

GI SPECIAL 3C18:

NO MORE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremiah Crosby, 20, of Alamogordo, New Mexico, from Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment from Ohio, sleeps with his hand on a picture of his wife, Kandice Crosby, during a lull in the fighting in Parwana, near Haditha, Iraq Aug. 5, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

Good Moon Rising: Air Force Officer Charged For “Fuck Bush” Graffiti

[Thanks to CS & PG, who sent this in.]

Aug 10 Reuters & Associated Press

A U.S. Air Force colonel has been charged with painting obscenities on parked cars bearing pro-President Bush bumper stickers, police said on Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Alexis Fecteau, who supervises 41 full-time and part-time reservists at the National Security Space Institute in Colorado Springs, Colo., is suspected of vandalizing 12 cars at Denver International Airport over a six-month period, Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson said.

Fecteau is suspected of blacking out the Bush bumper stickers and then spray painting *an expletive and the president's name on the vehicles.* [Oh please, why don't you just say it? "Fuck Bush" Everybody else is saying it.]

"Lieutenant Colonel Fecteau has been charged with one count of felony mischief and six misdemeanor counts related to the vandalism," Jackson said.

Fecteau, who could not be reached for comment, is scheduled to be arraigned later this month.

Police said they received numerous complaints dating back to December 2004 from people with cars bearing Bush or Bush-Cheney campaign bumper stickers that their vehicles had been vandalized.

Police set up a bait car with a pro-Bush bumper sticker, parked it at the airport with a surveillance camera, and waited. On July 1, the camera recorded a man spray-painting over the bumper sticker with an expletive.

Investigators traced the license plate of the suspected vandal to Fecteau, 42, who turned himself into police last week and was released after posting a \$5,000 bond.

Jackson would not comment on a possible motive for the vandalism, but said one victim had to spend \$2,000 on repairs after it was spray-painted, which led to the felony charge.

Maj. Tina Barber-Matthew, spokeswoman for the U.S. Air Force Space Command, said the case was under investigation, but that it would be "premature" to discuss what discipline Fecteau would face if convicted.

"Until we can validate or invalidate the charges, he is still on full-duty status," she said.

Barber-Matthew said Fecteau has been in charge at the post since October 2004. The institute provides ongoing training to Air Force personnel to keep them current on space technology and its applications, she said.

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



A US soldier stands next to his shrapnel riddled Humvee caught in a car bombing in east Baghdad. 8.8.05 (AFP/Sabah Arar)

FOUR TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIERS KILLED, SIX WOUNDED NEAR BAYJI



A large crater remains following a roadside bomb attack in Beiji. CBS

August 10, 2005 American Forces Press Service & AP

TIKRIT, Iraq

In the deadliest day of the war for Pennsylvania soldiers, four members of the state's National Guard were killed in action Tuesday in Iraq, Gov. Ed Rendell said Wednesday.

An improvised explosive device blast killed the five Aug. 9 near Bayji, Iraq, as their patrol was investigating reported explosions in the area. The patrol came under small-arms fire after the explosion.

Insurgents attacked the convoy with rocket-propelled grenades, damaging two Humvees and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, said Beiji police Lt. Ali Abdul-Hameed. Witnesses said the Bradley fell into a canal and that a U.S. helicopter transported the casualties.

Five Task Force Liberty soldiers and one U.S. contractor were injured in the attack. The U.S. military said the attack happened at 11:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) on Tuesday.

The wounded were evacuated to a Coalition Forces medical facility.

Later, a group of young boys and teenagers gathered around a large hole in the ground caused by the explosion, holding up bits of army uniform and burnt pieces of flesh on sticks.

"This is the Americans," one said. "Their bodies were hanging in the trees."

Among the dead were Gennaro Pellegrini Jr., a 31-year-old Philadelphia police officer; John Kulick, a 35-year-old firefighter from Montgomery County; and Nathaniel DeTample, the 19-year-old son of a Bucks County detective.

The five guard deaths reported Wednesday raise to 94 the number of military personnel with close ties to the state who have died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since March 2003, according to a list maintained by The Associated Press in Pennsylvania.

Marine Killed Near Habbaniyah

August 10, 2005 American Forces Press Service

On Aug. 9, a soldier assigned to the 2nd U.S. Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed by small-arms fire near Habbaniyah, Iraq. Several U.S. Army units are attached to the 2nd MEF (Forward) during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

John Kulick Killed

Aug. 10, 2005 Associated Press

John Kulick

Whitpain Township Fire Marshal David M. Camarda learned of 35-year-old John Kulick's death early Wednesday. Kulick was the township's assistant fire marshal and worked in the department for seven years.

Kulick, one of the department's four full-time firefighters, was called up in May 2004 but wasn't deployed to Iraq until December, Camarda said.

Camarda spoke at a news conference announcing Kulick's death Wednesday and then sent firefighters home to grieve.

"John was just a dependable individual," he said. "He was the guy that if the shift started at 9:30 p.m., he was there at 8:30 to make sure everything got done right."

Kulick was the father of 9-year-old Amanda Mae Kulick, Camarda said.

"It's just tragic," he said. "I know John gave it his all for his National Guard platoon."

Local Family Mourns Loss Of Marine; "I STILL DON'T BELIEVE MY BABY'S GONE"



2005-08-10 MBC

A MOTHER WORRIED ABOUT HER SON FIGHTING IN IRAQ HAS HER WORST FEARS REALIZED.

HER SON IS THE LATEST CASUALTY OF WAR TO HIT CLOSE TO HOME.

ROB, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS YET TO VERIFY ANYTHING, BUT THE FAMILY OF SPECIALIST ANTHONY KALLADEEN SAYS THE MILITARY INFORMED THEM YESTERDAY, THAT HE WAS KILLED IN IRAQ.

THE 26 YEAR OLD LIVED IN NEW YORK, WHERE HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, AFTER SERVING 4 YEARS AS A MARINE.

HIS MOTHER, AUNT AND A NUMBER OF RELATIVES HAVE LIVED HERE IN READING SINCE THE 1990'S.

REPORTER

WITH SPECIALIST ANTHONY KALLADEEN OVERSEAS WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND AWAY FROM HIS FAMILY THEY WERE ALREADY MISSING THE LITTLE THINGS THEY GREW TO LOVE ABOUT HIM.

15:43 ELBA SANTISTEVAN

ANYTHING WE SEE, THAT'S ANTHONY, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT CAME TO GIRLS. HE WAS GIRL CRAZY.

REPORTER

AND ANTHONY'S MOM WAS HAVING A TOUGH TIME WATCHING HIM LEAVE, ESPECIALLY THE LAST TIME HE VISITED READING.

2:12 MARIA VIDAL

I TOLD HIM, TRY NOT TO GET CLOSE TO THE ENEMY LINES, AND I TOLD HIM I DON'T WANT YOU TO COME BACK IN A COFFIN, I WANT TO SEE YOU IN ONE PIECE.

AND I USED TO HAVE THIS FEELING THAT ONE DAY THEY WERE GOING TO COME KNOCKING ON MY DOOR, AND TELL ME YOUR SON HAS DIED.

WHEN THEY TOLD ME IT WAS AN AMBUSH, IT WAS A BOMB, I WENT CRAZY YESTERDAY, I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT MY SON IS GONE.

YOU JUST WAIT FOR THAT MOMENT, AND HOPE THAT IT'S A LIE, BUT YOU KNOW THAT ITS TRUE.

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE MY BABY'S GONE.

Baghdad Car Bomb Targets U.S. Patrol: Five Wounded

August 10, 2005 AP

Military officials say five American soldiers have minor wounds after a deadly car bombing in western Baghdad wednesday.

Police say the explosion targeted a joint U-S-Iraqi patrol in the western part of the city today, killing at least seven people. The dead include three Iraqi police officers and four civilians.

At least seven other people have been hurt.

Shannon Soldier Injured By Roadside Bomb

8/10/2005 BY PATSY R. BRUMFIELD, DAILY JOURNAL

SHANNON - Sgt. Michael E. Stafford of Shannon wants everybody at his Doty Chapel Baptist Church to know he's coming home from Iraq.

Unfortunately for the 33-year-old father of two, it's because he lost his left foot when a roadside bomb blasted the convoy-leading truck he was driving there Monday.

Stafford is a part of convoy security for the 198th Company B in Booneville, the armored unit of Mississippi's 155th Combat Brigade Team.

His wife, Jessica, said she has spoken with him by telephone twice since his injury and "he's doing all right" after emergency surgery in the 86th Combat Hospital in Baghdad.

Tuesday afternoon, he was being flown for additional treatment to a U.S. military hospital in Germany, then possibly headed for the U.S.

"I don't know if I will go to Germany to meet him or if the family will meet him whenever he gets to the U.S.," she said.

When doctors told him that he had lost his left foot at the ankle, his wife said, Stafford replied, "That's OK because the Lord took it away ... just tell me when I can come home."

The Shannon High School graduate is the son of Bobby and Hilda Stafford of the Palmetto community. He works at Lauderdale-Hamilton Inc. in Shannon, which builds machines, saws and hydraulic lifts. He was the only person in his convoy to be injured in the blast.

Lumberton Family Praying For Safe Recovery Of Marine Critically Wounded: "He Didn't Feel Good About Going This Time"

8/9/2005 KBTB

To date 1,839 troops have lost their lives during the war in Iraq. A Lumberton family is lucky to not be part of that number.

A Southeast Texas family is asking for your prayers for their loved one who is critically injured while serving in Iraq. 22-year-old Lance Corporal Keith Davis is fighting for his life after being severely wounded in Baghdad last week.

Davis' sister says the family immediately began calling relatives and friends soliciting prayers. Although his sister says Keith remains in critical condition – suffering from a gunshot wound – friends serving in the prayer chain say they have not been deterred by the news.

"It went in through the abdomen and it shattered his femur," Layna Burns says as she explains her brother's wound to Hometown News Tuesday morning.

Phemia Heufelder, a family friend, told us Keith has received about 100 units of blood since his injury.

Lanya says even though her brother volunteered for his third tour in the desert, he seemed to sense danger on this mission.

"He told my mom before this trip that he didn't feel good about it," Lanya told us. "He didn't feel good about going this time."

Five Collaborator Soldiers Killed In Fallujah Car Bomb Attack; Humvee Damaged, US Casualties Not Announced

August 11, 2005 People's Daily Online

A car bomb blew up at a joint US and Iraqi forces patrol in eastern Fallujah on Wednesday, killing five Iraqi soldiers, a medical source said.

"We have received five bodies of Iraqi soldiers in the afternoon after a car bomb detonated at the joint patrol in the eastern entrance of Fallujah," the source in Fallujah Hospital told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A US Humvee and an Iraqi military vehicle were damaged in the attack, the source added.

In another development, an Iraqi journalist was shot dead by Iraqi soldiers as he was driving his car near their patrol on a main road in Fallujah, local residents said. Abdul-Qadir al-Badrani, a journalist working for the local Iraqioun Independent News Agency, was killed and another person with him was wounded, they said.

Fiji Mercenary Killed

08/10/05 fijiLive:

A Fijian security guard who died on Tuesday while on patrol in Iraq has been identified as Solomone Cabelutu, 40, of Vanuavatu Village, Totoya, Lau.

**NOT GOOD:
LETHAL ENVIRONMENT:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Bradley Hewitt, of Canal Winchester, Ohio, from Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment from Ohio, walks through a palm grove in Parwana, near Haditha, Iraq, Aug. 5, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS:

ANOTHER U.S. SOLDIER KILLED; Fifth This Week

August 10, 2005 By Daniel Lovering, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan killed a U.S. service member, and suspected Taliban rebels gunned down an Afghan woman accused of spying for the coalition, officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. military said a roadside bomb exploded Tuesday near a vehicle in eastern Ghazni province where an American unit was conducting operations to “disrupt enemy activity in the region.”

Two American troops were evacuated to the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, where one of them died of his wounds shortly after arrival — **the fifth American soldier killed in a week**. The second was in stable condition.

Afghan officials, meanwhile, reported that six militants shot and killed an unidentified woman in Zabul province’s Mizan district after bursting into her house late Tuesday.

District chief Haji Mohammed Yaunas said the militants accused the woman of giving information to American forces.

CRAWFORD TEXAS WAR REPORTS:



Day 4

[Gettysburg started the same way; a chance encounter on a dusty country road in summer that nobody had much planned for, and calls for reinforcements as the intensity grew.

[If Cindy Sheehan were in command in Iraq, the resistance would be feeling some serious pain. She has an instinct for where the enemy is weakest, and a determination to attack full out, leading by example, firing up her troops, and inspiring them to be eager to join the battle and engage the enemy.

[But Cindy Sheehan would be too honorable ever to be in command of an Imperial slaughter. Her mission is to help build a movement to end one, and end it without further delay or excuse. T]

August 9, 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Codepink4peace.org [Excerpt]

Today started at 4am when I had to get up and get ready to be on Good Morning America.

It was pouring down rain at Camp Casey. The wind was blowing and there was thunder and lightening. It was pretty exciting. The interview went very well. I haven't seen it or read a transcript.

Since it was taped, I am just wondering if they showed it when I said Bush doesn't want to see me because he likes to surround himself with "sycophants." I also interviewed with Randi Rhodes, Ed Schultz, Greta Van Susteran, and many others, and closed out the day with my pal, Mike Malloy.

The "first meeting" controversy died down a little today when my town's newspaper printed an op-ed that contradicted Matt Drudge's cherry-picked account of my first meeting with George.

But since they don't have that controversy, they apparently have been lying about other things.

Bill O'Reilly said that I am doing this because I have been bought out by, "The Arab Anti-Discrimination League." He was telling his viewers that I am a tool for the liberals and that I am a tool for the anti-war movement.

Right now, what we are doing right here in Crawford is the anti-war movement.

We have such a strong coalition of groups. GSFP, CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out and the Crawford Peace House.

I talked with John Conyers today and he wrote a letter to George signed by about 18 other Congress members to request that he meet with me. I also talked to Maxine Waters tonight and she is probably going to be here tomorrow. I am so overwhelmed by the support.

I did non-stop interviews today. 100 people came through today to visit with us. About 25 people are staying the night. More food, water, flowers, and money came through today. One father brought his 2 and 4 year old sons out to meet me and thank me for trying to save his boys from the same fate Casey suffered.

Celeste and Dante Zappala from Philadelphia and Bill Mitchell from Atascadero, Ca., all members of GSFP, came out today to support me and help me do interviews and greet all of the people who are arriving.

There is a huge action tomorrow in Aurora, Illinois. George Bush is leaving the ranch tomorrow to go to Aurora to sign a part of the energy bill at the Caterpillar factory.

True Majority has raised money to dog George Bush when he leaves the ranch.

Every time he leaves, there will be a GSFP member, MFSO members, VFP members, and Code Pink members who will protest him and say "Meet with Cindy."

We will not let him have a 5 week nice vacation when there are millions of people in harm's way in Iraq due to his careless policies. The people of Iraq and our soldiers are suffering. Why should George have a nice vacation?

Thank you for all your support and interest.

We are making a difference.

Keep up the good work.

MORE:

Reinforcements Moving On Crawford

8.10.05 Via Code Pink

Gold Star And Military Families Arriving In Strength

CRAWFORD, TX - Members of Gold Star Families for Peace and Military Families Speak Out are beginning to arrive in Crawford, Texas to add their voices to Cindy Sheehan's, calling for a meeting with President Bush and for troops to be brought home now.

The following Gold Star and Military Families Speak Out members are available for interview:

<p>Tammara Rosenleaf of Belton, Texas arrived in Crawford on Tuesday, August 9th. [The Flower Of Belton And The Rose Of Saline, as the old song goes.]Tammara's husband serves in the Army, stationed at Ft. Hood, and will be deploying to Iraq this fall.</p>
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Celeste, Dante and Raphael Zappala of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Celeste and her son Dante arrived in Crawford on Tuesday August 9; son Raphael will arrive Friday

night August 12. **Celeste's son Sgt. Sherwood Baker (Dante and Raphael's brother) was the first Pennsylvania National Guardsman to die in combat since World War II. He was killed in action in Baghdad on April 26, 2004 while searching for non-existent WMD's.** Celeste is a co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.

Lietta Ruger of Bay Center, Washington will be arriving in Crawford Wednesday morning, August 10th. **Lietta's son-in-law and nephew serve in the 1st Armored Division of the U.S. Army and are currently in Germany. They have both served extended 15-month tours of duty in Iraq; they are both under stop-loss orders and due to re-deploy to Iraq this fall.**

Linda and Phil Waste of Hinesville, Georgia will arrive in Crawford Wednesday morning August 10th. Linda and Phil have 3 sons and 2 grandchildren (a grandson and a granddaughter) who are active-duty military. Together, they have already spent a total of over 57 months on tours of duty in Iraq.

Several of these children/grandchildren are currently serving in Iraq, and have served extended and multiple deployments.

Jean Prewitt of Birmingham, Alabama will arrive in Crawford on Wednesday morning, August 10th . **Jean's son Private Kelly Prewitt was killed in action during the first few weeks of the war in Iraq, on April 6, 2003.**

Valarie Fletcher of Seymour, Missouri is driving to Crawford and arriving Wednesday evening, August 10. Valarie's son serves in the Marines and will be deploying to Iraq at the end of this month.

Sherry Bohlen of Scottsdale, Arizona is driving to Crawford and arriving on Wednesday evening, August 10. **Sherry's son serves in the Army and deployed to Iraq on June 10, 2005.**

Rebecca Bahr of Scottsdale, Arizona is driving to Crawford and arriving on Wednesday evening August 10. Rebecca's daughter serves in the Marines and is currently stateside.

Caryn Unsicker of Silvis, Illinois is driving to Crawford and arriving Wednesday evening, August 10. Caryn's son serves in the Marines, currently stateside.

Anne Sapp and her daughters Lydia (age 17) and Mary (age 8) of Billerica, Massachusetts will be arriving in Crawford on Thursday morning, August 11th. **Anne's husband/Lydia and Mary's father is a Staff Sergeant in the Massachusetts National Guard and currently serving in Iraq.**

Barbara Porchia of Camden, Arkansas will be arriving in Crawford on Thursday morning August 11th. **Barbara's son, Army Reservist Private 1st Class Jonathan Cheatham, was killed in action in Baghdad two years ago, on July 26, 2003.**

Sue Niederer of Pennington, New Jersey will be arriving in Crawford on Thursday morning August 11th. **Sue's son, 1st Lieutenant Seth Dvorin, was killed in action near Iskandariyah, Iraq on February 3, 2004. Sue is a co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.**

Kristin Williams and Matthew Williams of Dallas, Texas will be arriving in Crawford this weekend (August 13-14). Matthew Williams is an Iraq War Veteran who served as a combat medic for one year in Iraq (2003-2004). He was honorably discharged from the Army. Kristin is his sister.

Bill Mitchell of Atascadero, California will be arriving in Crawford in the next several days. **Bill's son Sgt. Michael Mitchell was killed in action in Sadr City, Iraq on April 4, 2004, along with Cindy Sheehan's son Spc. Casey Sheehan. Bill is a co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.**

Mimi Evans of Hyannis, Massachusetts will be arriving in Crawford on Tuesday, August 16th. Mimi's son serves in the Marines; **he will be deployed to Fallujah, Iraq in the next two weeks.**

Eric Blickenstaff of Portland, Oregon will be arriving in Crawford early next week. Eric's brother Spc. **Joseph Blickenstaff served in the Army and was killed when his Stryker vehicle rolled into a ditch on December 8, 2003 in Balad, Iraq.**

For more information:

**Military Families Speak Out: www.mfso.org
Gold Star Families for Peace: www.gsfp.org**

MORE:

Local Women Join War Protester

<p>"We just want to do something," she said. "We're so sick of being on the sidelines. Being busy isn't an excuse anymore."</p>
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[Thanks to D & PG, who sent this in.]

August 10, 2005 By Alex Roth, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The idea of making a spontaneous trip to President Bush's vacation ranch was born when Julie Decker read a newspaper article a couple of days ago and immediately called her good friend Tiffany Strause.

The story was about a Northern California woman whose son had been killed in Iraq and who subsequently decided to camp out in front of Bush's Texas ranch until she got a face-to-face meeting with him.

Yesterday morning, a day after reading the piece, Strause, who lives in San Marcos, and Decker, who lives in Carlsbad, were on a plane to Crawford, Texas, to join the woman in her vigil.

They intend to stay, they said, until Bush – who is on vacation at the ranch for the next five weeks – agrees to meet Cindy Sheehan of Vacaville in person.

Neither of the two women knows Sheehan, whose 24-year-old son, Casey, an Army specialist, was killed in Baghdad in April 2004. Neither has a child, much less one who has been killed in Iraq.

And neither had been active in the anti-war movement. They hadn't attended any "protests or peace rallies or anything like that," Strause said. "Both of us are very busy."

But they share with Sheehan the firm belief that the war is a colossal mistake. And when they heard about Sheehan's story, "it was like the straw that broke the camel's back," said Strause, 29, who works as a consultant in the computer industry.

"We just want to do something," she said. "We're so sick of being on the sidelines. Being busy isn't an excuse anymore."

She called the war "this generation's Vietnam."

After reading the news article, Decker, 40, a health care executive, tracked down Sheehan with her cell phone number, obtained from the Associated Press reporter who wrote the piece. Decker asked what she could do to help.

"I need bodies," replied Sheehan, who had been camping for several days in a sleeping bag not far from the president's compound.

So Decker and Strause booked a flight, packed some clothes and told the men in their lives – Decker is married and Strause is engaged – they'd be gone several weeks.

"I support you," Strause's fiancé told her. "I'll take care of the dogs. You just go."

The women landed in Texas yesterday afternoon, rented a car and headed to Crawford, where they intend to stay in a hotel near where Sheehan is camping out. A half-dozen other people had already arrived to camp alongside her.

Decker and Strause say they expect to stay the full five weeks that Bush is on vacation. They both said they expect to suffer financially. Strause and her fiancé recently bought a house and "our credit card bills are chock-full right now."

"It'll be a crunch," she said. "I'm not a trust-fund baby or anything like that."

But they took along computers and cell phones so they can get some work done when they're not standing outside Bush's vacation home.

"We brought enough clothes for a week and we're going to keep going to the Laundromat," Strause said.

MORE:

“These Things Sometimes Have A Way Of Steamrolling”

[Thanks to DB, at the Smedley Butler Society, who sent in the following items.]

August 10, 2005 Baltimore Sun

You know, these things sometimes have a way of steamrolling.

An angry mother waiting by a dusty Texas highway to talk to the most powerful man on Earth is a powerful image, one that is gaining the attention of media worldwide.

Other military families -- including other mothers of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq -- yesterday were said to be on their way to join Mrs. Sheehan.

MORE:

“She Is His Worst Nightmare”

August 10, 2005 by Dr. Teresa Whitehurst, Anti-War.com

Do the Bushes feel the earth tremble beneath their feet at the mere thought that thousands of parents of slain soldiers are beginning to ask questions, to see the folly for which their children died; to find their voice?

Cindy remembers the little picture, which is why George has been hiding from her.

She is his worst nightmare, for she is not just Cindy Sheehan, mother of Casey. She is Every Mother.

And, no matter how uncomfortable it gets, she's not going to dishonor her son by saying, "Well okay, if you say so, I guess this war was worth my boy's life."

MORE:

“I Can Still See The Protests In The Streets”

Aug 10, 2005 By Political Satirist Chris Davis, Nationalledger.com

"What you're seeing with that mom trying to meet with President Bush is echoes of Vietnam," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-CA. "Because no one is seeing the light at the

end of the tunnel. I can still see the protests in the streets. God it was beautiful!
You go girl!"

MORE:

“A Rare Drama Which Has The White House In A Bind”

August 11, 2005 By David McCreynolds [Excerpt]

The Cindy Sheehan vigil at Crawford Texas had touched something in the public mind. Yes, these are the "dog days of August when the press is desperate for news"

But it is also coming at a moment when American deaths in Iraqi are edging toward 2000 and public dismay with Bush has sharply increased.

This is a rare drama which has the White House in a bind.

Already two high ranking officials have come out to talk to Cindy, but she is holding firm to see the President. Meanwhile other parents who have lost children are driving to Crawford to join Cindy.

This may not be the straw that can break the back of this obscene camel - but it is coming at an urgent moment in the growing national awareness that Bush's Iraq adventure has turned sour beyond redemption.

Peace,
David McReynolds

MORE:

Lubbock Vietnam Vet Comes To Crawford: Says “The White House Operation Is A Mob Operation”

8.8.05 By Nathan Diebenow, The Lone Star Iconoclast

Vietnam veteran Jim Waters, not affiliated with any activist group, said that he drove overnight from Lubbock alone in support of Sheehan and the Gold Star Families for Peace because he is “very concerned” about the war in Iraq and wants to ask President Bush, “Why aren’t his daughters there?”

“One of the principles of leadership is you don’t ask people to do what you yourself don’t have the courage to do, and [President Bush] is asking people to fight to their deaths when he himself and most of the architects of this war never served,” said Waters, a retired Navy commander and former hospital administrator.

“(President Bush) served, but he jumped over 10,000 people to get into the National Guard Champagne Unit, so he could avoid duty in Vietnam. I had to go to Vietnam, and now he’s sending them to their deaths — over 1,800 so far.

“I’m sick and tired of what’s happening to our country,” he continued.

“To me it’s almost like the White House operation is a mob operation. These guys are scary, and they’re dangerous, in my opinion.” [That makes them the bad guys. Not the Iraqis. Them.]

MORE:

Cindy Sheehan Digs In

It must be strange for President Bush, a man who has cultivated the flinty eyed look of a no nonsense Texas lawman with assiduity of a Hollywood actor, to be frightened of meeting with a forty eight year old woman who's spent the last few days crawling through a ditch.

August 10, 2005 by Chuch Terzella, Unconfirmed Sources.com

As most of America already knows, Cindy Sheehan, mother of slain Army Specialist Casey Sheehan who was killed in the Sadr City section of Baghdad in April of 2004 has been holding vigil under the blazing Texas sun since Saturday, August 6th demanding to meet with the President of the United States.

Anyone who's watched the news has seen Ms. Sheehan, a sweet looking forty eight year old with friendly eyes who you wouldn't remark on if you were to pass her in the supermarket or mall. But apparently, according to some Texas state officials, Ms. Sheehan represents a Clear and Present Danger to George W. Bush.

Texas station KHOU is reporting that officials have informed Ms. Sheehan that if she doesn't leave by Thursday, August 9th, she will be considered to be a "Threat to the President."

Since Mr. Bush is apparently too afraid to let Ms. Sheehan get within five miles of him it is difficult to assess her actual ability to cause the President any real harm.

There is however, one possibility: President Bush had been planning to stroll down the roadside ditch that County Sheriff Kenneth Vanek forced Ms. Sheehan and her friends into on Saturday and is worried Ms. Sheehan will scratch him with a tumbleweed.

Those things can really hurt.

Camp Casey, as Ms. Sheehan's headquarters is known, is preparing for a full blown assault by Texas authorities who in addition to preparing to arrest Ms. Sheehan are also quite frankly preparing to look like complete idiots in the eyes of the country and the world as they handcuff this Gold Star Mother and haul her off to the hoosegow. But, being Texas Republicans, it is assumed that they have already had substantial practice at this.

It must be strange for President Bush, a man who has cultivated the flinty eyed look of a no nonsense Texas lawman with assiduity of a Hollywood actor, to be frightened of meeting with a forty eight year old woman who's spent the last few days crawling through a ditch.

But that seems to be the only explanation. Of course, he just might have a summer cold and his reason for avoiding Ms. Sheehan is to make sure she doesn't get the sniffles. A Noble Cause indeed.

MORE:

Emergency Rally In Support Of Cindy Sheehan

From: Jeff Paterson
August 11, 2005

**U.S. Troops Out of Iraq Now!
Friday, August 12 at 5 PM
Powell Street BART (Powell and Market Streets), San Francisco**

Last week, Gold Star Families for Peace co-founder Cindy Sheehan traveled to Crawford, Texas to pay a visit to George Bush at his vacation ranch. Cindy's son Casey was killed in action in Iraq on April 4th, 2004. Cindy is currently camped on the side of a road a few miles from the ranch and plans to stay until Bush "tells me why my son died in Iraq. I've got the whole month of August off, and so does he."

Cindy has been informed that on Thursday, she and her companions will be arrested if they do not leave, as they would reportedly be considered a "national security threat" as Rice and Rumsfeld plan to visit the ranch on Friday.

Support Cindy!
<http://www.meetwithcindy.org>

Action initiated and supported by

Not in Our Name
CodePink

Global Exchange
Veterans for Peace, SF Bay Area Chapter 69
Courage to Resist
Bay Area United Against War

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TROOP NEWS

Town Rallies For Courageous, Wounded Soldier

August 10, 2005 By KILEY MILLER, The Hawk Eye

SALEM — Sandy Briggs is hushed on the phone, as if her son sleeps in the next room, instead of lying in a hospital bed. Tears rattle behind her words, dammed by will — or fatigue.

She speaks proudly of her daughter-in-law and grandchildren. "They're doing exceptionally well, considering what they've been through."

And she is honest about her own household: "Almost crazy, but with God's help, we'll get through it."

Most of all, Sandy Briggs praises her son; his courage, his resolve, his sacrifice.

Sgt. Robert Briggs, a soldier in the 224th Engineer Battalion, was hit by shrapnel from an artillery round April 16 at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

Surgeons took one of his eyes. The other is partially blind.

Head trauma paralyzed his left side. Metal litters his body.

This Saturday, the people of Salem will have a benefit concert and auction for Briggs and his family. This is his adopted hometown, after all. Or very nearly — Hillsboro might be a tad closer.

And folks here respect him.

"He's a soldier. He's a hero. He's a neighbor," said Rosalee Boeker, who lives just down the road from the Briggs home and organized the fund-raiser. "I just love him."

The event starts at 4 p.m. in City Park and lasts ... well, 'til it's over. Performers include former Nashville recording artist Gene Mills with the Country Gold Band and about a dozen other acts.

Area businesses donated to the auction. And Boeker and other friends of the family are selling raffle tickets.

Helping out with that sale are the men at the Iowa Department of Transportation maintenance shed in Mount Pleasant where Briggs worked as an equipment operator.

"He's an outgoing fellow," said Jeff Arbogast, a fellow operator. "He's bound and determined to get better."

Few details have been released about the day Briggs was hurt. Officers in the 224th Engineer Battalion deferred all questions to his wife, who could not be reached for this story.

Three men from another unit were killed at Camp Ramadi in the same attack, and two of Briggs' fellow soldiers in Company C were injured.

"At 8:40 p.m. several rockets were randomly fired from afar," Lt. Col. Todd Jacobus, the 224th commander, wrote in a battalion newsletter a few days later. "Two of them hit targets. One of them took the lives of three artillerymen, and critically injured a fourth. Another detonated between the buildings occupied by our Charlie Company soldiers, injuring three, and resulting in the evacuation of two of these three soldiers."

Briggs, who was then a specialist, was taken to Germany and then to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

An operation removed part of his skull. Now he wears a helmet to get out of bed.

"He basically has to learn to walk again," Sandy Briggs said from her home in Keokuk. "He's trying to feed himself, trying to use his arm and put weight on his left side, trying to strengthen his body."

Briggs is enduring physical therapy in Minneapolis. His wife, Michelle, has been gone from home much of the last four months to be at his side.

That has torn her away from the pet grooming and boarding business she runs from their home. And travel expenses are mounting.

Robert and Michelle have two children, Ashlea, 5, and Cody, 1.

Sandy Briggs thanked people in Salem for rallying behind her son. She called the fundraiser "wonderful."

Briggs is slowly getting up and around. And he defies any suggestions he won't get better. "They told him at Walter Reed to expect to get 80 percent use back in his left side," Sandy Briggs said. "He said, 'No, I'm going to get 100 percent.' "

A symbolic step in that recovery comes Saturday. Just four months after being wounded in Iraq, Sgt. Robert Briggs is coming home for the fund-raiser in his honor.

"He's going to be there," Sandy Briggs said.

Suddenly, her voice sounded stronger.

“Mark Didn't Go To Iraq To Free Iraqis”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Aug. 9 2005 By Bill Gallagher, Niagara Falls Reporter [Excerpt]

An argument over a memorial in Shelby Township, Mich., underscores the torn feelings over Bush's Iraq adventure.

Last October, a roadside bomb exploded and took the life of U.S. Army Pfc. Mark Barbret of Shelby. A veterans' group wanted Barbret's name inscribed on a new monument to honor those who died in the Global War on Terrorism, noting his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Angie Barbret, the 21-year-old soldier's mother, told the Detroit News that she only wants her son's memory honored, but said, "I know this: Mark didn't go to Iraq to free Iraqis, he went because his country called him to war."

Peace activists joined in the debate, arguing that tying Iraq to terrorism is dishonest.

Kim Bergier from the Cranbrook Peace Foundation said, "I don't think the war in Iraq should be called the war on terrorism. Saddam Hussein did not have any part to play in causing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks."

Frank O'Donnell from Peace Action Michigan lashed out at the Bushvik "bumper sticker phrases." Noting the bloody obvious, he said, "I have no problem calling it what it is -- a war. There was an invasion. There are bombs. There are soldiers. That's a war."

It tells us much about the times we are living in when such a debate even occurs. The town board, after much discussion, finally agreed to honor Pfc. Barbret under the new veterans' memorial category named simply Iraq.

They left plenty of room for more names.

Really Shitty News: Pentagon Says Troops Will Be Kept In Iraq “Longer Than Planned”

August 9, 2005 Japan Today

Lawrence DiRita, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said it is more likely that units already in Iraq would be kept longer than planned, which would temporarily swell the size of force in the country.

He added that units in Iraq have been warned by their commanders to expect to stay in Iraq as long as a full year, even if they had been scheduled to return home sooner.

He said *no "wide-scale" deviation* from the Pentagon's policy of limiting deployments to 12 months was under consideration, *although there might be exceptions to the policy*. [He just said they're going to keep them in the slaughterhouse longer than 12 months.]

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)

2,172 More Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

August 10, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 817-05

This week, the Army and Navy announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Air Force and Marine Corps number decreased and the Coast Guard number remained the same.

The net collective result is 2,172 more reservists mobilized than last week.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

10/08/2005 (AFP) & CBS & AP & Reuters

Police said four civilians and two policemen were killed and two police were wounded when a car bomber blew up in front of a police patrol in Baghdad's Al-Gazalia neighborhood Wednesday afternoon.

Two Iraqi soldiers and two civilians were killed in the town of Kashifa, 150 kilometers (93 miles) north of the capital when a joint US-Iraqi patrol was hit by a roadside bomb, police said.

One Iraqi traffic policeman was killed and seven people were wounded when a mortar shell slammed into a central Baghdad square, an interior ministry official said. A second policeman was among those hurt.

Guerrillas attacked a checkpoint manned by Iraqi army and police near Baiji, killing four soldiers and wounding four, including a civilian, police said.

A policeman was killed down in Kirkuk.

Guerrillas captured a senior Iraqi Interior Ministry official Wednesday as he drove his car in central Baghdad, police said.

The kidnapping occurred in Baghdad's Andalus Square when the militants stopped Brig. Gen. Khudayer Abbas, who heads the administrative affairs office at the Interior Ministry.

Police Maj. Abbas Mohammed Salman said Abbas was forced into another vehicle that sped away.

Late Tuesday, gunmen killed an Iraqi Cabinet employee, Abbas Ibrahim Mohammed, in Baghdad.

Police brigadier Khudhur Abbas al-Salih was kidnapped when he left his house in the capital's northern district of Raghiba Khatoun.

A police source said there were two policemen dead in Mosul. They were shot while heading to work.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Domestic Enemies

Aug. 1, 2005 WE ARE THE MEDIA, By Jeff Norman

At a U.S. Tour of Duty event in Venice, California last night, Iraq veteran Jeff Key explained the obligation of U.S. service members to fight "domestic enemies," and why the American masters of war should be categorized as such. Aug. 1, 2005 WE ARE THE MEDIA, By Jeff Norman

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.

Stranded In Samawah: This Miserable Imperial Fiasco!

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: August 10, 2005
Subject: stranded in samawah

News item, 8/10/05:

"The mayor of Samawah, a southern Shiite city gripped by riots over lack of municipal services, resigned under pressure. The decision came Monday during a visit by delegates sent by the prime minister, according to Sheik Mohannad al-Gharrawi.

"About 750 Japanese troops are based in Samawah, 230 miles southeast of Baghdad."

What in fuck's name are these Japanese grunts doing in Samawah?

Officially, they're helping Iraqis.

In fact they're merely playing sitting ducks for their much despised prime minister, Bush's cocker spaniel Koizumi. Bring them home now, along with all the other troops stuck in this miserable imperial fiasco!

Solidarity,
Z

“IT'S YOUR BOY (OR GIRL) THAT MATTERS”

August 10, 2005 Via Don Bacon, Smedley Butler Society

“The Government declares war. To say helplessly: As individuals we have nothing to do with it, can't prevent it. But WHO ARE WE?”

“Well, ‘WE’ right now are the mothers and fathers of every able-bodied boy of military age in the United States.

‘WE’ are also you young men of voting age and over, that they'll use for cannonfodder. And ‘WE’ can prevent it. Now--you MOTHERS, particularly.

“The only way you can resist all this war hysteria and beating tomtoms is by hanging onto the love you bear your boys. When you listen to some well-worded, well-delivered speech, just remember that it's nothing but Sound. It's your boy that matters. And no amount of sound can make up to you for the loss of your boy.”

Smedley D. Butler, Major General
United States Marine Corps, 1935
Double recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor

OCCUPATION REPORT

So Much For That “Sovereignty” Bullshit: US Command Hinders Return Of Syrian Trucks At Iraqi Border

<p>The Iraqi side did not give any clear reason for the detention and blamed the US troops which are controlling the Iraqi border exits, he said.</p>

August 10, 2005 People's Daily Online

The US troops had purposely hindered the return of about 700 to 800 empty Syrian trucks at the Iraqi side of a border crossing with no clear reasons, the official Syria Times newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The Syrian truck drivers were made to wait at the Iraqi customs yards at the Yaaroubiya border crossing for a long time that may extend to three weeks without reasons, the paper said.

Director of Syria's Hassaka customs, Shihada Hussein, confirmed the report following a meeting with commander of the Iraqi Rabeea border complex.

The Iraqi side did not give any clear reason for the detention and blamed the US troops which are controlling the Iraqi border exits, he said.

Hussein expressed surprise that the loaded Syrian trucks entered Iraq and unloaded only within one or two days, but that the empty trucks needs 20 days to return home.

He added that the drivers were under hard circumstances without any contact with the outside world.

"The drivers may be prevented from buying food and drinks while waiting to be allowed to pass through the border," a driver named Abdul-Razzak Saffan was quoted as saying.

This is the first time the Syrian side reported such harassment at borders with Iraq.

“We Got Them Before, In Saddam's Time”

Aug 10, 2005 (Reuters)

Not all Iraqis involved in reconstruction are so enthusiastic about the U.S.-fostered transfer of knowledge to a country that was proud of how it rebuilt itself during the period of U.N. sanctions after the 1991 Gulf war.

With McCoy and his team looking on, an Iraqi army officer overseeing new recruits training in the use of bulldozers bought from Japan bristled at the idea that Iraqis did not know how to operate them.

"It's just the new generation that doesn't know how to use these, but we have experts from the old army who can teach them," he says.

"And these bulldozers aren't new. We got them before, in Saddam's time."

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



An Iraqi man raises his arms as an unidentified U.S. soldier of the army infantry from the Stryker brigade enters his house during a patrol in Mosul July 26, 2005.
REUTERS/Andrea Comas

There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force bearing lethal weapons to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?

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

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