

GI SPECIAL 3C22A:



More Ft. Hood Soldiers Come To Support Cindy Sheehan

Aug 12th, 2005 Cindy Sheehan, Daily Kos [Excerpt]

Three active duty soldiers from Ft. Hood came to visit me and tell me that they really appreciated what I was doing and that if they were killed in the war, their moms would be doing the same thing.

That made me feel so good after all of the negativity I had been hearing from the righties.

I also got to hold a couple of toddlers on my lap while their mom or dad took pictures of us. I am honored that people have resonated with the action that I took to make our mission of ending the war a reality.

We are here at the Crawford Peace House now and there are dozens and dozens of people here. We are giving each other hugs and kisses and we are all feeling great, full of energy and so filled with hope that this is something that is really going to change the world.

I came here so angry and I have been so encouraged and overwhelmed by the support from all over. I was thinking that there is no reason for us progressive liberals to be angry anymore. We have the power.

One mom has shown that we can be the change in our government. We deserve to hold George Bush accountable, no one else does.

We have to make sure he answers to us. If he doesn't have to answer to Congress, or the media, we will FORCE him to answer to us. The absolute hubris of him that won't!!!

[For more, see [CRAWFORD TEXAS WAR REPORTS](#) below.]

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

One Soldier Killed, Three Wounded By Ar Rutbah IED

Aug. 14, 2005 MNF-Iraq: Release A050814d

LSA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq – One 1st Corps Support Command Soldier was killed and three were wounded by an improvised explosive device while conducting a combat logistics patrol at about 2:45 a.m. Aug. 14, east of Ar Rutbah, Iraq .

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

Task Force Baghdad Soldier Found Dead

Aug. 14, 2005 MNF-Iraq: Release A050814a

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Task Force Baghdad Soldier died Aug. 12 from a gunshot wound.

Baghdad Soldier Killed By IED; One Wounded

Aug. 14, 2005 MNF-Iraq: Release A050814b

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Task Force Baghdad Soldier died when a unit struck an improvised explosive device in west Baghdad at 3:45 p.m. Aug. 13.

One other Soldier was wounded.

Three Soldiers Killed, One Wounded By Tuz IED

Aug. 14, 2005 MNF-Iraq: Release A050814c

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three Task Force Liberty Soldiers were killed and one was wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated during a patrol near Tuz at about 11:00 p.m. on August 12.

The wounded Soldier was evacuated to a Coalition Forces medical facility.

Anaconda Tents Burn Down

August 14, 2005 Stars and Stripes

BALAD, Iraq — Two tents used for recreation on Camp Anaconda burned down Saturday morning, according to the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment at Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

The fire started inside at least one of the canvas tents of the 29th Support Battalion shortly before 8:17 a.m., according to a press release. No one was injured.

One of the burned tents was used as a gym; the other was used for morale and recreation activities. The cause was not known.

“Most of these things are caused by electrical (problems), but it will be a few days before we have the actual cause, so we don’t want to speculate,” Master Sgt. Stacey Maples, deputy fire chief at Anaconda, said, according to the press release.

The release did not say whether the fire started in both tents or started in one and spread to the second. Anaconda's fire department put out the fire quickly.

36 “Suspected Insurgents” Captured: Only 2,456,937 More To Go

11 August 2005 By Kirk Semple, The New York Times

The American command said it had concluded a weeklong offensive in the Euphrates River corridor in Anbar Province, where insurgents last week carried out a series of attacks against American forces, including two ambushes that killed 20 marines.

But the results of the effort to choke off insurgent strongholds and supply corridors appeared modest, according to the final scorecard posted by the military: Soldiers discovered 9 vehicle bombs, 6 of them in a garage apparently used for rigging such weapons, and 28 improvised bombs planted on the side of roads or near buildings.

The troops also detained 36 suspected insurgents for questioning, the military said.

CRAWFORD TEXAS WAR REPORTS:

"I don't believe his phony excuses for the war," she said of Bush in an interview with a CBS reporter for the network's Northern California affiliates. "I want him to tell me why my son died.

"If he gave the real answer, people in this country would be outraged - if he told people it was to make his buddies rich, that it was about oil." 11 August 2005, Edwin Chen and Dana Calvo, The Los Angeles Times

**Mother's Stand Becomes A
Movement:
“We're Sick Of This S--, Bring 'Em
Home!”**



Aug. 10, 2005 | Wearing a hat with supporting messages from friends, Cindy Sheehan of Vacaville, California, takes a moment's rest in the ditch on Wednesday. On Friday afternoon, she was contacted by Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks. (Photo: Will Pitt / t r u t h o u t)

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

8/14/2005 By Jason Dearen, STAFF WRITER, Inside Bay Area

CRAWFORD, Tex. - A crooked straw hat shielding her face from the relentless Texas sun, Cindy Sheehan stands on the grassy edge of a rural highway, greeting a line of cars that stretches as far as the eye can see.

The 6-foot-tall Vacaville woman who has become a public relations challenge for President George W. Bush borrows a cell phone from a nearby well-wisher and dials a number.

"You would not believe it, there's a line of cars down a five-mile road and hundreds of them are going by," she says with a wide grin. "Ah, this is just crazy. ... It's like an outpouring of love. I can't believe it."

Across the road from Sheehan and her flock, about 100 people organized by a Dallas-based conservative talk radio station came out to support the president and his decision to keep U.S. forces in Iraq.

But by late afternoon, as most of the pro-Bush people left the site, the number of Sheehan's supporters continued to swell, and dwarfed the 10 or so pro-war demonstrators.

As protest music filled the air, Sheehan hopped up into the bed of a pickup truck, holding a folded United States flag, and addressed the crowd of all ages and race that had flocked to see her.

"Who knew the end of the occupation of Iraq would begin in Crawford, Texas, last Saturday?" she asked, eliciting cheers. "Who knew America would stand up and say 'We're sick of this s--, bring 'em home!'"

As Sheehan's story grabbed headlines nationwide, "Camp Casey" grew consistently throughout the week from two lawn chairs to a small village of tents

and camper vehicles. A man from Fort Worth, Texas, donated cases of water. Others sent sandwiches and fruit.

Many on hand traveled a long way to be there. People from Maine, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington State, Pennsylvania, New York and many other states made what has become a pilgrimage.

Jean Prewitt, 54, of Birmingham, Alabama, came to be with Sheehan and share in her grief. Prewitt's son, Kelley Prewitt, 24, died in April 2003 while driving an ammunition truck that was ambushed by insurgents.

Prewitt, who voted for Bush in 2000, said the mounting evidence showing the Bush administration lied about Saddam Hussein's cache of weapons of mass destruction had changed her mind.

Then she saw Sheehan on CNN and decided she had to add her support.

"I wasn't against the war when Kelley got killed. And it didn't change my mind for six months after his death," said Prewitt in a thick Alabama drawl. "But my mind changed with proof of the war's lies," she said.

Oakland-native Tiffany Strause, 29, was at work in San Diego when an e-mail arrived with a story about Sheehan. "There was literally a physical response. This month has been the bloodiest month in Iraq, and I just got fed up." So Strause and a friend hopped on a plane.

Iraq war veterans Tim Goodrich, 25, and Benjamin Hart Viges, 27, were so appalled by what they saw during their tours of duty, they have joined the anti-war movement.

Viges, who served in the U.S. Army in Fallujah, joined in the fight after the terrorist attacks in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. But his service in Iraq changed his mind about the war.

"To think of children killed by my mortar rounds. That is not a burden anyone should have to carry around," he said, his voice shaking.

MORE:

“A Mass Killer Is At The Helm Of The Ship Of State”

What's going on this week, outside the perimeter of the ranch-style White House in Crawford, is some reclamation of reality in public life. Cindy Sheehan has disrupted the media-scripted shadow play of falsity.

August 10, 2005 By Norman Solomon, Williambowles.info

Mid-August 2005 may be remembered as a moment in U.S. history when the president could no longer get away with the media trick of solemnly patting death on its head.

Unreality is a hallmark of media coverage for war. Yet — most of all — war is about death and suffering. War makers thrive on abstractions. Their media successes depend on evasion.

President Bush has tried to keep the loved ones of America's war dead at middle distance, bathed in soft fuzzy light: close enough to exploit for media purposes, distant enough to insulate the commander in chief's persona from the intrusion of wartime mourning in America.

What's going on this week, outside the perimeter of the ranch-style White House in Crawford, is some reclamation of reality in public life. Cindy Sheehan has disrupted the media-scripted shadow play of falsity. And some other relatives of the ultimately sacrificed have been en route to the vigil in the dry hot Texas ditches now being subjected to enormous media attention a few miles from the vacationing president's accommodations.

Consider the perspective of Celeste Zappala, whose oldest son Sherwood Baker was a sergeant in the Pennsylvania National Guard when he died 16 months ago in Baghdad.

She is a co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace, and what she has to say is gut-wrenching and infuriating:

“George Bush talks about caring about the troops who get killed in Iraq. Sherwood was killed protecting the people looking for weapons of mass destruction on April 26, 2004. This was one month after Bush was joking about looking for weapons of mass destruction. And then my Sherwood is dead trying to protect people looking for them because Bush said it was so important to the safety of our country.”

Disregarding the tacit conventions of jingoistic newspeak, Zappala adds: “I don't want anyone else to go through this, not an American, not an Iraqi, no one. As a person of faith, I firmly believe we have the ability to provide better answers on how to resolve conflict than what Bush is offering us.

“I've tried to meet with Rumsfeld at the Pentagon, I was turned away by armed guards. It's incumbent upon everybody to take responsibility about what is happening in our country.

“I have no recourse but to go to Crawford to do what I can to change the disastrous course we are currently on and to bear witness to the true costs of this war.”

The true costs. Not the lies of omission.

When a mass killer is at the helm of the ship of state, taking a bow now and again while “Hail to the Chief” booms from big brass bands, a significant portion of the

country's population feels revulsion. And often a sense of powerlessness — a triumph for media manipulation. Passivity is the health of the manipulative media state.

Cindy Sheehan and Celeste Zappala have joined with others in Crawford to insist that death is not a message for more death — that we can understand death as a profound reality check, imploring us to affirm and defend life.

“Rage, rage against the dying of the light,” Dylan Thomas wrote. The unavoidable dying of life is bad enough. The killing is unacceptable.

MORE:

“We Are Building A Movement And They Are Coming”

13 August 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Truthout

It is not often that, I, Cindy Sheehan is at a loss for words. I will try and describe today, though. It was the most incredible, fantastic, fabulous, amazing, powerful, miraculous event I have ever been apart of. I was so humbled and honored at the outpouring of love and support that arrived in Camp Casey today.

The most fantabulistic (I needed a new word, none of the old ones fit) thing happened in Crawford today. There was a very insignificant counter protesters across the way. At first the Sheriffs let them stand in the street, until we politely pointed out to the Sheriffs that we had to stay in the ditch last week. So they made them move into the ditch.

Since we are supposedly in Bush country, the counter protest was so small and weak. They had signs that said "Stay the Course." I appreciated that. I really believe they were telling me to stay the course. I will.

We also met a man whose son was KIA in Iraq in November of 2004. He still loves George Bush and thinks we are doing great things in Iraq. By the end of the day we were drinking beer together and telling each other "I love you." I am telling you miracles are happening here in Crawford.

Anyway, back to the fantabulistic thing that happened to day. We had a rally downtown in Crawford. Then the people caravanned up to Camp Casey. I was told to come down to the point of the triangle to greet them.

While I was walking down to the point, I had a great view of Prairie Chapel Road. There was car, after car, after car!!! I started sobbing and I felt like collapsing. The cars kept on coming. It took almost a full hour for them to all get to Camp Casey, it was a miraculous sight to see. It was identical to Field of Dreams.

People came from all over the country to be here. We are building a movement and they are coming.

We don't have a full count of all the people who were there, but I would say hundreds. It was amazing and awesome. I felt the spirits of all of our needlessly killed loved ones in the presence of Camp Casey. I felt their strength and the wisdom of the ages with me in that wonderful place.

Today was George Bush's accountability moment, and he lost. Two young ladies from San Diego drove all night to get to the rally and they had to leave tonight to get back home. One of them said: "Wow, we can drive all the way from San Diego just to meet you and he can't even come down to the end of his driveway to meet with you."

George Bush: you work for me. I pay your salary. Come out and talk to me. Anyway, I have a feeling you are about to be fired!!!

MORE:

Iraq Vet Says: “It’s Real Easy To Say War Is Good When You Don’t Have To Be In It”

Aug. 13, 2005 Associated Press

As about a dozen Bush supporters stood across the street holding signs, down from more than 250 who gathered there Saturday morning, one exchange became heated.

A Bush supporter approached an anti-war veteran, and they stood chest to chest as deputies tried to separate them.

When the veteran shouted about his wartime experiences and yelled, “I earned the right to be here!” several of his fellow protesters subdued him, moving him away as he sobbed and his knees buckled.

Tim Origer, who lost his left leg above the knee when he was a 19-year-old Marine fighting in Vietnam, said Saturday that believing the war with Iraq is wrong does not diminish the protesters’ support for the soldiers.

“When Iraqi Freedom started, it looked so much like Vietnam that I couldn’t be quiet,” said Origer, who lives in Santa Fe, N.M., and is a member of Veterans for Peace. “It’s real easy to say war is good when you don’t have to be in it.”

The campsite of tents and anti-war banners has swelled to several hundred people some days but has a core group of about 100. They sing songs, chat and plan strategy each day on the shoulders of two intersecting side roads that form a triangle with Prairie Chapel Road, which leads to Bush’s ranch.

MORE:

Bush To Sheehan: Fuck Off: “It Is Also Important For Me To Go On With My Life”

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

August 14, 2005 Joe Garofoli, Chronicle Staff Writer

As of Saturday, Bush was standing firm on his decision not to meet with her saying, according to a news service, "I think it's important for me to be thoughtful and sensitive to those who have got something to say."

And then added, “But I think it is also important for me to go on with my life, to keep a balanced life.”

MORE:

A Matched Pair Of Brain-Dead Assholes: Right Wing Trash Calls Cindy Sheehan A Whore: UFPJ Idiot Loves Her “But”

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

8/14/2005 By Jason Dearen, STAFF WRITER, Inside Bay Area

Laurie Ankarlo, wife of radio host Darrell Ankarlo, who organized Saturday's pro-Bush rally, said her son just returned from Iraq. She said Sheehan is not speaking for all of the mothers who lost their sons in the war. She thinks Sheehan is being used by liberal groups. "She already had her meeting with Bush. **The Left is just using her, and whoring her out," she said.**

In the words of Bill Dobbs, an organizer with United for Peace and Justice, anti-war leaders have been reluctant to promote a personality over their message because "*power corrupts.*"

"Don't get me wrong, we love Cindy and we think what she is doing is great and we support her," said Dobbs..... "**But** Cindy didn't just come out of nowhere. **She has been saying the same thing for a while**, and the road she is traveling down has been paved by hundreds of anti-war groups across the nation that have been working continuously for a long time."

[So, she's either whoring, or so weak minded she will become "corrupt" and shouldn't get credit for what she's done – this last from UFPJ, which spent last summer and fall neck deep in the "anybody but Bush" bullshit and whose current strategy is kissing the ass of every member of Congress in sight. Now Cindy Sheehan sparks a movement, and they belittle it. "We love Cindy but." Take your pick. Which form of human garbage do you prefer? Honest enemies or false, back-stabbing "friends."]



[Thanks to lots of people who sent this one in.]

MORE:

Bits And Pieces

August 10, 2005 Cindy Sheehan, CodePink4Peace.org

We had a little bit of trouble with locals today. We are beginning to feel a little unwelcome here. One lady almost ran over a television crew. **She screamed at us that the neighbors are really mad ...so we moved down the road to our closest neighbor who is very sweet. Her husband is a medic who just got home from Iraq.**

August 13, 2005, By Jodie Evans, CodePink4Peace.org

Cindy was tired from an unexpected call at 5:30 from the Today Show and the heat and sun exhaustion from the day before.

The first question of the morning pool came from a young soldier who had just returned from Iraq. He was polite, addressing her as Ms. Sheehan.

Surrounded by cameras he told her he was sorry for her son's death, he said he had lost many friends in the Iraq War also. "Death is a part of war and what we are doing is more important, bringing freedom to the world. Think of all the people who died for the freedom we enjoy. So your son's life is just a drop in the bucket."

Those of us standing behind the cameras gasp, but Cindy's face continued to listen to him calmly and openly. Forced by the gasp he quickly said "but I feel for your son."

At this moment Cindy put her arm on his shoulder and holding him to her side they walked out into the field together, she asked the press to give them some privacy. They honored her in a way that I have never seen before, they were still shooting photos as the 2 walked away.

Cindy drew the young man close like a mother, they spoke for about 5 minutes during which the shift in his feeling was palpable. He stepped away and pulled a book he had written about his experiences in Iraq and gave it to her. Then they hugged a long deep embrace, you could see the conversation continuing.

She walked back towards us and the press as he left.

Yet again, this woman had made me cry with her strength her love and her courage (oh I forgot to mention everyone else in the camp had tried to keep this young man from confronting her).

As we walked back to our make shift office in Casey's camper I was pouring my heart out in awe of her, she stopped me and said "do you know what that young man said as we were hugging? He said his mother agrees with me. She told him that if he had been killed in Iraq she would have done the same thing ...and then he called me Mom."

I wept. Welcome to Camp Casey. Come have your heart blown wide-open daily. As

Eve Ensler said today after I told her the story, "It isn't really about truth, it's about love." And Cindy's love not only for her son, but for truth and for all the mother's, father's, sons and daughters of the world.

August 13, 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, CodePink4Peace.org

As for Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, Michelle Malkin, Matt Drudge, etc...nothing you can say can hurt me or make me stop what we are doing. We are working for peace with justice.

We are using peaceful means and the truth to do it. I guess the truth frightens people. It frightens them so much, they have to resort to telling lies to rebut my arguments. They are despicable human beings and not even worth our concern.

Bill O'Reilly had the nerve to invite me on his show again today. But, Dolores Kesterson, another Gold Star Families for Peace member who also had a terrible experience with meeting George and she kicked his butt.

August 11, 2005 By Joe Garofoli, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer

But numbers don't tell the story. The pilgrims flocking to see her, some driving hundreds of miles after hearing one of the 200 interviews she has conducted this week, are different from the usual suspects who have been protesting the Iraq war for more than two years.

There's Rick Green, a 28-year-old trucker from Moody, Texas, who isn't sure about the war but lost his 13-year-old boy last year.

There's Jonathan Read, a retired hotel executive from Arizona who ditched three days of golf to come here, donated \$4,000 and then offered to pick up all of Sheehan's meals.

There's Tiffany Strause, a 29-year-old computer consultant who arrived Tuesday from San Diego because it was time to "do something."

She's unassailable," said Read, the retired hotel CEO.

"When I heard her on TV the other day, it was literally a physical response: I got chills," said Strause, an Oakland native who lives in suburban San Diego.

Ducking occasionally into her rental car to respond to work questions on her Blackberry, Strause said she hurried to be here because the war finally touched her.

"There comes a point where everybody has had enough," she said. "You turn a corner. And this was it for me. It's like, what can I do now?"

"I'm not even sure I have an opinion on the war yet, but I know what it's like to lose a child," said Green, the truck driver, who had never been to a protest and wore a cap with a Confederate flag. His boy died unexpectedly in March after his thyroid gland collapsed. "All I wanted to do was come here and listen and offer my condolences to her."

Casey Keller, 61, drove here from the Rocky Mountain town of Fairplay, Colo., "just to hug her and thank her."

Helen Dement, who lost her 41-year-old daughter to a heart attack, gave Sheehan two yellow roses and hugged her. She felt a connection because the daughter was born on Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield.

TROOP NEWS

Iraq Vet Says: "Eighteen Hundred People Have Died, And Nothing Has Been Accomplished"

And all the while, American soldiers will remain on the firing line - soldiers such as 23-year-old Marine Cpl. Adrian Garza of San Antonio, Texas, who has been spending days near the western town of Hit, hoping to avoid a roadside bomb.

He said Wednesday: "I thought it was going to be bad over here. But it's worse than I thought." It's a remark undoubtedly shared by millions of his fellow Americans on the home front.

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

August 14, 2005 by Dick Polman, Philly.com

Alarmed by the upsurge in casualties in Iraq - as evidenced by the deaths of seven Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers over the last week - and increasingly convinced that President Bush lacks a clear plan for victory, Americans in numbers unprecedented since the start of the war are losing confidence in the mission.

Bush is losing his domestic battle for hearts and minds; new polls report that, for the first time, a majority of Americans reject his contention that the war over there is making us safer over here.

These sentiments are mirrored in the polls. When the war was a year old, two-thirds of Americans were still supporting the decision to wage it. But in the latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll, support has sagged to 44 percent.

Meanwhile, 57 percent now say the war has made the United States "less safe from terrorism" - the highest share yet recorded by Gallup, and a view that opposes a core

Bush argument for the war. A similar question in a Newsweek poll found even more Americans - 64 percent - do not think the war has made them safer from terrorism.

Indeed, barring imminent progress in Iraq, 2005 might well be remembered as the year when public opinion went south and never came back - a mood shift roughly analogous to 1968, when domestic confidence in the Vietnam War began its irreversible slide.

Consider Pennsylvanian Eric Zagata. He is a 24-year-old from Luzerne who served in Iraq last year as a member of the 109th Field Artillery's Bravo Battery until he was injured by shrapnel. He was luckier than the 92 Pennsylvanians slain thus far - in battle deaths, Pennsylvania ranks third in the nation, behind California and Texas - but he is a changed man.

"Going into it," he said, "I just felt it was my obligation. Now I feel bad. I think we're in such a spot. We can't pull out of there because if we do, it would just be a waste of all our people's lives and all their people's lives. I think it's a real Catch-22."

His sentiments shifted after "seeing all these guys getting killed every day for nothing, really. We went over there, and we're fighting this war, and we're still paying \$2.40 a gallon for gas. Eighteen hundred people have died, and nothing has been accomplished." (The U.S. military death toll, on Friday, was 1,846.)

Lacking this kind of guidance, many Americans are seeing only the bloodshed. Florentine Belgio, who is in her 60s and lives in West Pittston, Pa., has a son serving in Iraq, and her patience is virtually exhausted.

She said the other day: "At the beginning of the war, I felt it was something we just had to do. Now, with all these roadside bombs, it's very, very frightening. This is an enemy you can't see. How can you fight an enemy you don't see? Every day, I come home, and I see something on TV about more soldiers being killed by one of those bombs, and my heart sinks down to my toes."

And all the while, American soldiers will remain on the firing line - soldiers such as 23-year-old Marine Cpl. Adrian Garza of San Antonio, Texas, who has been spending days near the western town of Hit, hoping to avoid a roadside bomb.

He said Wednesday: "I thought it was going to be bad over here. But it's worse than I thought." It's a remark undoubtedly shared by millions of his fellow Americans on the home front.

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)

Despite Armor, More Iraq Troops Dying In Humvees

Aug 11, 2005 LISA HOFFMAN, Scripps Howard News Service

It was a ferocious bomb, two 122mm-artillery shells wired together and detonated from afar by an insurgent north of Baghdad.

A Humvee carrying Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers had no chance against the improvised explosive hidden on the shoulder of the road, even though the vehicle was protected with added-on armor.

The deaths Saturday of Army Sgt. Brahim Jeffcoat, 25, and Spc. Kurk Kraut, 43, added to a tragic trend in the Iraq war. A growing proportion of U.S. troops are dying in Humvees in Iraq, even as more of the vehicles are protected by extra armor.

At the start of the year, about one in five soldier deaths was associated with the utilitarian vehicle. In the spring, that death toll began to rise and reached nearly one in two this summer, according to a Scripps Howard News Service casualty database.

In June, for instance, Humvees were involved in at least 37 of the 78 deaths. In July, the Humvee toll was 27 of 51 fatalities.

"What we're seeing here is ... an adaptive enemy," Brig. Gen. Donald Alston said at a press conference last week.

John Pike, a military analyst at GlobalSecurity.org, said such battlefield back-and-forth is the nature of war, where both sides look for each other's weak points and capitalize on them.

"That's normal in warfare. It's called improvisation," Pike said.

And the armored versions may inadvertently be contributing to an uptick in Humvee accidents. An increase in rollover mishaps, many of them fatal, has coincided with the increase in hardened Humvees hitting the street, leading to theories that the vehicles may be rendered less stable by the added weight.

Army Reserve And Guard Recruiting Failure Rolls On:

RA Meets July Goal

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

Aug. 12, 2005 The Associated Press & August 11, 2005 By Jack Kelly, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Army's difficulties were reflected in the latest monthly recruiting figures, released yesterday by the U.S. Department of Defense.

They show that while all active-duty military services met their goals for July, and the Army met its goal for the second month in a row, the Army continues to lag for the recruiting year that began 10 months ago, reaching only 89 percent of its goal.

The Army figures to be about 8,000 soldiers short of its goal of 80,000 for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, which would be the first time since 1999 that it will have missed an annual target.

Army National Guard and Reserve units, even more than the active service, have been having trouble attracting recruits as the war in Iraq continues and the economy improves.

Their enlistment figures have not started to rebound -- the Army Guard reached only 80 percent of its July recruiting goal; the Army Reserve, 82 percent. Among all Guard and Reserve units, only the Marines and Air Force achieved their quotas for July.

As of July 31 the Army National Guard was running 23 percent behind in recruiting for the year and the Army Reserve was 20 percent behind.

Antiwar activists present an obstacle, as well. Demonstrators disrupted Army Reserve recruiters at Carnegie Mellon University in April, and the Pittsburgh Organizing Group plans a "nonviolent day of direct action" a week from Saturday to "shut down military recruiting in Pittsburgh."

Anti-Gay Protesters Happy When Troops Are Killed: Bigots Celebrate At Soldiers' Funeral

"Thank God for IEDs killing American soldiers in strange lands every day.

"WBC rejoices every time the Lord God in His vengeance kills or maims an American soldier with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)." Westboro Baptist Church website



August 9, 2005 By Kevin Wayne, CHICAGO, IL

As friends, family members and strangers gathered last week to pay their respects to Army Spc. Adam Harding, members of Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka Kansas, also gathered in what some are calling a disrespectful protest.

Approximately 10 members from the Kansas church disrupted the funeral of Harting, a 21-year-old Portage Indiana native, killed in Iraq July 25 when an improvised explosive device detonated outside his vehicle. The group isn't demonstrating against the war, but rather against homosexuality.

The small church group shouted angry chants and carried signs that read, "Thank God for 9/11," "God is U.S.A.'s Terrorist" and "American is Doomed" as mourners and the family of Harding passed.

The Westboro Baptist Church is headed by Fred Phelps Sr., the fiery anti-gay activist who became internationally known when he and his followers picketed the funeral of Matthew Shepard.

On Monday, a group of military veterans demanded an apology for last week's protest in northwest Indiana. Veterans groups throughout Chicago and northwest Indiana say a military funeral is no place to deliver such a message. **["Demanded an apology?" That's like demanding an apology from Hitler for killing Jews. The only thing scum like this understand is the direct application of physical force to their persons, in sufficient strength they are never able to do this again, unless they rise from the dead or roll up in wheelchairs. They have no right to any free speech, nor to continued existence.]**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

8.14.05 KUNA & (Reuters) & By ANTONIO CASTANEDA, Associated Press Writer & Aljazeera.Net

Unknown persons abducted a senior official of Iraq's Central Bank as he left home in central Baghdad Sunday morning, police said.

According to a police source, central bank Director General Hasib Kazem Jwaid was taken hostage when he exited his home in the Mostansriya suburb in the center of Baghdad.

The source said the masked men drove the victim to an unknown destination.

SAMARRA - Two policemen were found shot dead in Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAQUBA - Guerrillas killed one border patrol officer and wounded three others in the small town of Imam Wes, 70 km (43 miles) east of Baquba, close to the Iranian frontier.

KIRKUK - A police officer was killed and three wounded when their patrol was attacked in Kirkuk, police sources said.

Guerrillas also killed one border guard and injured three others near the northeast town of Khanaqin close to the Iranian border, police said.

In northeast Baghdad, four police officers on a patrol were wounded by a roadside bombing late on Saturday, police Captain Nabil Abdul Qadir said.

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

Sadr Condemns "The Occupier And The People Who Have Sold Their People"

11 August 2005 By Dan Murphy, The Christian Science Monitor

In Baghdad, the militant Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has called for Friday protests against the lack of power and water. This is part of an ongoing campaign to shore up his power base among the urban poor by targeting the failures of his more moderate political opponents, who are now in power.

In a rare statement calling for the protests, Mr. Sadr blamed "the occupier and the people who have traded on their religion and sold their people" for Iraq's

problems, an apparent reference to the mainstream Shiite political parties that run the government.

But Faten Abed wants reliable electricity and more water now.

Her hair is unwashed and she's dragging after another sleepless night in her two-room apartment that has been turned into an "oven" by summertime Baghdad's 115-degree temperatures.

"We turn on the television and all we see is the politicians saying 'I'm going to do this,' or 'I'm going to do that,' " she says.

"We've stopped believing anything they have to say. I had hope before the election that things would be different, but the political parties are losing all of their credibility."

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Someone Tell The President The War Is Over: "Mr. Bush Has Lost Not Only The Country But Also His Army"

<p>The approval rate for Mr. Bush's handling of Iraq plunged to 34 percent in last weekend's Newsweek poll - a match for the 32 percent that approved L.B.J.'s handling of Vietnam in early March 1968.</p>

August 14, 2005 By FRANK RICH, New York Times

LIKE the Japanese soldier marooned on an island for years after V-J Day, President Bush may be the last person in the country to learn that for Americans, if not Iraqis, the war in Iraq is over. "We will stay the course," he insistently tells us from his Texas ranch. What do you mean we, white man?

A president can't stay the course when his own citizens (let alone his own allies) won't stay with him.

The approval rate for Mr. Bush's handling of Iraq plunged to 34 percent in last weekend's Newsweek poll - a match for the 32 percent that approved L.B.J.'s handling of Vietnam in early March 1968. (The two presidents' overall approval ratings have also converged: 41 percent for Johnson then, 42 percent for Bush now.) On March

31, 1968, as L.B.J.'s ratings plummeted further, he announced he wouldn't seek re-election, commencing our long extrication from that quagmire.

But our current Texas president has even outdone his predecessor; Mr. Bush has lost not only the country but also his army.

Neither bonuses nor fudged standards nor the faking of high school diplomas has solved the recruitment shortfall.

Now Jake Tapper of ABC News reports that the armed forces are so eager for bodies they will flout "don't ask, don't tell" and hang on to gay soldiers who tell, even if they tell the press.

The president's cable cadre is in disarray as well. At Fox News Bill O'Reilly is trashing Donald Rumsfeld for his incompetence, and Ann Coulter is chiding Mr. O'Reilly for being a defeatist. In an emblematic gesture akin to waving a white flag, Robert Novak walked off a CNN set and possibly out of a job rather than answer questions about his role in smearing the man who helped expose the administration's prewar inflation of Saddam W.M.D.'s. (On this sinking ship, it's hard to know which rat to root for.)

As if the right-wing pundit crackup isn't unsettling enough, Mr. Bush's top war strategists, starting with Mr. Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Myers, have of late tried to rebrand the war in Iraq as what the defense secretary calls "a global struggle against violent extremism."

A struggle is what you have with your landlord. When the war's über-managers start using euphemisms for a conflict this lethal, it's a clear sign that the battle to keep the Iraq war afloat with the American public is lost.

These are the tea leaves that all Republicans, not just Chuck Hagel, are reading now. Newt Gingrich called the Hackett near-victory "a wake-up call." The resolutely pro-war New York Post editorial page begged Mr. Bush (to no avail) to "show some leadership" by showing up in Ohio to salute the fallen and their families.

A Bush loyalist, Senator George Allen of Virginia, instructed the president to meet with Cindy Sheehan, the mother camping out in Crawford, as "a matter of courtesy and decency."

Or, to translate his Washingtonese, as a matter of politics. Only someone as adrift from reality as Mr. Bush would need to be told that a vacationing president can't win a standoff with a grief-stricken parent commandeering TV cameras and the blogosphere 24/7.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: U.S. Government Delivers The New Constitution

14/08/2005 (SA)

With the deadline looming for what the Bush administration sees as a key landmark in Iraq's recovery, the US has become more involved in the push to produce a draft constitution on time, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

"The Americans say they don't intervene, but they have intervened deep," Mahmoud Othman, a Kurdish member of the constitution committee, told the paper.

"They gave us a detailed proposal, almost a full version of a constitution.

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Todd Mc Caffrey of the army infantry from the Stryker brigade interrogates Iraqis during a patrol in Mosul, in northern Iraq, July 25, 2005.
REUTERS/Andrea Comas

There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their homes and shops by force, bearing deadly weapons you point at them, while "interrogating" them like some thug in a bad movie about Germany under Hitler. This is guaranteed to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

But your commanders, who give the orders to do it, know that, don't they? Don't they?

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

Iraqi Collaborator Soldiers Fear Leaving Training Base

[Posted by Warren Brubacher, Anti-Allawi-group. He writes: **The Iraqi puppet troops and the South Vietnamese puppets (ARVN) seem to be suffering the same fate. Old women working with the NLF taunted ARVN troops to desert and move to the hills, Iraqi puppets are being hounded by cell phones and cameras. Without US support, both forces can't hold their own in battle. Without US air support ARVN disintegrated in 55 days during 1975. Despite the attempted neo-con blackout of the military situation in Iraq, this gives a big hint that the Iraqi Resistance really does have control of a large part of the country outside of the coalition bases. History again only repeats itself.....oh yea.....GW never took a history lesson in his life.]**

August 8, 2005 (AEST)

Members of the new Iraqi army being trained by US troops in the safe confines of Taji military base, fear setting foot outside.

Taji, an old Iraqi military base just north-west of Baghdad, lies in the heartland of the insurgency against the new Iraqi Government and its US backers.

"We're all afraid. I can't go outside the base wearing these military clothes," says Sergeant Abbas, listing colleagues who have fallen victim to relentless insurgent attacks in the dusty towns and highways north of Baghdad.

"We all know soldiers who notice people photographing them with mobile phones and being followed," says the Shiite Muslim from Amara in relatively calm southern Iraq.

He does not give his full name for fear of reprisals.

For the moment the 15,000 Iraqis at Taji are glad they rarely have to venture outside in military attire.

"I can feel them following me and I'm scared of that," said Lieutenant Colonel Bassam Ismail, speaking of the militants.

With the economy crippled by daily violence and political uncertainty, new recruits are happy to have a steady job.

"Most ordinary soldiers join just for the salary," one says.

"Don't say that, we should say that it's for the nation," Lieutenant Shihab Ahmed, a Kurd from Mosul, angrily interjects.

Welcome To Liberated Baghdad: Have A Nice Day



US soldiers extinguish flames in a burning vehicle from a truck bomb explosion outside of the Rashad police station July 24, 2005, in the eastern neighborhood of Mashtal, Baghdad. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

August 13, 2005 by Robert Fisk, The Independent

It was the same lunatic corkscrew landing in the same little Lebanese plane, barrelling down into the sandstorm of Baghdad airport. Piloting his 20-passenger twin-prop aircraft - from Flying Carpet Airlines, no less - Captain Hussam has three things on his mind: American helicopters, pilotless reconnaissance drones and incoming missiles. So we all scan the dun-coloured runway and terminals and the grotty slums beside the airport road for the tell-tale pink flame surviving pilots have sometimes caught sight of.

But we landed safely and a scruffy bus took us to the terminal where I bid the customs officer Salaam Aleikum and he cheerfully asked me if I was a Muslim. "English," I replied, which seemed to be good enough to him.

He couldn't break the airline security string on my bag so he waved me through.

Then there came The Airport Road. We all need to put this in capitals these days. As my Iraqi fixer put it very well: "It's really just a matter of luck." Sometimes you glide safely across to the city, sometimes you get caught up in a firefight, sometimes - like poor Marla Ruzicka, the American girl who tried to count casualties - you are too close to a suicide attack. "I'm alive," she cried just before she died.

So we concentrate very hard on The Airport Road. The Americans have put a squadron of Bradley Fighting Vehicles on the central reservation and Iraqi army units on each side of the highway. But they still get bombed.

"The Iraqi army's a joke," an American computer salesman in Baghdad tells me. "It was the Iraqi army which kidnapped me near Nasiriyah. They tried to sell me to the insurgents for \$10,000. Then one of my employees came and told the officer I was half-Iraqi, taken to America as a child, that I was a member of the Dulaimi clan - and you don't kidnap Dulaimis - and the officer couldn't read English so didn't know my real name."

So I'm not keen on stopping for Iraqi checkpoints. We drive across the Tigris, waved through by a policeman in a hood - cops and insurgents both wear hoods which makes life a little tiring - and arrive at the grim little hotel where The Independent has its office. Extra security now. More armed men on the gates - most are Kurdish - and a guard who wants to search my bag. He, too, cannot cut the airline security string on my bag and waves me through. So a piece of string twice stopped my baggage being searched. Very comforting.

My Iraqi fixer offers to buy groceries for me but I decide I've got to buy them myself. Once you let Iraqis buy your food on the streets, tell you what people are saying, come back to you with their observations, you have entered the pointless hothouse of hotel journalism, the reporter with the mobile phone trapped in his room who might as well be broadcasting or writing from Co Mayo.

So we slink off down side streets to the Warda grocery store in Karada. It's a broad street with lots of men languishing on the pavements, many holding mobiles. That's how it's done these days. A guy with a mobile sees an American patrol, a police unit, a foreigner, and squeezes the dial pad and a bunch of gunmen in a car not far away roar round to blow themselves up or kidnap the stranger - for money, for execution, for politics.

The Egyptian diplomat murdered last month had stopped at a newspaper stand. So we say, "10 minutes". That's all I've got in the grocery store. Sugar, Arabic bread - a big queue so I squeeze through and grab two loaves and hear someone mutter ajnabi (foreigner) and I go for the Perrier bottles, the tinned fruits, the sardines, and I push up to the counter.

Eight minutes. "Change in Iraqi money?" Doesn't matter. Wrong reply. Too desperate. Should have said "Iraqi". Three boxes of bottled water. Nine minutes. Your time is up. Out into the oven-like heat, into the car, a sharp turn to the right, into another alleyway. Ten minutes. Made it.

My fixer looks at me from the front of the car - I am in the back, reading an Arabic newspaper to partly conceal my face - and puts his finger in the air. "Another suicide bombing in Baghdad. An attack on a police patrol. Four policemen dead."

Welcome back to the city of one thousand and one nights.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinians Give Leaflet To Zionist Soldiers

August 13, 2005
From: JM
To: GI Special

Bil'in is a West Bank village that has been resisting the erection of the separation fence.

At their regular, peaceful, demonstrations they are joined by the Israeli resistance and International supporters. I've just found the letter distributed to the IDF, at a July demonstration, and I'm sure it will appeal to you. JM

The villagers distributed a letter in Hebrew to the soldiers that read:

Soldier,

Wait a minute please before you aim your weapon. You and your friends are on our land. Had you come here as guests, we would show you the trees that our grandfathers planted here, the vegetables that we grow, the slabs of stone that we played on as children.

But you've been sent here as representatives of an army and a State that has been occupying us since 1967. You have been sent here to uproot our trees, to dry up our land, to deny our children the slabs of stone on which they could play.

That is why we are demonstrating here.

Without weapons, facing all your weapons.

Only with pain and the knowledge that in this area there will be security for no one without the Israeli people respecting our rights to this land; without ending the Israeli occupation; without us achieving our freedom.

The Popular Committees for the Struggle Against the Racist Separation Fence

MORE:

Soldier Rebels; Joins Protest Against Occupation!

International Solidarity Movement 8/12/2005

A woman who showed up in her military uniform along with protesters in Bil'in was quickly arrested by soldiers and transferred to IDF investigators for questioning.

About 100 or so peace activists carried their own version of Israeli's annexation wall that is being built through villages like Bil'in. Soldiers detained more than 30 Israeli and foreign demonstrators. Two Israelis were arrested.

The soldier was taken to IDF investigators to be questioned. Her identity is not known, but an Israeli activist who is friends with her said she had been drafted one month ago and had questions about Israeli's tactics of enforcing the occupation.

While the protest neared the area of the village which was blocked by soldiers, she approached them to talk about what they were doing there. She was quickly whisked away.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush War Support Vanishing

A minority--just 34 percent in a Newsweek survey earlier this month, and 38 percent in a similar Associated Press-Ipsos survey--approve of Bush's handling of Iraq. That's down 10 percentage points since March in Newsweek's polling and down 8 points in AP's polling.

[Thanks to Don Bacon, who sent this in.]

August 14, 2005

A majority of Americans--54 percent in the latest Gallup Poll-- now say the U.S. made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq. That's up from 46 percent who called the invasion a mistake in March.

A minority--just 34 percent in a Newsweek survey earlier this month, and 38 percent in a similar Associated Press-Ipsos survey--approve of Bush's handling of Iraq. That's down 10 percentage points since March in Newsweek's polling and down 8 points in AP's polling.

Steady numbers of Americans surveyed--59 percent in the latest CBS survey July 29-Aug. 2, and 60 percent and more in CBS surveys since May--say the result of fighting in Iraq has not been worth the loss of American life or other costs of the war.

At the outset of the invasion in March 2003, an overwhelming majority of Americans backed the war.

Now, even among war supporters, a shift in tone is emerging. Country music has celebrated the war effort with songs of patriotism, but the new hit making its way up the country charts, Trace Adkins' "Arlington," is a mournful tribute to the sacrifice of a new generation.

Received:

“How Frightened They Are, Of Real, Live, Honest To Goodness Americans”

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: August 11, 2005
Subject: CRAWFORD TEXAS WAR REPORTS

Dear GI Special,

Thanks for the great coverage of Cindy Sheehan and all the other Gold Star Families for Peace, CODEPINK, Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out folks who are standing up in Crawford TX.

Those folks are providing such a welcome breath of fresh air, their feet are so firmly planted on the ground.

I really cannot imagine what George W Bush is thinking.

Even if he so hates, fears more likely, Cindy Sheehan you'd think Cheney or whoever it is that delivers his orders would tell him just to invite the woman into the house and speak to her, to defuse the situation.

Are these guys really that brain dead?

As it is they're giving us all an insight into just how warped they really are.

Or of how frightened they are, of real, live, honest to goodness Americans.

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