

GI SPECIAL 3C2:



“I Don't Deserve A Medal For Being Non-Violent”

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: July 21, 2005 6:05 PM
Subject: I don't deserve a medal for being non-violent

I sent this piece to my Veterans For Peace group, because I needed to put things in perspective for myself.

I believe most Vets know the horror of war; unfortunately, popcorn warriors living in America have no clue. What they know about war, you could stick in a thimble.

The war in Iraq is a prime example.

And, the worst popcorn warrior lives in the White House. "Grand Theft Auto," is alive and ill in Washington, D.C.

Peacemakers are the last line of defense in America.

*Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran*

Subject: "I Don't Deserve A Medal For Being Non-Violent"

It is so much easier being a pacifist, and a person of non-violence living in America.

Plenty to eat, clean water, clean sheets, electricity, decent health care for most of us.

No death squads, nobody bombing us, nobody robbing us at gun point by criminals living in Baghdad, nobody using toxic chemicals on us, etc., etc., etc.

Now, if you live in Iraq, most of these threats are very real, and most of these amenities do not exist. Before the war in Iraq is over, there will be more people suffering from PTSD in Iraq, than live in the entire Pacific Northwest, and you could throw in several other low population states.

So, if you are an Iraqi man who has seen his entire family blown to pieces by an Apache helicopter, you might imagine him wanting to kill someone.

I wonder how we would react if this happened to our family?

I do not advocate violence, but it is much easier being non-violent living in America.

I'm non-violent, ONLY because I do not live in Iraq.

And that, might be the only thing that separates me from being a raging bull.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
July 21, 2005

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four 48th Soldiers Killed In IED Attack; Two Wounded

07/25/05 RomeNT

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – Four soldiers were killed Sunday by a roadside bomb in the deadliest attack on the 48th Brigade Combat Team since its mobilization. A fifth soldier was injured in the blast and, as of Monday morning, was being treated at a military hospital in Baghdad.

At about 7:30 p.m. Sunday, brigade infantry units were conducting a regular patrol on Route Aeros, when the roadside bomb exploded onto a Humvee truck in the convoy. The soldiers were taken to 86th Combat Support Hospital, where they were pronounced dead, Owens said.

A second bomb exploded onto a team of investigators that was working at the site later Sunday. One soldier not affiliated with the brigade was injured in that blast and was being treated Monday at the Baghdad military hospital.

The 48th brigade is responsible for the security of an area southwest of the Iraqi capital, and infantry units handle much of the necessary patrolling. Route Aeros, the main east-west thoroughfare south of Camp Striker, also is known by soldiers as "IED Alley," because so many improvised explosive devices have been detonated along it.

Since arriving in Iraq, 61 members of the brigade have been wounded in action and, with this attack, five soldiers have died.

TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED NEAR SAMARRA

July 25, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
Release Number: 05-07-18C

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed July 25 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a combat patrol near Samarra in Salah Ad Din Province.

Soldier Who Grew Up In Missouri Killed; Trapped When IED Flips Tank



7/24/2005 (KSDK)

An Army Ranger who spent part of his childhood in St. Francois County was killed Sunday while serving in Iraq.

Ernest Dallas, Junior, 21, was an Army Ranger. He lived in Desloge until he was seven. He then moved to Texas with his mother and siblings after his parents divorced.

Ernie, as he's called by family and friends, was deployed to Iraq March 1. His father, Ernest Dallas, Senior says his son was trained as a humvee driver. But for some reason, around 9:00 Iraq time Sunday morning, he was in a tank.

Ernest Dallas Senior says, "They hit a roadside bomb and flipped and they were trapped inside and the ammunition went off in the tank and I can't understand that."

The family expects to hear more about the return of their son's body on Monday.

They plan to bury him near Dallas, Texas.

NC-Based Marine Killed By Roadside Bomb

7/25/2005 Associated Press

Moorhead, MN -- A North Carolina-based Marine was killed in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded, a military official said Sunday.

Sgt. Bryan James Opskar, 32, of Moorhead was killed Saturday, Capt. Christopher Stegge of the Marine's Minneapolis office told The Forum of Fargo.

Opskar was born in Princeton, where he graduated from high school in 1991. After taking time off from school to play US Junior League hockey, he attended Concordia College and played on the Cobber hockey team in 1993 and 1994.

He enlisted in the Marines in 1998 and signed up for another four-year stint a few years ago and had commanded a light armament vehicle. He was married to Leandra Dougherty of Fargo.

Opskar's father, Erling Opskar, told the newspaper Sunday that the family was not ready to talk to the media.

Stegge said he didn't know when the body would be returned to the United States. A funeral will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, though no date was immediately set.

Opskar was with the Second Marine Division out of Camp Lejeune, NC.

ENVIRONMENT DISTINCTLY NON-SALUBRIOUS: TIME TO COME HOME, NOW



U.S. Sergeant Benjamin Harworth of the army infantry from the Stryker brigade looks round a corner during a patrol in Mosul, in northern Iraq July 25. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Six U.S. Troops Wounded In Resistance Ambush

July 25, 2005 Associated Press, KABUL, Afghanistan & NY Times

A roadside bomb wounded six American troops in the same mountainous area where a commando team was ambushed and a special operations helicopter shot down last month, the U.S. military said Monday.

Militants opened fire at the U.S. convoy after the blast Sunday in Kunar province's Asadabad district, prompting U.S. forces to launch air strikes and artillery fire against suspected enemy positions, a U.S. military statement said.

It was not immediately known whether any enemy fighters were killed or wounded, it said.

The wounded U.S. troops were in stable condition after being taken to an airfield in nearby Parwan province for medical treatment.

Meanwhile on Monday in the Afghan capital, Kabul, a small bomb exploded at a police checkpoint, injuring two officers and a passer-by and damaging a U.N. vehicle, police said.

The blast occurred on a road near Kabul's airport shortly after dawn, said police Gen. Mabob Amiri. The wounded were taken to a hospital.

A bomb exploded on a main road in Kabul, critically wounding three Afghan policemen at an improvised checkpoint

The bomb went off as the U.N. vehicle passed the checkpoint, shattering the car's windows. The Afghan driver was unhurt.

Elsewhere, in eastern Khost province, a pro-government Muslim cleric was wounded after a bomb buried outside his home exploded as he emerged from the house, said provincial intelligence chief Saviq Paraghail.

The attack came a day after the Islamic leader gave a radio interview in which he condemned the Taliban.



A U.N. vehicle is reflected on its broken rear mirror as Afghan police (L) secure the scene of a blast site in Kabul, Afghanistan July 25, 2005. A bomb exploded on a key road in Kabul on Monday wounding three policemen at an improvised police checkpoint in a disused shipping container, a police official said. Photo by Ahmad Masood/Reuters

TROOP NEWS

“Defenceless”

[This is a message from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: July 24, 2005
Subject: defenceless

BRITISH TROOPS FEAR THEIR LIVES ARE BEING PUT AT RISK IN IRAQ, BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF VITAL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WICH CAN PREVENT ATTACKS BY ROADSIDE BOMBS.

THE BOX LIKE CONTRAPTIONS MEASURES (ECM) JAM SIGNALS SENT BY TERRORISTS TO DETONATE DEVICES BY REMOTE CONTROL.

BUT DESPITE FIVE DEATHS BY EXPLOSIONS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS, TROOPS STILL COMPLAIN THAT THEY ARE STRUGGLING WITH A LACK OF LIFE ,SAVING KIT,

THE SCANDAL COMES JUST OVER ONE YEAR AFTER FUSILIER GORDON GENTLE, WAS KILLED, IN BASRA, BY A BOMB EXPLODING NEXT TO HIS ARMOURED LAND ROVER,

IT EMERGED WEEKS LATER THAT THE 19 YEAR OLD VEHICLE... HAD NOT BEEN CARRYING ECM, DISPITE ITS ROUTE TAKING HIM DOWN A STREET DUBBED BOMB ALLEY.

FEUSILIER, GENTLE'S MUM ROSE OF GLASGOW, SAID YESTERDAY THEY'RE STILL PLAYING RUSSIAN ROULETTE. WITH SOLDIERS LIVES, HOW MANY MORE MEN WILL BE KILLIED, BEFORE SOMETHING'S DONE ABOUT THIS.

BY THE SUNDAY MIRROR.

WELL DONE, BECAUSE THE MOD, HAVE
PUT A GAG ON
ME NOT TO SAY, ANYTHING ABOUT THE EQUIPMENT
THE TROOPS DONT HAVE,
ROSE GENTLE,

Talk About Stupid! Army Caught Faking Quotes From Occupation-Loving Iraqis

[Thanks to DB, Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in. He points out: News release quotes from unidentified Iraqis are virtually the same.]

July 24, 2005 (CNN)

The U.S. military on Sunday said it was looking into how virtually identical quotations ended up in two of its news releases about different insurgent attacks.

Following a car bombing in Baghdad on Sunday, the U.S. military issued a statement with a quotation attributed to an unidentified Iraqi that was virtually identical to a quote reacting to an attack on July 13.

Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, spokesman for the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said use of the quote was an "administrative error." He said the military was looking into the matter.

Following are the two quotes as provided by the U.S. military in news releases:

Sunday's news release said: "The terrorists are attacking the infrastructure, the ISF and all of Iraq. They are enemies of humanity without religion or any sort of ethics. They have attacked my community today and I will now take the fight to the terrorists,' said one Iraqi man who preferred not to be identified."

The July 13 news release said: "The terrorists are attacking the infrastructure, the children and all of Iraq,' said one Iraqi man who preferred not to be identified. 'They are enemies of humanity without religion or any sort of ethics. They have attacked my community today and I will now take the fight to the terrorists.'"

[Time for a new one. How about: "I love President George W. Bush, and fall on my knees to thank him for my freedom. I want him to have all our oil, as an expression of thanks. The terrorist evildoers are in the last throes. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Saigon will never fall to the enemy," said one Iraqi man, who preferred not to be identified.]

A Marine's Battle For Survival

July 25, 2005 By Amy Karpinsky, Herald-Standard

A Jan. 26 mission to capture a group of insurgents who were reportedly inside a home on the edge of the town of Haditha, Iraq, turned into a battle for survival for a group of U.S. Marines.

When the battle was over, four Marines were dead and Richeyville native Sgt. William Meyers, 27, received injuries that will likely leave permanent scars.

For Meyers' parents, Bill and Debbie Meyers of Richeyville, Jan. 26 is a day that they won't ever forget. For their only son, it is a day that he was ambushed and injured and ended up in a battle for his life.

Meyers' unit, the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion attached to the 1-23 Infantry unit out of Texas, was stationed in Haditha, northwest of Fallujah. Last August, the unit began its mission in Iraq.

The unit lived in a dam at Haditha and their job was to patrol a 1,000 square-mile area, clearing bombs and mines and running patrols while searching for insurgents in an area called the Suni Triangle. They carried out missions with the Special Forces.

On Jan. 26, Meyers said their target was a two-level house on the edge of the town of Haditha. He gave an account of the day's events to be included in an internal publication at Ferguson Corp. HVAC, where he works at in Charlotte, N.C., as outside sales manager.

"We were supposed to go in and capture 10 insurgents who were supposed to be hiding out there. Our time on target was 3 a.m. I was in charge of the assault team that was to go in, grab the bad guys and get out," Meyers said.

Debbie Meyers said the information the unit had received was a setup. When they arrived at the home, "nobody was there," she said.

On the way back to the base, the ambush began.

"We moved about 100 meters when the first vehicle, an armored LAV (light armored vehicle), was hit with a roadside bomb on each side of it," Meyers said. "At that time, we were ambushed by about 30 to 60 insurgents with (RPGs) rocket propelled grenades, small arms and heavy machine guns. We were in a firefight with them for about 20 to 30 minutes. During the firefight, I was shot in the right shoulder, but didn't realize it until later," Meyers said.

Meyers was hit with shrapnel in his arm, leg and shoulder but he didn't become aware of that until later. Debbie Meyers said her son said there were "bullets flying everywhere."

"We started to regroup and come back in. We had driven a few hundred meters when my HUMVEE was hit with an RPG. The blast blew my goggles off my face and threw me almost over onto the driver. The rocket landed in the back of my vehicle where eight of my Marines were seated. The blast killed one instantly and three more died soon thereafter. Three more of my Marines in the back were also hit," Meyers said.

Debbie Meyers said her son had told her prior to the ambush that he kept praying that he would bring every one of his men home. "But it just wasn't meant to be," she said.

After the ambush, the convoy searched for a secure area to call for an air medivac. "When we stopped, I got out and went to the rear of the vehicle to check on my guys,

We couldn't get a helicopter to come in and take the wounded out soon enough, so we had to drive 30 minutes to our base at Haditha Dam," Meyers said.

"When we finally got there, someone told me that I had been hit, so I went into the aid station. They found that I had been hit with shrapnel in the knee, calf, thigh, elbow, forearm, tricep and shot in the shoulder. The blast also blew my eardrum," Meyers said.

He was taken to Germany for initial treatment and later transferred to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md. He has since recovered from his injuries. "Not one bone or artery. Not a vital organ was hit," Debbie Meyers said. "There's a time for you to be born and a time to die. It evidently wasn't his time."

Back in Pennsylvania, Debbie Meyers answered the telephone on Jan. 26 while she and her husband were eating dinner. After handing the telephone over to her husband,

Debbie Meyers said the concern in her husband's voice initially led her to believe that her husband's brother was hurt. "But when he said 'Capt. Jamie Wagner' I couldn't even hold the pen, I thought, this is Bill," Debbie Meyers said.

Initially, Debbie Meyers said all she knew was that her son was alive and had suffered multiple gunshot wounds to his arms and legs. "You don't know anything," she said, adding that she didn't know if her son even had arms or legs.

That quickly changed, when the Meyers received e-mail that included pictures of their son in a German hospital. A German woman who worked for the USO and had received word from a relative via a prayer chain took the pictures.

"We saw that he was OK. He was mad that they called us and let us know," Debbie Meyers said.

Meyers six years of reserve duty will end in November and he has promised his wife his military career will end then as well.

“Most Definitely Time To Go Home”

[Thanks to CS, who sent this in. He writes: Is this the only way to be safe in Irak?!...most definitely time to go home...]



The 23-ton Buffalo is the most recent piece of equipment Operation Iraqi Freedom soldiers have to defeat improvised explosive devices. It is a heavily-armored vehicle designed for route clearance, giving patrols a closer look at suspected improvised explosive devices. U.S. Army photo. From Defend America.

Jane Fonda To Support Anti-War Troops On Bus Tour



Jane Fonda (Anti-Vietnam War Days)

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

Jul. 25, 2005 Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. - Actress and activist Jane Fonda says she intends to take a cross-country bus tour to call for an end to U.S. military operations in Iraq.

"I can't go into any detail except to say that it's going to be pretty exciting," she said.

Fonda said her anti-war tour in March will use a bus that runs on "vegetable oil."

She will be joined by families of Iraq war veterans and her daughter.

Prompted by a question from the audience, Fonda said war veterans that she has met on a nationwide book tour have encouraged her to break her silence on the Iraq war.

"I've decided I'm coming out," she said.

Hundreds of people in the audience cheered loudly when Fonda announced her intentions to join the anti-Iraq war movement.

"I have not taken a stand on any war since Vietnam," she said. "I carry a lot of baggage from that."

Fonda incited controversy in July 1972 when she was photographed sitting on a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun while on a tour of the country to drum up support to end the war.

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.

New Uniforms For Shit

July 18, 2005 Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Soldiers in the 48th Brigade Combat Team were thrilled to be the first to march off to war wearing the Army's new mint-green, digital camouflage uniforms.

But after almost two months in the sands of Iraq, Georgia Guard soldiers say the seams wear out first, followed by the material in the seats.

In addition, the Velcro used to affix rank insignias, name tags and unit patches creates problems because it gets clogged with sand.

Pentagon Helping Corporate Cheats Rip Off Troops: "Open Season For These Financial Predators"

July 25, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

The Defense Department continues to have problems protecting service members from the reach of unscrupulous salesmen peddling life insurance and investment products, according to a new report from a congressional watchdog agency.

The Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, reported June 30 that military members, particularly young and financially uneducated enlisted personnel, are being placed in the clutches of sales agents under the pretense of attending mandatory financial management classes, which the Pentagon identified in 1999 and 2000 investigations as activity that should be prohibited.

The report, issued on the heels of House passage of a military financial protection bill, also found that sales agents are still allowed, in violation of military policy, to submit allotments to dock the pay of active-duty troops for regular monthly payments of life insurance premiums.

Only service members or their direct legal representatives are supposed to submit allotment forms to finance offices. But a loophole in which forms can be submitted by mail so that the sender is unknown — and the fact that many sales agents are veterans who know their way around military rules — has allowed this policy to be subverted, the report said.

The GAO said defense officials have not done enough to discourage these practices.

And new Pentagon regulations do not go far enough either, said Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee that has been looking into problems with military pay and personnel policies.

Davis specifically cited the Pentagon's inability to track how often agents violate rules meant to protect service members and its failure to report all violations to state insurance regulators.

That did not satisfy Davis. "I find it unfathomable that the Department of Defense would choose not to work with state regulators to crack down on those who may be trying to defraud our men and women in uniform," he said.

"Until DoD takes this issue seriously, it will continue to be open season for these financial predators."

The Defense Department also is trying to balance service members' access to the payroll system with safeguards to prevent unauthorized allotments from being submitted.

One idea being considered is to allow troops to submit allotment forms by mail or have someone else drop them off at the finance office, but require the member to be contacted before the allotment is processed.

Pentagon Union Busters At It AGAIN

July 19, 2005 Washington Post

The Bush administration wants to abolish the General Schedule pay system by 2010 and require that at least part of every pay raise for the government's 1.8 million civilian employees hinge on an annual performance evaluation.

Federal employee unions say that the changes would undermine employee rights and strengthen the hand of political appointees.

Navy Brass Defy Inspection Board: Accept Delivery Of Worthless Piece Of Shit: Who Got The Bribes, And How Much?

July 21, 2005 Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

The Navy quietly accepted delivery of the amphibious ship San Antonio despite a highly critical report earlier this month from its own inspection board warning not to do so until significant problems were fixed or waived by the chief of naval operations.

On July 8 a Navy inspection board report said the ship was plagued by bad wiring, inadequate ventilation, corrosion, safety deficiencies throughout and "poor construction and craftsmanship standards."

“They Can't Clone Or Borrow Soldiers To Float An Imperial Army”

The fact is, the U.S. Army has substantially shrunk since the Cold War ended 15 years ago—to the point where it simply cannot fulfill the Bush administration's global dreams.

They can print or borrow money to float the national debt. They can't clone or borrow soldiers to float an imperial army.

June 30, 2005 Fred Kaplan, Slate

As we're often told, 1 million men and women serve in the U.S. Army. So, why is it such a strain to keep a mere 150,000 in Iraq? What are the other 850,000 doing? Why can't some of them be sent there, too? And if they really can't be spared from their current tasks, what broader inferences can be drawn about America's military policy? Should we bring back the draft to provide more boots on the ground—or, alternatively, scale back our global ambitions so fewer boots will be needed?

First, let's look at those million soldiers. Who are they? The Web site GlobalSecurity.org has a pie chart breaking them down into categories.

It turns out that fewer than 40 percent of them—391,460—are combat soldiers. And fewer than 40 percent of those combat soldiers—149,406—are members of the active armed forces. (The rest are in the National Guard and Army Reserve.)

The others are support and logistics troops—50,252 in transportation, 37,763 in medical, 34,270 in the training and doctrine command, and so forth. The distinctions are not ironclad. Transportation soldiers, for example, get shot at and shoot back. Still, however you define it, a strikingly small percentage of the million-man Army consists of active soldiers whose principal job is to fight.

These combat soldiers are organized into brigades (between 3,000 and 4,000 in each).

The Army now has 37 active combat brigades—10 in Iraq, one in South Korea (another one, which used to be there, is now among the 10 in Iraq), and one in Afghanistan. That's 12 brigades deployed to hot spots.

What about the other 25?

- Nine have recently returned from Iraq or Afghanistan (the rule is 12 months out, 12 months back home—though some units have seen their overseas tours stretched);
- 15 are in training;
- one is reconstituting around the new Stryker combat vehicle.

It would be *possible* to put a few more of these brigades on the battlefield. Soldiers could be given less training and be allowed less time at their home bases. But the chiefs know that if they did that, they would soon have a disgruntled, ill-prepared Army—and a smaller Army, too, since such strains would torpedo recruitment and re-enlistment rates, which even now are falling well below target.

The fact is, the U.S. Army has substantially shrunk since the Cold War ended 15 years ago—to the point where it simply cannot fulfill the Bush administration's global dreams.

So, how do we get more troops? A return to the draft? There are plenty of arguments for or against, but they're not worth the waste of bandwidth, because it's just not going to happen.

Military commanders don't want a draft; they're happy to have, in the All-Volunteer Army, the best-educated, best-tempered, most easily trained soldiers in American history. **Politicians don't want a draft, because they know it's the surest route to losing the next election; millions of supportive voters will turn into raging protesters if their little Johnny—or, worse yet, Janie—gets forced into battle.**

With a draft, everybody's life is on the line—a turbulent state that can energize and unify a country under serious threat but tear the same country apart in a war of stalemate or dubious motive. President Bush could not possibly want the intense debate that even the prospect of a draft would inspire.

Whatever the answers, there is a potentially calamitous mismatch between the Bush administration's avowed intentions and its tangible means.

They can print or borrow money to float the national debt. They can't clone or borrow soldiers to float an imperial army.

Oakland Pays \$500,000 To Injured Anti-War Protester



A protestor, who refused to give her name, bears the wounds after she was hit by Oakland police weapon during a anti-war protest in Oakland, Calif., Monday, April 7, 2003 outside the port area. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

[Thanks to D who sent this in. He writes: This case is one of the vivid memories I have about the days and weeks following the invasion of Iraq (and the subsequent, short-lived, burst of anti-war anger that followed)].

07-21-05 OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)

The city of Oakland has agreed to pay half a million dollars to settle a lawsuit filed by an anti-war protestor who was injured when police fired wooden dowels and rubber balls during an April 2003 demonstration.

The Oakland City Council also signed off on two other injury claims from the 500-person protest at the Port of Oakland that took place during the early days of the war with Iraq. A man who said his fingers were broken will get \$85,000, while another demonstrator who suffered cuts and bruises is set to get \$7,500, according to city lawyers.

Willow Rosenthal, the most seriously injured of the protesters, settled her lawsuit for \$500,000. Rosenthal was hit in the back of her right calf with a wooden pellet and said she had at least \$80,000 in doctors' bills after undergoing several surgeries for internal bleeding and skin grafts.

All but 14 of the 58 people who sued the city after the protest - including several longshoremen who were caught in the standoff - have settled their lawsuits. The remaining cases are scheduled to go to trial in January unless they are settled before then. The city already has paid \$154,000 to 24 people who were hurt in the demonstration, which highlighted the port's role in shipping supplies to the war.

The Oakland City Council is scheduled to approve the three latest settlements on Sept. 20. Rosenthal and her attorney, James Chanin, declined to discuss her deal until it is completed.

During the protest, officers tried to disperse the crowd by firing beanbag rounds, wooden dowels and "sting balls," which send out a spray of BB-sized rubber pellets and a cloud of tear gas.

Subject: Military Humor

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

7/23/2005 From Barbara

Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new colonel was sitting at his desk when an airman knocked on the door.

Conscious of his new position, the colonel quickly picked up the phone, told the airman to enter, then said into the phone,

"Yes, General, I'll be seeing him this afternoon and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, Sir."

Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, "What do you want?"

"Nothing important, Sir," the airman replied, "I'm just here to hook up your telephone."

OFFICER:

"Soldier, do you have change for a dollar?"

SOLDIER:

"Sure, Buddy."

OFFICER:

"That's no way to address an officer! Now let's try it again!"

OFFICER:

"Do you have change for a dollar?"

SOLDIER:
"No, SIR!"

FIGHTER PILOTS

QUESTION:
How do you know if there is a fighter pilot at your party?

ANSWER:
He'll tell you.

QUESTION:
What's the difference between God and fighter pilots?

ANSWER:
God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.

QUESTION:
What's the difference between a fighter pilot and a jet engine?

ANSWER:
The jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.

An Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and a General were sitting in the barbershop. They were both just getting finished with their shaves, when the barbers reached for some after-shave to slap on their faces.

The General shouted, "Hey, don't put that stuff on me! My wife will think I've been in a whorehouse!"

The Chief turned to his barber and said, "Go ahead and put it on me. My wife doesn't know what the inside of a whorehouse smells like."

"Well," snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered Seaman, "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die, so you can come and pee on my grave."

"Not me, Chief!" the Seaman replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!"

MORE:

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

Jul 21 By ANTONIO CASTANEDA, Associated Press Writer

Slumped on the doorstep of a war-damaged police station, worn out and sweltering in 110 degree heat, Pfc. Derek Davidson couldn't resist a joke about a friend who'd stayed back at base after injuring himself lifting weights.

"I gotta go to the gym more often," Davidson lamented. Around him, a small group of fellow U.S. Marines, taking a brief break from battle, erupted into snickers.

As they have throughout their history, the Marines here often turn to jokes or pranks to relieve the tension of living in constant danger, these days while patrolling dusty streets of this western Iraqi town.

During the ride to Iraq's western border for the Operation Matador offensive on insurgents in mid-May, one Marine from the 3rd Battalion dozed off, prompting the others to quietly put on their gas masks.

"Wake up! Gas attack!" they then screamed.

Their startled, gasping friend scrambled to throw on his own mask as the others burst into laughter. Three weeks later, some of them still chuckled at the memory.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraqis Attack Kuwait Oil Thieves' Barrier; Cops Look On, Don't Stop Them



Iraqis soldiers *stay alert* while local Iraqis tear down a barrier put up by Kuwait for national oil companies outside of the Iraqi border town of Umm Qasr, 70 kms. (40 miles) south of Basra, Monday, July 25, 2005.

Hundreds of local Iraqis gathered in protest and removed the metal barrier placed by Kuwaiti officials approximately 100 meters north of the common border for possible oil drilling prospects. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

Assorted Resistance Action

July 25, 2005 (AP) & Reuters

A first blast occurred shortly after sunrise at a security checkpoint near the Sadeer Hotel in central Baghdad, officials said. The Iraqi Defence Ministry said 12 people, not including the bomber, were killed and 18 were injured, mostly security guards.

The Sadeer Hotel attack shook the heart of the capital and sent a huge plume of black smoke rising over the 14th of Ramadan Mosque along the traffic circle where the statue of Saddam was hauled down by Iraqis and U.S. Marines on April 9, 2003.

About three hours later, a second bomber targeted a former Saddam Hussein palace being used by the Ministry of Interior police command in Nisour Square. Three commandos were killed and 6 injured, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Four Oneliners

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: July 25, 2005

There is no story more powerful, than a message that bears witness.

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran**

Let us hope that Bush's "Axis of Evil," does not turn into "The Guns of August."

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran**

I would rather be depressed knowing the truth,
than live in denial as an accomplice.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran

When I think of Rumsfeld, I see a high ranking SS officer at Treblinka, who is in
charge of the selection process for American soldiers going to Iraq.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran

Savages Are Where You Find Them

July 24, 2005 By Charley Trujillo, Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Ironically, although Iraq is often touted as part of the cradle of Western Civilization, according to many politicians and the media, Iraqis are a barbaric people.

For example, decapitations are savage acts when committed by the Iraqi resistance, which they certainly are, but not when people are decapitated, blown apart or literally vaporized by laser-guided missiles and other high technological, destructive weapons of defense.

According to this thinking, technology brings about clean and surgical casualties. This is refined killing brought about by surgical strikes, precision bombing and patriot missiles, as well as other civilized weapons.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

Blinding Flash Of The Obvious

25 July 2005 By Naseer Nouri and Omar Fekeiki, The Washington Post

"Operation Lightning, Operation Dagger -- every day they use a different name for a new military operation," Adnad Khazraji said, ticking off recent U.S.-backed military raids against insurgents.

"But the attacks killing mostly civilians increase every day. I don't know who they are arresting -- either they are arresting the wrong people, or the number of terrorists in Iraq is so big now they can't control it."

"Now, After They Killed My Husband, I Hate Them," She Said; "I Want To Blow Them All Up"

"Of course the shootings will increase support for the opposition," said Farraji, 49, who was named a police general with U.S. approval. "The hatred of the Americans has increased. I myself hate them."

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

July 25, 2005 By Richard C. Paddock, Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — Three men in an unmarked sedan pulled up near the headquarters of the national police major crimes unit. The two passengers, wearing traditional Arab dishdasha gowns, stepped from the car.

At the same moment, a U.S. military convoy emerged from an underpass. Apparently believing the men were staging an ambush, the Americans fired, killing one passenger and wounding the other. The sedan's driver was hit in the head by two bullet fragments.

The soldiers drove on without stopping.

This kind of shooting is far from rare in Baghdad, but the driver of the car was no ordinary casualty.

He was Iraqi police Brig. Gen. Majeed Farraji, chief of the major crimes unit. His passengers were unarmed hitchhikers whom he was dropping off on his way to work.

"The reason they shot us is just because the Americans are reckless," the general said from his hospital bed hours after the July 6 shooting, his head wrapped in a white bandage. "Nobody punishes them or blames them."

U.S. officials have repeatedly declined requests to disclose the number of civilians killed in such incidents.

Police in Baghdad say they have received reports that U.S. forces killed 33 unarmed civilians and injured 45 in the capital between May 1 and July 12 — an average of nearly one fatality every two days. This does not include incidents that occurred elsewhere in the country or were not reported to the police.

The continued shooting of civilians is fueling a growing dislike of the United States and undermining efforts to convince the public that American soldiers are here to help. [Not to worry; except for the collaborators stuffing their pockets with U.S. dollars, and selling arms to the resistance with the other hand, nobody believes that anymore anyhow.] The victims have included doctors, journalists, a professor — the kind of people the U.S. is counting on to help build an open and democratic society.

"Of course the shootings will increase support for the opposition," said Farraji, 49, who was named a police general with U.S. approval. "The hatred of the Americans has increased. I myself hate them."

Heavily armed private security contractors, who number in the tens of thousands, also are authorized by the U.S. government to use deadly force to protect themselves.

One contractor who works for the U.S. government and saw a colleague killed in a suicide bombing said it was better to shoot an innocent person than to risk being killed.

"I'd rather be tried by 12 than carried by six," said the contractor, who insisted that he not be identified by name because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The U.S. military says it investigates all shootings by American personnel that result in death. But U.S. Brig. Gen. Don Alston, spokesman for the multinational force in Iraq, said he was unaware of any soldier disciplined for shooting a civilian at a checkpoint or in traffic. Findings are seldom made public.

On June 27, the day he turned 49, Salah Jmor arrived in Baghdad to visit his family.

His father, Abdul-Rihman Jmor, is the chief of a Kurdish clan that numbers more than 20,000. Salah had left Iraq 25 years ago for Switzerland, where he earned a doctorate in international relations and eventually became a Swiss citizen.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Salah Jmor was offered a post in the new Iraqi government. But he turned it down, preferring to remain in Geneva, where he was an associate professor at the Center for International and Comparative Programs of Kent State University of Ohio.

The morning after he arrived in Baghdad, he decided to go with his younger brother, architect Abdul-Jabbar Jmor, to his office. Abdul-Jabbar, 38, drove his Opel hatchback down the eight-lane Mohammed Qasim highway through central Baghdad. It was 9:30 a.m. and many vehicles were on the road.

The Opel hatchback is a model favored by insurgents.

The brothers were in the fast lane as a U.S. military convoy of three Humvees was entering the highway from the Gailani onramp. Neither of them saw the soldiers, Abdul-Jabbar said.

Abruptly, Salah slumped over into his brother's lap. Abdul-Jabbar asked what was wrong and then saw blood pouring from Salah's head. There was a single bullet hole in the windshield.

He saw the convoy moving ahead as he pulled over to the side of the road. He said he had seen no signal to slow down and heard no warning shot.

The soldiers turned around and came back a few minutes later. One said he was sorry, Abdul-Jabbar said. Together they waited more than an hour for an ambulance to arrive.

"I asked them, 'Why didn't you shoot me? I am the driver,' " Abdul-Jabbar recalled. "But they didn't answer me."

Abdul-Jabbar said he and his family had supported the U.S. troops when they first invaded Iraq, but no longer.

"This kind of incident makes people hate the Americans more and more," he said. "They don't care about the lives of the people. Each day they make new enemies."

In Baghdad, Abdul-Jabbar said the family had met with the Swiss ambassador but had received no expression of condolences from the U.S. government. No U.S. investigator has contacted the family, he added.

The military expects all vehicles to stay at least 100 yards from a convoy. When cars come too close, troops signal them to move back, sometimes by waving a little stop sign and sometimes by holding up a clenched fist.

Some Iraqis say the fist can be easy to miss. It also can be confusing for motorists in Iraq, where the normal signal for stop is an upraised open hand, as it is in the United States.

A recent case highlighted by the Iraqi government in its criticism of the U.S. was the June 24 killing of Yasser Salihee, 30, an Iraqi special correspondent for Knight-Ridder newspapers. Salihee, a physician, had taken a rare day off and planned to take his wife and daughter swimming. He went to get gasoline and was returning home at midmorning. By then, U.S. troops were conducting a military operation in his neighborhood. It appears he did not see them until it was too late.

The route he chose was not blocked off and there was no sign warning motorists to halt, witnesses say. As he neared the scene of the military operation, a U.S. Army sniper fired at his car. One bullet hit a tire. The other hit Salihee in the forehead. **That bullet also severed fingers on his right hand, indicating he was holding up at least one of his hands at the time he was killed.**

Salihee's widow, Raghad al Wazzan, said she accepted the American soldiers' presence when they first arrived in Iraq because "they came and liberated us." She sometimes helped them at the hospital where she works as a doctor. But not anymore.

"Now, after they killed my husband, I hate them," she said. "I want to blow them all up."

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

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jim L. Cullen, a rifleman and team leader with 5th Marine Regiment, provides security as his comrades attempt to break down a door in the Ramadi July 25, 2005. REUTERS/USMC/Cpl. Tom Sloan/Handout

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

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

Official U.S. Report Says Occupation Cops Are Infiltrators, Crooks, & “Cannon Fodder”

Jul 24 Agence France Presse

A US government report has concluded that likely insurgents have infiltrated Iraq's police service, while other recruits have criminal records or are barely literate.

In a more controversial opinion, according to Time magazine, the report by the Department of Defense and State Department inspector generals also says that the Pentagon has been using Iraqi police as "cannon fodder" in Iraq.

The so-called progress report, which is expected to be released in Washington this week, also states that the training of Iraqi police recruits is badly behind schedule.

It notes that "too many recruits are marginally literate; some show up for training with criminal records or physical handicaps," Time said, citing the conclusions of the inspectors general.

The report concludes that the training of new Iraqi police recruits has been beset with problems amid "high-level violence and a vibrant insurgency."

Iraqi Collaborator Leader To Try Out For Role Of General Patton In Film Remake



Iraq's collaborator Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari wears a bulletproof vest and a military helmet for a screen test in Baghdad, July 25, 2005. Jaafari hopes he will be cast as the lead in an upcoming remake of the film Patton, which originally starred George C. Scott.

Jaafari said that he prefers to receive an invitation to go to Hollywood for further tests while he is still alive. "It's not a big step from Disneyland to Hollywood," he said, referring to his present location in the Green Zone.

REUTERS/Hadi Mizban/Pool

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