed what he knew was an affront in Muslim societies. He stood well past the 20-foot "kill zone" of a suicide vest and asked the men to lift their dishdasha robes over their heads to show they weren't wearing one.

"You got a dozen guys with man-dresses over their heads," Padmore, a "U.S.M.C." tattoo on his left arm, said apologetically. "I told them, 'I don't mean to disrespect you. But I'd rather offend you than get blown up.'" **[No problem. Everybody in town gets to see how local traitors are humiliated by their masters, and more honorable patriots join the armed resistance.]**

Insurgents in the area have made special targets of those who participate in government. Some members of the City Council stopped attending meetings after receiving threats and, in one case, being targeted by a roadside bombing. One sheik continues to attend meetings despite the fact that a suicide car bomber crashed into his house a month ago, killing his son.

Mamoun Sami Rasheed was understandably hesitant to become governor after that, agreeing only after he was unanimously nominated by the Al Anbar provincial council. No one else wanted the job.

In Rasheed's first week, a Marine quick-reaction force ran off three carloads of masked men who were circling his house as his frantic wife paced inside, a Marine officer recounted. Officials won't say exactly what they're doing to protect him now, but "he's secure," one said.

In the bullet-scarred fortress where most of the city's business is conducted, Marine Lt. Col. Jim "Hondo" Haveman explains to Ersan that the deputy mayor must be elected. The mayor insists that he can pick his own "assistant" and has one in mind.

Haveman leans in, moving closer to the real reason: The deputy needs to be elected, he says, "in case you get sick."

He doesn't need to go further. The mayor agrees to accept an elected No. 2. He understands that the diplomatic reference to his fragile mortality means that his deputy is not merely an assistant. He's a potential successor.

MORE:

Guess What? U.S. Patrol Attacked In Falluja; Casualties Not Announced

8.8.05 Reuters

FALLUJA - A bomber attacked a U.S. patrol in the former rebel stronghold of Falluja, west of Baghdad, Iraqi police sources said. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from the U.S. military and no word on casualties.

Confirmation: The Great Mosul Berm Was PR Bullshit

August 08, 2005 By Antonio Castaneda, Associated Press

Progress in Mosul has come at a high cost: 11 soldiers from the 1st Battalion have been killed, and over 150 have received Purple Hearts for wounds. Dozens have decided not to re-enlist in the Army, and about a quarter of one Iraqi battalion — over 180 soldiers — have been killed or seriously wounded.

Concerns about foreign fighters and outsiders entering the city were great enough for the U.S. military to recently send bulldozers around the city to build a sand berm.

Military officials concede the berm's current height — only 3 feet in some places — *will not stop most illicit movement*, but they say it may help funnel some traffic through city checkpoints.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Kurilla of the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, right, and a U.S. soldier search for openings in a berm recently created to funnel traffic through checkpoints and help stop the flow of insurgents into Mosul July 31, 2005. (AP Photo/Antonio Castaneda) [The Lt. Col. has a name. "A soldier" has no name worth letting anybody back home know about, as far as this report is concerned. Typical.]

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Looking For A Bomb Or A Smile: U.S. Troops Find Neither

8.7.05 San Francisco Chronicle, August 7, 2005

U.S. troops looking for two reported burned out schools in the Afghan village of Hasan Khil got a chilly reception and false directions from the locals.

The Wardak district, where the village is, lies outside the direct control of Afghan authorities in Kabul.

The people there are deeply nationalistic and religiously conservative. They don't appreciate outsiders, including Americans.

TROOP NEWS

Troops Not Coming Home This Fall After All, Rumsfeld Mouthpiece Says

August 8, 2005 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

Before the Pentagon begins reducing troop levels in Iraq next year it probably will increase them this fall to provide extra security for a planned October referendum and a December election, a Pentagon official said Monday.

Di Rita said commanders may also ask for volunteers to serve extended tours. **[The guy should be a stand up comic.]**

Lawrence Di Rita, spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said "The units that are there have been told to expect that: that it's possible that your planned rotation dates back to the U.S. will be affected by the need to keep a higher level for a longer period of time. They understand that," he said. **[How the fuck would this man know what troops understand or do not understand? When was his last trip to Ramadi or Baquaba? Asshole sits around in his air conditioned office all day sucking up to Rumsfeld, in between trips to the executive dining room at the Pentagon. Lying piece of shit.]**

“How Are We Honoring Them By Throwing Another 1,800 Lives On The Pile?”

"The national spotlight is on Ohio right now," Mr. Harmon said. "We just think that one company has gone through so much, you just kind of wish that they could get a break and come home."

07 August 2005 By John Kifner and James Dao, The New York Times

Unlike regular troops who come from all over the United States and serve on bases relatively isolated from the rest of the population, reserve units are more intimately entwined with local communities - training, working and often living in the same town. Lima Company, for example, includes Lance Cpl. J. D. Coleman, son of Mayor Michael Coleman of Columbus.

So the deaths on Wednesday hit Ohio hard.

Sergeant Bowman, 35, served 12 years on active duty, then became an Ohio state trooper. But he missed the Marines and signed up with the Reserves when it looked as if they would be sent to Iraq.

Despite the danger, he said, the days could get monotonous. It was easy to become complacent. "It was knocking on doors, all we did really was to go out and search homes, looking for explosives, which we would find routinely," he said.

And, routinely, they were peppered with mortars and small arms fire by insurgents who would then melt away. They were also frequently engaged by packs of wild dogs.

The travails of Lima Company and the rest of the 3/25 have focused national attention on Ohio and sharpened debate over the Bush administration's policies in Iraq.

Even some former marines have begun to question those policies.

At a prayer vigil for the 3/25 in Cleveland on Friday, Frank Faragone, who was a marine in the 1950's and whose son is a Marine gunnery sergeant today, said the United States should hasten the transfer of power to Iraqis and bring American forces home soon.

"Insurgency is tough, you'll never get rid of it," said Mr. Faragone, 67, a retired police officer from Cleveland. "The answer is let the Iraqis take care of themselves."

Rosemary Palmer, Corporal Schroeder's mother, has always opposed the war and believes her son was growing disenchanted with it before he died. She says she knows other parents who oppose the war but are afraid to speak out, believing their children will be punished by their commanders.

"How are we honoring them by throwing another 1,800 lives on the pile?" asked Ms. Palmer, 57, of Cleveland. "Honor them by resolving this war."

The debate has even split some families. Erica Deyarmin said her brother, Corporal Deyarmin, a sniper with the 3/25 who died Monday, loved the marines and was deeply proud of what they were doing in Iraq.

"If we turn our backs on them now, he would have died in vain," she said.

But her grandmother, Barbara Davis, 68, said that she felt the war had been unnecessary and that the ground troops should be pulled out immediately - words that caused her granddaughter to leave the room.

"I support the troops," she said, recalling the hundreds of pairs of socks and dozens of care packages she had sent to her grandson's unit. "I just don't support the policy."

Kristin Earhart of Pickerington, Ohio, the girlfriend of Cpl. Dustin A. Derga of the 3/25, who died on May 8, said he considered it his duty to fight, making his opinion of it irrelevant. An Air National Guard member, Ms. Earhart, 22, said she felt the same way.

"I don't want our boys over there," she said. "But in the same sense, they're doing a job and they're doing it good."

One of Corporal Derga's best friends, Lance Cpl. Nicholas B. Erdy, also of the 3/25, died three days later. For Brandon Harmon, 24, a police officer from Pickerington and a friend of Corporal Derga's, so much death in so few days had brought the war too close to their small town.

"The national spotlight is on Ohio right now," Mr. Harmon said. "We just think that one company has gone through so much, you just kind of wish that they could get a break and come home."

Sheehan V. Bush



Texas ambush ... Cindy Sheehan on the road leading to Mr Bush's ranch. She has vowed to camp out until the President agrees to see her. Photo: Reuters

09 August 2005 Sidney Morning Herald

Crawford, Texas: The US President draws anti-war protesters just about wherever he goes, but few generate the kind of attention that Cindy Sheehan has since she

drove down the winding road towards George Bush's ranch last weekend to try and tell him face to face to pull all US troops out of Iraq.

Mrs Sheehan's son, Casey, was killed last year in Iraq, after which she became an antiwar activist. She says she and her family met Mr Bush two months later in Washington state.

But when she was blocked by the police a few kilometres from Mr Bush's 650-hectare ranch on Saturday, Mrs Sheehan, 48, was transformed into a media phenomenon, the new face of opposition to the Iraq conflict at a moment when public opinion is in flux and the politics of war have grown more complicated for Mr Bush and the Republican Party.

Mrs Sheehan has vowed to camp out on the spot until Mr Bush agrees to see her, even if it means spending all August under a broiling sun beside a dusty road.

Reporters from across the country have been calling her on her mobile phone and she has already appeared on CNN and ABC television. "It's just snowballed," Mrs Sheehan said, standing beneath a group of trees beside her sleeping bag, some candles, a jar of nuts and a few other supplies.

Seeking to head off exactly the phenomenon that now seems to be unfolding, Mr Bush sent two senior officials out from the ranch on Saturday afternoon to meet her. But after talking to Stephen Hadley, the National Security Adviser, and Joe Hagin, a deputy White House chief of staff - Mrs Sheehan said she would not back down in her demand to see the President. .

Her success in drawing so much attention to her message - and leaving the White House in a face-off with an opponent who had to be treated gently even as she aggressively attacked Mr Bush and his policies - seemed to stem from the confluence of several forces.

The deaths last week of 20 marines from a single battalion focused public attention on the unremitting pace of casualties in Iraq, providing Mrs Sheehan an opening to deliver her message that no more lives should be lost.

At the same time, polls showing falling approval for Mr Bush's handling of the war left him open to a challenge in a way he was not when the nation was more strongly behind him.

MORE FROM CINDY SHEEHAN:

“Then We Have This Lying Bastard, George Bush”

You tell me the truth. You tell me that my son died for oil. You tell me that my son died to make your friends rich. You tell me my son died to spread the cancer of

pax Americana, imperialism in the Middle East. You tell me that, you don't tell me my son died for 'freedom and democracy.'

Cuz, we're not freer. You're taking away our freedoms. The Iraqi people aren't freer, they're much worse off than before you meddled in their country.

You get America out of Iraq, you get Israel out of Palestine...

2005-08-08 David Swanson's diary, at Meetwithcindy.org

Cindy Sheehan Address Veterans For Peace Convention, 8.5.05

Cindy Sheehan:

It's so great to be here.

Last year when you guys had your convention in Boston, my son had only been dead a few months, and we were really honored because the Santa Barbara chapter took my daughter's poem A Nation Rocked to Sleep, (and they did it again this year), and I remember Michael Cervantes, he brought the booklet over to our house and showed it to us, and I never dreamed in a year I'd be standing here in front of you as one of the speakers at your convention, I never dreamed I'd be doing this at all, but isn't it weird what life hands you...

I never heard about Veterans for until, I can tell you the exact day I heard about VFP, it was May 4th, 2004, and my son had been dead exactly a month, and I was watching CNN, and something came on, it was a report on Arlington West in Santa Barbara, and we lived about 6 hours north of Santa Barbara, and it was the May 4th before Mother's Day, which was May 8th, and VFP was going to put it up on Sunday, every Sunday, so I called my husband and I said, "There's only one place I want to be on Mother's Day this year, I want to be at Santa Barbara. I want to go and see Arlington West."

When we went, the first time we went, there was a little over 700 crosses, now there's over 1,800 crosses.

And I'm glad to hear everybody else's words, because somebody's gotta stop those lying bastards. Somebody has to stop them.

I got an email yesterday - - If you guys heard I just had a story published that talks about - - it's called Where Do I Live?, it talks about an Iranian-American who got the shaft because a recruiter liked him, and the recruiter falsified his paperwork, so he ended up in prison.

He's been in prison since November without due process.

Another mother whose son was found dead in Iraq, they told her that he died from a drug overdose. Three months later, they got the toxicology report; no drugs. She was devastated, she said, "I know my son, he did not do drugs." She was told that her son's wife and his battle buddies said in a report that yes, her son abused drugs in Iraq. But

when she got that report it said categorically that no, he did not abuse drugs. So how did her son die?

And then there's Kevin and Monica Benderman. Kevin did exactly the right thing and got 15 months in prison. Whereas like Dahr said, the war criminals in Washington, D.C., they don't even lose a night's sleep.

Then we have this lying bastard, George Bush, taking a 5-week vacation in a time of war. You know what? I'm never going to get to enjoy another vacation, because of him.

My vacation probably - -this is really sad because I have a really cute dress I was going to wear to the banquet tomorrow night, but I'm either gonna be in jail or in a tent in Crawford, waiting until that jerk comes out and tells me why my son died.

Anyway, I got an email, I kinda got off track, a man emailed me yesterday, I get contacted by all kinds of people with their stories, and he said Cindy, I read everything you write, I read it on LewRockwell.com, he said, "I get tears in my eyes, but today I cried real tears, and I screamed, because my dear sweet nineteen ear-old cousin was killed in Iraq."

And he said, "Cindy, why didn't I save him? Why didn't I knock him out, why didn't I take him to Canada?" and I wrote him back and I said, "You know what? We all think that."

I said to my son not to go. I said, you know it's wrong, you know you're going over there. You know your unit might have to kill innocent people, you know you might die. And he says, "My buddies are going, I have to go." He said, "If I don't go someone's going to have to do my job, and my buddies will be in danger."

So what really gets me is these chickenhawks, who sent our kids to die, without ever serving in a war themselves. They don't know what it's all about.

30 of our bravest young men have already died this month, and it's only the 5th of August. And the tragedy of the marines in Ohio is awful.

But do you guys remember back in March when we were having our 2nd year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq which was pre-empted by Terry Schiavo, so that's all that was on the news, not 5,000 of us in Fayetteville, Wolf Blitzer said it was insignificant, but they put Terry Schiavo on, and I wrote something then called The Amazing Hypocrites and I asked why does she deserve life more than my son, and the Iraqi people? And more than the other people that this war has killed.

But do you think George Bush will interrupt his vacation and go visit the families of those 20 marines that have died in Ohio this week? No, because he doesn't care, he doesn't have a heart. That's not enough to stop his little 'playing cowboy' game in Crawford for 5 weeks.

So, as you can imagine, the grieving parents who lost - - lost, I don't like to use that word, whose child was murdered, it's extremely difficult, you can't even get a small scab on our wound, because every day it rips open. Every day, I don't know

why I do it because I already know that war is ugly, I already know that war is hard. But I open up the DOD site to see, who became an angel, while I was sleeping.

And that rips my heart open, because I know there is another mother whose life is going to be ruined that day. So we can't even begin to heal.

So anyway that filth-spewer and warmonger, George Bush was speaking after the tragedy of the marines in Ohio, he said a couple things that outraged me.

Seriously outraged me.

And I know I don't look like I'm outraged, I'm always so calm and everything, that's because if I started hitting something, I wouldn't stop 'til it was dead. So I can't even start, cause I know how dangerous that would be, but George Bush was talking, and he never mentioned the terrible incident of those marines, but he did say, that the families of the ones who have been killed can rest assured that their loved ones died for a noble cause.

And, he also said, he says this often, and this really drives me crazy, he said that we have to stay in Iraq and complete the mission, to honor the sacrifices of the ones who have fallen.

And I say, why should I want one more mother to go through what I've gone through, because my son is dead. You know what, the only way he can honor my son's sacrifice is to bring the rest of the troops home. To make my son's death count for peace and love, and not war and hatred like he stands for.

I don't want him using my son's death or my family's sacrifice to continue the killing. I don't want him to exploit the honor of my son and others to continue the killing. They sent these honorable people to die, and are so dishonorable themselves.

So, as many of you have heard, and I didn't mean to cause any problems with the convention, but I was writing an email to everybody, and I was so mad, like I said, and I just had this brainstorm, I'm going to Dallas, I don't know where Crawford is. I've been in Texas, Casey was stationed at Fort Hood. I drove from northern California to Fort Hood one time, it took like, 30 hours. And I thought, I could be driving for days to get from Dallas to Crawford!

But I don't care, I'm goin'. And I'm gonna tell them, "You get that evil maniac out here, cuz a Gold Star Mother, somebody who's blood is on his hands, has some questions for him."

And I'm gonna say, "OK, listen here, George. #1, you quit, and I demand, every time you get out there and say you're going to continue the killing in Iraq to honor the fallen heroes by continuing the mission; you say, 'except Casey Sheehan.'"

"And you say 'except for all the members of Goldstar Families for Peace' cuz we think not one drop of blood should be spilled in our families' names. You quit doing that. You don't have my permission."

And I'm gonna say, "And you tell me, what the noble cause is that my son died for." And if he even starts to say 'freedom and democracy' I'm gonna say, bullshit.

You tell me the truth. You tell me that my son died for oil. You tell me that my son died to make your friends rich. You tell me my son died to spread the cancer of pax Americana, imperialism in the Middle East. You tell me that, you don't tell me my son died for 'freedom and democracy.'

Cuz, we're not freer. You're taking away our freedoms. The Iraqi people aren't freer, they're much worse off than before you meddled in their country.

You get America out of Iraq, you get Israel out of Palestine...

(massive round of applause)

And if you think I won't say bullshit to the President, I say move on, cuz I'll say what's on my mind.

So, what's gonna happen? I started this, I thought it was gonna be just me and my sister driving to Crawford, but it kind of mushroomed and people from as far away as Dayton, Ohio are coming, to help us, to stand behind us, because I travel all over the country, I speak, I write, I get feedback on my writing, **and just in the little over a year that I've been doing this, I've seen a major turnaround in this country.**

People don't just want to hear it, they want to know, what can we do?

What can we do to get him out of power? And I'm gonna say the 'I' word. Impeach. And we have to have everybody impeached that lied to the American public, and that's the executive branch, and any people in congress, and we gotta go all the way down and we might have to go all the way down to the person who picks up the dogshit in Washington because...

We can't let somebody rise to the top who will pardon these war criminals. Because they need to go to prison for what they've done in this world. We can't have a pardon. They need to pay for what they've done.

So anyway, I'm gonna go to Crawford tomorrow, and I'm gonna say I want to talk to him, and they say, he's not coming out, I'm gonna set up my tent there until he comes out to talk to me.

And I have the whole month of August off, just like him. It's just the way it worked out, I was supposed to go to England tomorrow to do some Downing Street things, but Conyers cancelled, so hey, I have a lot of free time on my hands, and I'm gonna stay until he comes out and talks to me. And if he quits his vacation and goes to D.C., I'll pull my tent up, I'll go to D.C., and put it on the White House lawn, and I'll be waiting for you guys when you get there September 24th.

Another thing that I'm doing is - - my son was killed in 2004, so I'm not paying my taxes for 2004. If I get a letter from the IRS, I'm gonna say, you know what, this war is illegal; this is why this war is illegal. This war is immoral; this is why this war is immoral. You killed my son for this. I don't owe you anything. And if I live to be a million, I won't owe you a penny.

And I want them to come after me, because unlike what you've been doing with the war resistance, I want to put this frickin' war on trial. And I want to say, "You give me my son, and I'll pay your taxes."

I live in Vacaville, come and get me if you can find me there and put me on trial, because like Camilo (Mejia), Camilo knew what was right. And he went to prison for that. And Henry David Thoreau he went to prison, he refused to pay his poll tax, and Emerson, I call them HT and RW, and RW came to visit HT and said what are you doing here, buddy? And HT said, why aren't you here? This is the only place for a moral person in an immoral world.

It's up to us, the people, to break immoral laws, and resist. As soon as the leaders of a country lie to you, they have no authority over you. These maniacs have no authority over us. And they might be able to put our bodies in prison, but they can't put our spirits in prison. And I know that Camilo came out a much stronger person, he's one of my heroes, it's great a row of heroes in front of me here.

And everyone gave such great testimony this evening, I have to wonder, why do we keep doing this to each other? Why do we let this continue time and time again, why do let it happen? And it's because our country, is so good at demonizing people, I still have relatives from WWII that still call Japanese people 'Japs'. And we demonize the Iraqi people, where, most of this country doesn't even think we're killing innocent people.

Because, "Oh Cindy, don't you remember what happened on September 11th?"

"Yeah, but, were any of those people in Iraq? And the people who flew those planes into the Trade Center, where they from Iraq?"

When I was growing up, it was 'Communists'. Now it's 'Terrorists'. So you always have to have somebody to fight and be afraid of, so the war machine can build more bombs, guns, and bullets and everything.

But I do see hope. I see hope in this country. 58% of the American public are with us. We're preaching to the choir, but the choir's not singing, if all of the 58% started singing, this war would end.

I got an email the other day and it said, "Cindy, if you didn't use so much profanity... there's people 'on the fence' that get offended..."

And you know what I said? "You know what? You know what, god-damn-it? How, in the world is anybody still 'sitting on that fence'?"

"If you fall on the side that is pro-George, and pro-war, you get your ass over to Iraq, and take the place of somebody who wants to come home. And if you fall on

the side that is against this war and against George Bush, stand up and speak out.”

But whatever side you fall on, quit being on the fence.

The opposite of good is not evil, it's apathy. And we have to get this country off their butts, and we have to get the choir singing.

We need to say, bring our troops home now.

We can't depend on the people in charge bringing our troops home.

Because you don't plan on bringing the troops home when you drop so much of the reconstruction money into building permanent bases.

I was hoping to come to the banquet tomorrow night, but unless George comes out and talks to me, I'll be camping at Crawford.

Thank you.

Illinois Troops In Survey Lash Out At Leaders

Only half had faith in their non-commissioned officers' effect on morale, while 72 percent disagreed with the statement: "Officer leadership during the (mobilization) had a very positive effect on the unit's morale."

August 7, 2005 By James Janega, Chicago Tribune staff reporter

An Illinois Army National Guard memo distributed to commanders early this year described lapses in leadership, flagging retention and low morale among deployed Guard units and calls into question the ability to field a ready fighting force.

The Illinois Army National Guard's second in command, Brig. Gen. Charles E. Fleming, based the Jan. 29 memo on a survey of 1,200 Guard troops deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and U.S. bases last year.

"When soldiers were asked questions regarding retention, morale and leadership, the results were shocking," said the memo, which sought to begin correcting the problems.

The memo raised concerns about a leadership climate in which it is often felt that officers are more concerned about their own advancement than the well-being of their troops.

Soldiers in interviews said they have not raised critical questions over readiness for fear of retribution from Guard leadership.

Nationally, surveys of returning troops find similar trends, and the number of new recruits has been falling in active-duty military, reserve and National Guard units.

According to a survey of Illinois Guard members, Fleming cited in the memo, "the majority of soldiers feel they are poorly informed, inadequately cared for, and that training in their units is boring and unorganized."

More than three-quarters thought unit morale was a big problem while deployed to Iraq.

Only half had faith in their non-commissioned officers' effect on morale, while 72 percent disagreed with the statement: "Officer leadership during the (mobilization) had a very positive effect on the unit's morale."

Further, the survey revealed that half the soldiers surveyed believed their officers were more interested in rank advancement than caring for their troops. Only 41 percent thought the state appreciated their service during mobilization.

The stakes could not be higher, said Lt. Col. Brian C. Redmon, recruiting and retention manager for the Illinois Guard.

"If this is true and nothing changes, we are going to have serious problems," he said. Thomas interrupted him and finished the sentence another way: "We won't have a Guard."

Skepticism about the intentions of senior Guard leadership is widely held in the ranks, said retired Master Sgt. Randy Craig, who spent 17 years in the Illinois Army National Guard before retiring in 2003.

As an example of rifts with headquarters, Craig said that last year he and others from his former unit--the 1544th Transportation Company based in Paris, Ill.--sent handheld radios to unit soldiers in Iraq after receiving e-mails detailing poor communications between trucks.

Craig said Guard officials in Springfield called to complain, saying the radios were unauthorized and dangerous. Still, within weeks, their effectiveness seemed clear, and the use of civilian-style handheld radios soon became widespread among transportation units.

When later Illinois units deployed to Iraq, Guard officials reversed their opinion and asked for the radios, Craig said.

Uncertainty after that kind of reversal--as well as lingering questions about up-to-date vehicles and training for such seemingly central pieces of equipment as weapons and night-vision goggles--has dogged the Illinois Guard, Craig said.

\$6,000 bonuses were offered to anyone willing to fill vacant slots in deployable units.

A dwindling supply of officers also was cited in the memo. Eighty new officers were brought into the Illinois Army National Guard in the year ending last September, though the memo notes that 102 officers left in that time--an exodus particularly felt in combat units.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**WELCOME TO SAMAWA;
HAVE A NICE DAY**



Armed guerrillas stand along a street in the city of Samawa, 270 kms south of Baghdad. Armed men took the streets the day after two people were killed and 45 others were wounded in a protest yesterday in which as some 1,000 people marched to the office of the governor of Muthanna province, of which Samawa is the capital, protesting corruption and demanding jobs and reliable electricity and water supply. (AFP/Essam al-Sudani)

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

Assorted Resistance Action

8/8/2005 Anatolia.com Inc.

DUBAI - Three Turkish truck drivers were kidnapped by a little-known group Knights Brigade, Al Jazeera television said on Sunday.

A video aired by Al Jazeera showed the three men, who were said to work for a company that transports supplies to U.S. forces.

Al Jazeera quoted the group as saying this was its "last warning" to companies dealing with U.S.-led forces in Iraq.

SAMARRA - The bodies of five policemen who were shot dead and thrown in a river were found in the northern town of Samarra, police said. They were on their way home for vacation when they were killed, police said.

BAGHDAD - A translator working at Baghdad's Doura power station was shot dead, said a source at Yarmouk hospital.

KIRKUK - Two employees of the Iraqi state-owned North Oil Company were shot dead by gunmen in Fatha, 75 km (45 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

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

Shi'ite Led Rebellion In Samawa Continuing



An armed insurgent walks past a burnt vehicle in the center of the Iraqi town of Samawa August 8, 2005. REUTERS/Mohammed Ameen

8.8.05 Reuters

SAMAWA - Guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades at police in the southern town of Samawa in a second day of unrest.

The violence is worrying for the government because Samawa is a usually calm Shi'ite town in a region relatively free of the bloodshed gripping other parts of Iraq. Anger over a lack of jobs and problems with the power and water supply have sparked anger in many parts of Iraq.

Mohammed al-Ghazawi, a representative of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, told Reuters protests would continue until the local governor resigned and public services in Samawa improved.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Babble of Bull Shit: Dedicated To Iraq Veterans Who Know The Truth

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 08, 2005
Subject: Dedicated to Iraq Veterans Who Know The Truth

I'm a little confused about America's political profile throughout the world.

We preach democracy with the right hand, but support Puppet Governments and Dictatorships with the left hand.

I'm sure one of these days, I'll figure out the logic behind this seemingly incongruous approach to preserving peace and freedom throughout the world.

I just know I haven't evolved or matured enough to appreciate the genius involved in comprehending the ramifications of such a humanitarian level of thinking. Maybe I need to return to Vietnam, and try to recapitulate what was obviously far beyond my youthful years to understand the first time.

There is obviously something I need to grow into, if I am to fully embrace America's involvement in Vietnam. I'm sure if I try hard enough, I will eventually grasp through enlightenment, what I've been confused about most of my adult life.

I know if I am just patient, it will all be crystal clear to me someday.

After all, these things take time. As printed on the U.S. dollar bill, "In God We Trust."

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry
4th Infantry Division
Vietnam 1970-71

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.

“I Have Lost Confidence In The Integrity Of UFPJ”

I hope our local organizers break with the national UFPJ position in defining our local event, and if they do, I hope they communicate that fact and why to national UFPJ.

For myself, I will make a sign that includes Palestinian rights and domestic civil rights and liberties, and encourage others to do likewise.

August 07, 2005 By Chris Lowe, Portside [Excerpt]

I wonder if Ted Pearson, Judith V. Lelchook or any other Portside reader can enlighten those of us who are merely foot-soldiers, so to speak, in the anti-war movement, how it came to be that UFPJ has taken a stance against including solidarity with Palestinian human rights and support for civil liberties at home in demands for the September actions? By what process, with what consultation, did this occur?

As I read the documents on UFPJ's website, both of those demands were endorsed explicitly by the last national gathering of UFPJ.

*Who made the decision to override the action of that gathering?
With what authority?*

With what consultation or report-back?

When UFPJ was formed, I supported it for two reasons. One was that it appeared to provide an alternative to undemocratic sectarian practices within ANSWER mobilizations and to a lesser extent in NION.

Now I wonder if it still provides such an alternative, or just a variant form of undemocratic practice for ideological ends.

It is my belief that UFPJ has made a serious error in defining the September actions as it has.

Stripping the movement of positive content, no longer analyzing who benefits from the war and who is harmed, not exposing the great dangers it poses beyond its narrow problems, and failing to sketch the outlines of alternative paths weakens the movement. It may or may not turn out marginally more people in September, but I am skeptical.

The cost is that the September events will in no way build toward preventing the next war as well as ending the present one. Nor will they provide any serious challenge to the assumptions that enabled the Bush administration to gain the support of many Democrats and most of the media in rolling us to war, and that enable it to continue to obscure its lies along the way.

How this happened remains opaque to me and I suppose to most of the rank and file who are somewhat attuned to movement politics without being organizers. I suspect it may be opaque to many local organizers as well, especially away from NYC, San Francisco and maybe L.A.

That opacity in itself is troubling commentary on the state of internal democracy of UFPJ, all the more so since internal democracy was a key *raison d'etre* of UFPJ in the first place. Given UFPJ's lack of transparency, it becomes that much easier to suspect that more than just a bad decision to opt for lowest- common-denominator tactics has taken place.

The suspicion/ fear/ paranoia (?) is that a species of center-leaning sectarianism has won the day inside UFPJ, one that actually does not support Palestinian human rights, that is ambivalent about protecting the human rights of those most threatened at home, and that does not want to expose or challenge the ways that the war embodies and advances particular interests at home while further eroding democracy, with the support of both major party presidential candidates from last year (I mean Kerry's continued support for imperial presidential war powers).

I don't know that is the case. But I do want to know why UFPJ has proceeded as it has, contrary to the position of its last national gathering, and how it did so.

Meanwhile, I have lost confidence in the integrity of UFPJ.

When I turn out in September, it will be on the same basis as I turned out for a NION-sponsored march in October of 2002 here in Portland -- to voice my opposition to the war, but not to support the mobilizing organization.

I hope our local organizers break with the national UFPJ position in defining our local event, and if they do, I hope they communicate that fact and why to national UFPJ.

For myself, I will make a sign that includes Palestinian rights and domestic civil rights and liberties, and encourage others to do likewise.

Chris Lowe
Portland, Oregon

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

A cattle rancher who chose not to be identified said of Bush's country-boy image, "It makes you wonder why they let a guy who chokes on a pretzel and falls off a scooter handle a chainsaw for the news cameras." Aug 7 2005 OZLEM ALTIOK, ntimc.org

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

www.williambowles.info/gispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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