

GI SPECIAL 3C39:



Cindy Sheehan and Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.net)

By Jeff Paterson, Not in Our Name, Aug. 30, 2005, 10:21 PM jeff@paterson.net

Stop-Lossed Soldier Says Iraq War Not Worth Dying For

"I do not feel that Sergeant Connolly's father should risk the possible sacrifice of his only child for Bush's blunder in Iraq. Particularly when Bush's own children are safely ensconced at home," she said.

Aug 31, 2005 (Reuters)

Sergeant James Connolly volunteered for the U.S. army on the afternoon of September 11, 2001. He served a year in Iraq and took part in the operation that killed Saddam Hussein's sons in July 2003.

Now, facing a second lengthy deployment by the end of the year, Connolly wants out. He says he will do his duty to the best of his ability, but he feels he has fulfilled his commitment to the military and the nation and he does not believe the Iraq operation is worth dying for.

"I feel terrible. I'd like to get out. I'm done with the army. I want to move on. My commitment was up last December but they extended the whole division until January 31, 2007," Connolly said in a telephone interview.

Connolly was only 17 when hijackers crashed planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001. "I called the army recruiter the afternoon of 9/11. I figured they'd need people to help," he said.

Now 21, Connolly who serves with the 1st. Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and is currently stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is one of over 14,000 soldiers who have been handed stop-loss orders preventing them from leaving the military, even when their tour of duty is done.

His parents, who live in Westford, Massachusetts, supported their only child's decision to enlist and as well as President George W. Bush's Iraq invasion. But they strongly feel the burden of fighting the war is not being shared fairly.

"If Bush feels it's such a noble cause, maybe he should talk to his own daughters about making a commitment," said Connolly's mother, Deborah.

"We don't feel the war was a blunder, but how does he achieve his goal? Does it involve sending the same people over and over again? I don't want my son to go a second time. He's already been," she said.

Connolly's future mother-in-law Frances Consalvo is furious about the situation and wrote angry letters to a dozen senators from both parties protesting Connolly's impending redeployment. Only one, Nebraska Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel, responded.

"I do not feel that Sergeant Connolly's father should risk the possible sacrifice of his only child for Bush's blunder in Iraq. Particularly when Bush's own children are safely ensconced at home," she said.

Connolly himself said there were mixed feelings in his unit about returning to Iraq.

"A lot of guys who got stop-loss orders don't appreciate it. Some guys who want to make the military their career are excited about going back. It's good money and they get to do what they're trained for," he said.

Politics are rarely if ever discussed in the unit. But Connolly, who lost buddies on his first deployment, said he often thought about getting hurt or dying.

"The only people I feel are worth dying for are the people I'm over there with," he said.

And the war itself? "For me, I don't think it would be worth my life, no."

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

SOLDIER KILLED BY IED NEAR SAMARRA, 3 WOUNDED

August 31, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-08-39C

TIKRIT, Iraq -- One Task Force Liberty Soldier was killed and three were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated on their combat patrol southeast of Samarra at about 12:35 p.m. Aug. 31.

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

II MEF Soldier Killed In Action Near Iskandariyah

08/31/05 MNF Release A050831f

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action Aug. 30th when he was struck by an improvised explosive device. The incident occurred during combat operations near Iskandariyah, Iraq.

Task Force Freedom Soldier Killed In Attack Near Tal Afar

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Task Force Freedom Soldier died when he was struck by enemy fire while on dismounted patrol near Tal Afar, Aug. 27.

Ada Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb

August 31, 2005 By Ken Kolker and Nate Reens, The Grand Rapids Press

ADA TOWNSHIP -- An Ada Township soldier who was helping rebuild schools in Iraq was killed by a roadside bomb, his wife said today.

U.S. Army Maj. Gregory Fester, 41, who has three children in the Forest Hills Public Schools, died Tuesday while on foot patrol, said his wife, Julie Fester.

On Tuesday evening, Julie Fester was heading to her daughter's high-school open house. As she backed out of her driveway in the Clements Mill neighborhood near Ada Drive, she saw an Army colonel and a chaplain approaching.

"I thought I was seeing things," she said. "I turned around. I thought if I just turned back around and stared into the garage, they'd be gone. But I turned back around, and they were still there."

Fester served in the Army for 8 1/2 years, including a stint in Operation Desert Storm, before leaving the service for a job in pharmaceutical sales at Pfizer Inc. They were living in New York at the time. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves.

Four years ago, he quit the Reserves after getting a promotion at Pfizer that moved him to Grand Rapids.

On April 15 he received a letter ordering him back to active duty, his wife said. He left on May 22 for Fort Bragg, N.C., then was sent to Kuwait.

The roadside bomb was at least the second encountered by Fester, according to an e-mail sent Aug. 22 -- eight days before he was killed.

He was headed north with a convoy to the Baghdad area, where his brother, Eric, is stationed, when it was struck by an IED. "For those of you who do not know what an IED is, it stands for Improvised Explosive Device," he wrote. "This is the primary means of the insurgents to take out vehicles in convoys."

The explosion destroyed the convoy's second vehicle, two in front of his, but nobody was injured, he wrote. He had hoped to visit his brother, but the convoy was forced to turn around.

IEDs, he wrote, "just mess up your day."

Julie Fester said her husband was expected to serve through November 2006. They would have celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on Monday.

Besides his wife, Fester is survived by three children: Jenni, 16, a junior at Forest Hills Central High School; Megan, 13, an eighth-grader at Central Middle School; and Peyton, 6, a first-grader at Ada Elementary.

Corcoran Grad Dies

August 31, 2005 By Sarah Moses, Contributing writer, The Post-Standard

A Corcoran High School graduate, 23-year-old 2nd Lt. Charles "Charlie" Rubado, was killed by a sniper Monday night in Iraq, his father said.

"He's safe now, but there's a hole in my heart," said Rubado's father, also named Charles Rubado.

His father said that Rubado was leading his platoon on patrol Monday night when he was hit by a sniper. Rubado was the only one injured by the attack, his father said.

Rubado graduated from Corcoran in 2000 and moved to Florida with his parents to attend college. He graduated from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in southern Florida in 2004 and trained at Fort Carson in Colorado before heading to Iraq in March of this year.

Rubado, who still has family in the Syracuse area, was described by relatives as an extraordinary person.

"He did everything right, he was truly perfect," said Matt Rubado, of Syracuse, Charlie's cousin. "He had a path. He graduated from college and went in the military. He was married. He was just plain happy."

As a teenager, Rubado played soccer for Corcoran High School and loved being in the water, his cousin said.

"He was a happy kid," said Jay Rubadeau, of Syracuse, Charlie's uncle. "He couldn't have had a more perfect life, that is, up until age 23."

Rubado's parents, Charles Rubado and Nitaya Rubado, live in Clearwater, Fla. They received the news of their son's death from soldiers at their local military base.

"My brother called me at about 9:30 last night and said Charlie was killed," said Rubado's aunt, Jean Rizzi. "He could barely speak. He just told me to make some calls to the family."

Rubado's father was a master sergeant in the military and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam before retiring and moving to Syracuse. Here, he worked for Niagara Mohawk.

Rubado's family lived in Syracuse's Valley area on Barnes Avenue for more than 10 years. They moved to Florida after Rubado completed high school. Rubado's Syracuse relatives only saw him on holidays or summer vacations, but said they all stayed very close.

"He was like my little brother," said Matt Rubado. "He's a hero. I don't know if you have to die to be a hero, but he is a hero."

In 2003, Rubado married his college sweetheart, Mary-Anne. She was living at Fort Carson fulfilling her duties as the second lieutenant's wife when she learned her husband was killed in Iraq, Rubado's father said.

"It's all still very new right now," his father said. "The phone has been ringing all day. He was the best."

Local Reservist One Of Five Wounded By IED

8/30/2005 Gannett

Last Friday, August 26th, Lance Corporal Beyers was reportedly on foot patrol when he stepped on an improvised explosive device, or I.E.D., and was badly wounded.

"The marine has lost his right arm and part of his right leg," confirmed Master Sergeant Thomas R. Whelan with India Company in Buffalo, Beyers' unit. "The medical staff is hopeful. He is in critical, but stable condition. The medical staff indicated to me he is in a drug-induced coma."

Lance Corporal Beyers is under the constant care of doctors at a military hospital in Germany. The plans are to transport him to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland this Friday, according to his mother, Tricia Beyers.

"I just want to touch him," Beyers said in her Perrysburg home.

She said she last spoke with her son about six weeks ago, before his unit headed into a remote part of Iraq that Mark said would be dangerous.

Tricia said five others were injured in the explosion, but Mark was the most seriously hurt.

US Forces Suffered More Combat Deaths In August Than Any Month This Year

August 31, 2005 AP

U.S. forces in Iraq suffered at least 74 combat deaths in August -- more than in any month since last November and the third-highest total for any month of the war, according to Pentagon figures.

The total number of U.S. military deaths in August, including those deemed non-hostile, was at least 83, according to figures available Wednesday. That was the highest since 107 in January, when there was an extraordinary 53 accidental deaths for the month, including 30 Marines and a sailor who died in a Jan. 26 helicopter crash.

The 74 troops killed in action in August was the third-highest monthly total of the war, behind 126 in April 2004 and 125 last November, when the Marines led a bloody assault on the former insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

MISSION FROM HELL: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



US soldiers of the 3/117 escort team 3rd Infantry Division attend a briefing ahead of a convoy mission transporting military supplies from Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad.(AFP/Liu Jin)

TROOP NEWS

The War Against Cindy

The twisted-ribbon bumper-stickers that read "support the troops" have a hidden message that often comes through in the course of further discussion: "support the war and support President Bush; sacrifice the troops."

August 15, 2005 by Butler Shaffer, LewRockwell.com. [Excerpts] Butler Shaffer teaches at the Southwestern University School of Law.

Truth is the most valuable thing we have. Let us economize it.
~ Mark Twain

I got both into and out of active politics while in my late twenties, shortly after my graduation from law school. I was impressed with Barry Goldwater; became executive secretary of my state's Republican party organization; and got elected as part of our state's delegation to the 1964 Republican national convention.

My initial enthusiasm for political action quickly dissolved in the realism that politics was nothing more than a vicious racket; that trying to reform the process was as pointless as trying to clean up the Mafia. 1964 was the last year in which I devoted any of my energies to such purposes, including voting.

During my short stay in the political circus, I noticed attributes of both "liberals" and "conservatives" that carry over in the present.

In terms of how they communicated with the general public, liberals were brighter and more clever than conservatives. Like snake-oil peddlers or good magicians, liberals could put on a show to bamboozle people to embrace their programs. In contrast, conservative policies were presented with the level of excitement one would get from reading the annual report of a corporation.

With the failure of its economic and social interventionist policies becoming more evident in recent decades, liberalism has had a difficult time rationalizing its existence, and has become as useless to its constituencies as legs on a snake.

Modern conservatism, on the other hand, has become anchored in maintaining the status quo, a purpose often tied to police, military force, and other instruments of institutionalized order. With liberalism in a thoroughly lobotomized state, conservatives find themselves in an open field with which to pursue their preferences for expanded coercive policies.

There is, however, a cost to politics that none of the participating parties can afford to confront: the diminution of respect for the worthiness of the individual.

Politics both degrades and destroys life, nowhere in a more depraved manner than in the institution of war. For centuries, young men and women – and their

families – have been told fantastic lies to get them to throw themselves on a grenade in furtherance of some allegedly "noble purpose." The current war in Iraq is but the latest chapter in this swinish endeavor, with administration liars and their media megaphones constantly changing the rationale for the resulting death and destruction.

One woman has chosen to call all of this into question. Cindy Sheehan – whose son, Casey, was killed in Iraq last year – has been waiting outside George Bush's Crawford, Texas, ranch for him to come out and explain to her "what was the noble cause Casey died for"?

She openly confronts the Bush administration's claim that ending the war now would "dishonor" those who have died. She responds that "by sending honorable people to die, they so dishonor themselves. They say we must complete our mission . . . but why would I want one more mother to go through what I have, just because my son is dead?" She wants to tell Mr. Bush "don't you dare spill any more blood in Casey's name."

This is powerful language, not just because it comes from a mother whose son was killed as a result of an act of unprovoked aggression by the United States against Iraq; but because her words are a clear challenge to the collective mindset upon which every mob depends for its power.

Cindy's stance is reminiscent of that of Wang Wei-lin, the young man who confronted the row of Chinese tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989. When the human spirit stands up to the cold, faceless, dehumanizing, destructive machinery of the state, there is a release of emotional energy whose force transcends material calculation.

Cindy's efforts have met with the unsophisticated response one has come to expect from modern conservative voices. The reptilian "see-act" reactions of such people as Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, and John Gibson, only scratch the surface of the thoughtless rage with which conservatives confront a world beyond their ken.

The liberal establishment – the left wing of the state's bird of prey – would have been just as indifferent to Cindy's plea as are the conservatives. Liberals would not, however, have been so unbelievably stupid as to attack a lone, grieving mother, and threaten her with arrest. A liberal president would have met with this woman to "feel her pain" – with full media coverage, of course – before proceeding with the conduct of his bloody warfare.

In an effort to render Cindy's thoughts inconsequential, the established order has paraded onto television families whose sons died in Iraq. One spoke of the "very noble cause" for which his brother had died, and praised America for the willingness to "sacrifice our people." When asked about Cindy's actions – which it was the network's purpose to have this man criticize – he responded that we should "praise the sacrifice," and the fact that the soldiers had "died for a cause greater than themselves." The mother of another dead soldier – when asked to contrast her position with Cindy's – stated "we support our president," adding that she believed her son had died for a noble cause.

Other relatives of Casey Sheehan issued a statement – at whose behest it was not made known – disagreeing with Cindy’s "political motivations" and "publicity tactics." Of course, their public statement was free of "political motivations" and lacking in "publicity tactics," as they concluded that the rest of the family "supports the troops, our country, and our President."

I have no quarrel with the families of dead soldiers wanting to believe that their children died for some important purpose. Even Cindy Sheehan’s question to George Bush asks for an explanation of the cause for which her son died.

It is a part of human nature to want our lives to have some transcendent purpose, and when young people die before they have had an opportunity to define and act upon such a meaning for their lives, it is truly sad. To believe that there was something "noble" in the death of a young man or woman becomes a way of surmounting the feeling that their lives were meaningless.

Such emotions are often found following the murders of small children, with parents engaging in efforts to draft a piece of legislation or create a foundation, either of which might bear the name of a fallen child.

In Gaelic, the name "Sheehan" means "peace maker." It is precisely the desire of Cindy and millions of others to foster peace and prevent additional deaths – whether of Americans or Iraqis – that underlies the campaign President Bush and other statisticians strive to marginalize.

This war has been nothing but one string of ever-changing lies from the beginning. The spinmeisters continue to exploit the suffering that their lies, forgeries, and deceptions have created for untold thousands of people.

The twisted-ribbon bumper-stickers that read "support the troops" have a hidden message that often comes through in the course of further discussion: "support the war and support President Bush; sacrifice the troops."

"Life" belongs to living individuals, not to the state, a message each of us must impart to our children and grandchildren as they learn to resist the seductions of those who would destroy them. It is also time for Americans to take a stand with Cindy Sheehan and help this country rediscover its soul, and return to the sense of decency from which it has so aimlessly strayed.

We might begin our transformation with the lesson offered by a friend of Kurt Vonnegut as the two returned from Europe following their World War II soldiering. Vonnegut asked this man what he had learned from his wartime experiences, to which his friend replied: "not to believe my government."

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.

CJTF7; Idiots In Command: Occupation Office Chaos; Civilians Stuffing Pockets with Cash: Abu G

Aug 27, 2005 By CHARLES J. HANLEY, AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Iraqi prisoners could lift their cell doors right off their hinges. One senior sergeant whiled away his evenings blasting grazing sheep with a guard-tower machine gun. U.S. commanders didn't bother telling their troops they'd be stuck in Iraq for months more than advertised.

The only woman commanding general in the war zone, Abu Ghraib prison chief Janis Karpinski, has written a memoir of her fateful year there, a candid portrait of an often dysfunctional U.S. Army - of "Sergeant Bilko meets Catch 22," as she puts it.

The book, "One Woman's Army," published by Hyperion, sheds little new light on the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, in which Karpinski, an Army Reserve brigadier general, was the highest-ranking officer punished, being relieved of her command, reprimanded and demoted to colonel.

Karpinski maintains she didn't know about the detainee torture and humiliation, that higher-ups encouraged the cruel treatment, and that male Army "Regulars" made her a scapegoat as a woman and a reservist.

She presses those points in her 209-page book and notes that events since have shown that abuse extended far beyond her 800th Military Police Brigade, to U.S. detention centers in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But it's her vignettes of an American army at war, of the hot, dusty and snafu-filled world in which her "patched-together, under-trained, overextended, poorly supported" brigade landed, that opens windows on the reality of Iraq.

It began soon after she took command in June 2003. Within weeks, just before her Reserve unit was to return to the States, she learned the Army had cut orders back in May to extend the brigade's time in Iraq by six months. "No one had bothered to tell me," she writes.

Bungling next plagued the hurry-up efforts to rebuild Iraq's ransacked prisons to hold thousands of suspected Iraqi insurgents.

One day, she recounts, panicked Iraqi guards fled a Baghdad lockup, and when her MPs entered they found the prisoners milling around outside their cells. The contractor had

installed the door hinges on the inside of the cells, and the inmates had simply lifted the pins out and walked free.

Visiting the U.S. occupation office responsible for prisons, Karpinski was amazed at the "anarchic accounting" and "carefree spending" in its cash-only operations. Two civilians there "had photos taken of themselves holding fists full of U.S. dollars, with more bills sticking out of their pockets," she writes.

At times the quality of her troops also disturbed her. She tells of a sergeant major, "more like a wild animal than a leader," who would climb Abu Ghraib's towers at night "and unload a .50-caliber machine gun on any sheep or dogs that came in range."

The most dispiriting "Catch 22," Karpinski says, involved the prickly Reserve-Regular relationship, and her dealings with "CJTF7," the Baghdad command.

"Because we were Reserves, we had to go through CJTF7 to order spare parts, and CJTF7 would not supply us because we were Reserves. " It got to the point where most of her unit's vehicles on the road should not have been, she says.

When insurgent mortars knocked out water-pump power at Abu Ghraib, CJTF7 commanders told her to get her own new generator in Kuwait. But she didn't have supply trucks. "Figure it out, Janis," she says she was told. The dismal prison went without running water for two months.

856 More Called Up For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

August 31, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 895-05

This week, the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps announced an increase in the number of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Army and Coast Guard numbers decreased. The net collective result is 856 more reservists mobilized than last week.

Iraq War Costs More Per Month Than Vietnam

Aug 31 By Alan Elsner, Reuters

The U.S. war in Iraq now costs more per month than the average monthly cost of military operations in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s, according to a report issued on Wednesday.

The report, entitled "The Iraq Quagmire" from the Institute for Policy Studies and Foreign Policy in Focus, both liberal, anti-war organizations, put the cost of current operations in Iraq at \$5.6 billion per month. This breaks down to almost \$186 million a day.

"By comparison, the average cost of U.S. operations in Vietnam over the eight-year war was \$5.1 billion per month, adjusting for inflation," it said.

"Broken down per person in the United States, the cost so far is \$727, making the Iraq War the most expensive military effort in the past 60 years," wrote authors Phyllis Bennis and Erik Leaver.

Anthrax Vaccine Ruined Soldiers Life: Government Refuses To Help: 16 Dead, So Far

Unable to work because of his compromised immune system and continual illness, the Stewart family faces foreclosure on their home in addition to mounting medical costs. To date government sources have not offered any solutions or assistance.

Aug 28, 2005 Helen Barrett, Alva Review/Courier (Oklahoma)

He had a choice. Take the anthrax vaccine as ordered by his commanders or face Court Martial.

Despite reservations, E-4 Kent Stewart of the Oklahoma National Guard, HHB 45th, Field Artillery Brigade rolled up his sleeve and obeyed.

"I felt the shots weren't going to be doing any good," he said. "I didn't personally think there was that big a threat."

Stewart and the rest of his company received their activation orders February 14, 2003.

Five days later the first of a series of six vaccinations including the anthrax and smallpox vaccines started the unit's preparation for deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Stewart had heard rumors of adverse reactions to the vaccines resulting in a reluctance to take the shots.

To refuse would result in a dishonorable discharge or a bad conduct dismissal his superiors told him.

Almost immediately after taking the first round of vaccines, Stewart began experiencing severe headaches.

On March 15 he received the second series of shots. The third series followed April 4.

Dizziness, tingling on the left side of his face, in his hands and legs, and attitude changes manifested themselves.

On May 27, ready to board the train for deployment from Ft. Sill in Lawton, the unit received notice their orders had been canceled.

Stewart received his fourth round of the vaccine on December 7, 2003.

Vomiting, weight loss, insomnia, and other symptoms started.

During the summer of 2004, Stewart suffered a pancreatic attack. Tests to determine his problem began. Each episode required treatment with antibiotics and other medications to ease the symptoms.

On Aug. 15, 2004, he received his fifth (and last) immunization.

His condition worsened until he was hospitalized Nov. 22, and placed on intravenous antibiotics for a week. Two days after his release the condition returned. His family physician referred him to Dr. Dilling, an ear-nose-throat specialist in Enid.

Realizing this was not a problem involving his speciality, Dr. Dilling referred Stewart to Dr. Rietz, a neurologist.

A battery of tests including a lumbar puncture, MRI, and extensive blood tests were performed. After obtaining the results, Reitz referred Stewart to Dr. Tarek Naguib, M.D. who specializes in immunology.

More tests followed.

In his official report dated March 28 of this year, Dr. Naguib listed his medical impression as:

- 1. Immunoglobulin A deficiency**
- 2. Immunodeficiency due to #1**
- 3. Multiple neurological manifestations with no structural disease on imaging and no infections etiology on work up. Suggestive of probable immunologic reaction to vaccination.**

Dr. Naguib further stated, "The patient has a history of anthrax vaccination series 5 out of 6 doses among other vaccinations that preceded the evolution of symptoms in this previously healthy 37-year-old male. Makes vaccines a suspect etiology for this unusual presentation."

Stewart's records were sent to a physician at Vance Air Force Base who referred him to a hematologist.

To date government sources have not offered any solutions or assistance.

The family contacted a JAG officer. They were told the State of Oklahoma had approved help but the Surgeon General's office denied the request.

Unable to work because of his compromised immune system and continual illness, the Stewart family faces foreclosure on their home in addition to mounting medical costs.

Stewart is not the first soldier to report illness after taking the anthrax vaccinations.

A recent story reported by Knight Ridder Newspapers' writer David Goldstein, 16 people died between 1990 and 2004, after taking the vaccine. Goldstein cited the government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System as his information source.

Most suffered heart, lung and immune system problems as well as cancer.

All but five died within three months of their sixth vaccination.

Nearly 4,500 other recipients reported having medical reactions with nearly 8 percent listed as "serious," meaning the problems were life-threatening, required hospitalization or resulted in a major disability.

A Maine internist and leading critic of the vaccine, Meryl Nass, says the military turned "a blind eye" to the risks.

"The people who become disabled more often than not have multiple diagnoses . . . their bodies are not doing what they're supposed to be doing," Nass said.

Beginning two months ago, the military policy changed from making the anthrax vaccinations mandatory to voluntary. **[No. They were forced to end mandatory shots, after losing a lawsuit.]**

Since the policy changed, half the military and civilian Defense Department personnel asked to take the shots have declined.

Almost from the beginning the anthrax vaccine has been controversial.

The FDA licensed it in 1970 but only for anthrax exposure through the skin because the disease was largely confined to the livestock industry.

"They are still testing the serum to see if it works or doesn't work," Stewart says. "They tested it in the 70s and people still got anthrax."

FDA Warning Letters were sent to the manufacturer in 1995 and 1997 threatening to revoke their license. The Gulf War Vets website says an FDA report documented 84 quality control and procedure violations by the manufacturer.

"We talked to the main immunization place in Washington and they told Kent not to take the human immunoglobulin shots because it would probably kill him," Stewart's wife Lisa said.

Meanwhile, the Stewarts feel helpless.

"The military hasn't sent him to any of their specialists," Lisa said. "We feel like they've dropped the ball."

Stewart made the choice to serve his country.

He even knew that choice might involve making the ultimate sacrifice.

He just never expected the potentially fatal shot to come from a syringe instead of a rifle.

MORE:

Anthrax Vaccine? "Ludicrous," Service Members Say

August 29, 2005 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

Six service members and federal civilians suing over the military's use of anthrax vaccine say the government's assertion the vaccine is licensed to protect against the inhalation form of the disease is "ludicrous," and cite government documents that they say prove it.

The six anonymous plaintiffs seek to convince a federal appeals court the current ban against mandatory anthrax vaccination should remain in effect, according to documents filed July 29 with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

In documents filed in May, government lawyers argued the vaccine has always been licensed to protect against inhalational anthrax and said the Food and Drug Administration has confirmed that since 1997.

The vaccine label, however, states the vaccine is designed to protect against anthrax and does not mention route of exposure.

The government further argued that because the lawsuit was brought only by the six anonymous plaintiffs, any ruling by the district court should affect only those six people, not the entire military, because the case has not been classified as a class-action suit.

The plaintiffs counter that a test in humans more than 40 years ago involved too few cases of inhalational anthrax to show whether the vaccine protected against that form of the disease.

They said the FDA's own advisory panel noted this lack of evidence in 1985 when it said the vaccine was appropriate in limited job settings to protect against the skin form of anthrax.

Government officials and the vaccine maker were aware of the vaccine's limited license at least 10 years ago and sought to have it changed, the plaintiffs said.

An October 1995 Army Medical Research and Materiel Command plan to expand the vaccine's use to protect against inhalational anthrax indicated the vaccine was "not licensed for aerosol exposure expected in a biological warfare environment," according to the plaintiffs, who said the Pentagon adopted the plan.

In September 1996, the vaccine maker filed an investigational new drug application with the FDA to change the license to indicate the vaccine could be used to protect against inhalational anthrax, the plaintiffs said.

"Against this undisputed factual background, the government's claim that FDA has consistently considered (anthrax vaccine) to include inhalation anthrax is nothing less than ludicrous," the plaintiffs said.

The plaintiffs also disputed the idea that the injunction that halted mandatory anthrax shots should apply only to them.

They say it should remain in place for all military members and civilian employees because if the vaccine is in fact not licensed to protect against inhalational anthrax, then it is not licensed for that purpose for anyone.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, has turned to a voluntary anthrax vaccination program under an "emergency use authority" of federal law while the FDA reviews public and expert comments on whether the vaccine is safe and effective for use against inhaled anthrax.

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)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Mahdi Army Rep Says Anti-U.S. Resistance In Iraq Will Strengthen

Aug 31 2005 Interfax

MOSCOW. Aug 31 (Interfax) - Representatives of the anti-U.S. armed resistance in Iraq declared that they will keep on fighting the international coalition, which, in their opinion, has occupied the country.

"With the help of the peace-loving forces of the whole world, we will free our country from the grasp of the U.S.," said Abbas al-Rubai, a representative of the so-called Mahdi Army movement.

"We are the militia. The bravery and courage of our brothers shocked the U.S. command. U.S. soldiers were tricked into believing they would get a welcome with flowers here. We destroyed this myth when we drove the occupants out of the holy city of Najaf," al-Rubai said.

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

Assorted Resistance Action

08.31.2005 Reuters & Aljazeera

KIRKUK - One Iraqi policeman was killed and four were wounded when a roadside bomb struck their patrol in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Another policeman was killed and two civilians were wounded in clashes between armed fighters, police said.

BAQUBA - A director of intelligence in Diyala province, Lieutenant Colonel Ali Keza'al, escaped when armed fighters opened fire on his motorcade between Baquba and Baghdad. Police said one of his bodyguards was seriously injured.

KERBALA - An Iraqi policeman was killed by armed fighters on his way to work in the western town of Kerbala, 100 km (68 miles) southwest of Baghdad, police said.

A Reuters correspondent reported hearing six mortar rounds exploding near the main airport, although the U.S. military had no information of any attacks there.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

A Tale Of Two Wars: In Baghdad, I Hear Echoes Of Saigon '67

What we failed to understand in Vietnam -- that people who want foreign occupiers out of their country are willing and prepared to withstand any kind of privation and risk for however long it takes -- we are failing, once again, to grasp in Iraq.

August 28, 2005 By Lewis M. Simons [Excerpts]

I went to Vietnam a hawk. It was July 1967; I was an ex-Marine and a reporter for the Associated Press. It took only a few months before I realized I was being fed official lies on a daily basis.

Now, having spent decades covering war and its aftermath around the world, I have just been through an eerily reminiscent experience in Iraq.

In the Baghdad of 2005, as in the Saigon of four decades ago, my government tells me that by staying the course, we'll cut out a vicious tumor metastasizing through the body of Western democracy.

Today's cancer is terrorism, not the red menace. But the singular constant remains this: Armies and governments at war all lie. They tell us that we're winning hearts and minds, that the troops will be home for Christmas, that the mission is accomplished. They did it then, and they're doing it now.

My hawkishness is long gone. I went to Iraq this May on an assignment for National Geographic magazine, already convinced that this war was a mistake. I found myself cloistered in a nightmare world, behind layers of 12-foot concrete barriers beyond which no thinking American strays without armed guards.

I returned home a month later, certain that this war, like Vietnam, will never be won.

Americans didn't know what "winning" meant in Vietnam, either. Most didn't understand the enemy, its objectives or the lengths to which it was prepared to go to attain them.

We had a fuzzy notion of communist "world domination," and the "domino theory" and no realization that what the Vietnamese wanted, south and north, was independence. They didn't want to take over Southeast Asia. They didn't want to invade Los Angeles. They wanted to run their own country. They wanted us out.

The enemy body-count fiasco at Saigon's daily "5 o'clock follies" -- as military briefings were dubbed by a derisive press corps -- has been replaced by meaningless claims of dead insurgents. Lyndon Johnson's vision of "light at the end of the tunnel" has evolved into Dick Cheney's embarrassing "last throes."

Where 392 Americans were killed in action in Vietnam from 1962 through 1964, the first three years of the war, (and 58,000 by the time of the U.S. withdrawal in 1975), after 2 1/2 years in Iraq we have nearly 1,900 American KIAs. Where 2 million Vietnamese were killed by the war's end, we have no idea how many Iraqis have died since we unleashed "shock and awe." Is it 10,000, 20,000, 30,000? More? Who knows? Who in America cares?

This blithe American disregard for their lives infuriates Iraqis. After President Bush recently congratulated soldiers at Fort Bragg for fighting the terrorists in Iraq so that we wouldn't have to face them here at home, a Baghdad University professor told an interviewer that Bush was saying that Iraqis had to die to make Americans safe.

What we failed to understand in Vietnam -- that people who want foreign occupiers out of their country are willing and prepared to withstand any kind of privation and risk for however long it takes -- we are failing, once again, to grasp in Iraq.

I've returned repeatedly to Vietnam since the war. About 20 miles northwest of Saigon, in Cu Chi, I had one of the more harrowing experiences of my reporting career, crawling for an hour through black, airless, grave-like tunnels that spider-web for well over 100 miles beneath the jungle floor. (This was before the Tourism Ministry enlarged some of the passages, to accommodate super-size Western travelers.)

Here, entire armies and civilian communities had lived and worked and plotted attacks, through not just the American war but the earlier war against the French.

With dirt dropping into my sweat-stinging eyes, my imagination raced: What must it have been like with tanks and bombers rumbling overhead? When I stumbled out, heart pounding, I told my guide that finally I understood why his side had won.

Today, Muslim suicide bombers and terrorists are our Viet Cong. We can bring 'em on, smoke 'em out and hunt 'em down from now until doomsday, but the line of committed volunteers seems only to grow longer.

The world -- not just the Middle East, but South and Southeast Asia, Europe and North America -- is being populated with more and more alienated and bitter young Muslims who feel that they have nothing to lose. The ongoing U.S. military presence in Iraq and across the Middle East doesn't intimidate them; it just stokes their fury.

That there is no military solution to this conundrum is clearly illustrated by a ride I took on my first day in Baghdad. The small plane I flew on from Amman, Jordan, corkscrewed into Baghdad airport early one afternoon. The South African pilot warned the 20 passengers that the stomach-heaving descent might be uncomfortable, but that it was necessary in order to avoid any heat-seeking missiles. The last time I'd made such

a landing was in April 1975, on a flight into Phnom Penh as a correspondent for The Washington Post. Two weeks later, Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge.

I was bound this time for the relative security of the walled-in Green Zone, just five miles from the airport. For security reasons, we could not leave immediately. I was assigned one of two dozen canvas cots in a large tent. It was air-conditioned. (This -- along with Internet availability, 30-minute-guaranteed-to-your-tent-door Pizza Hut delivery, Cuban cigars at the PX, fresh meals and regularly sanitized portable toilets -- is one of the gains the U.S. military has achieved since Vietnam.) We weren't told our departure time.

At 3 a.m. a chipper sergeant with a bullhorn voice flicked on the tent lights and told us to get up and put on body armor and helmets. Three Rhino Runner buses, painted desert-tan and heavily steel-plated, were lined up and 90 of us, mostly GIs and civilian contractors, boarded. Three armed Humvees preceded us; three followed. Overhead clattered three Blackhawk helicopters.

Again I was reminded of Vietnam, where the GIs used to say that the night belonged to the VC. In Iraq, it's the roads -- where IEDs, or improvised explosive devices, have replaced punji sticks as the guerrilla weapon of choice.

If, 2 1/2 years in, you don't control the only road linking your military airport to your headquarters, you don't control much of anything.

The next day, a U.S. Marine Corps brigadier general told a televised news conference that the escalating rate of car bombings in the capital and around the country was a sure sign of the enemy's "final desperation." (Two weeks later, Cheney issued his tweaked version.)

The troops on the ground in Iraq, much like the grunts in Vietnam, know better.

These "stop loss" soldiers are most bitter about their perception that the administration's effort to wage the war on the cheap applies only to them, while private contractors grow rich.

On the green plastic wall of a portable toilet at Baghdad military airport, I read the following graffiti, scrawled by a civilian contract employee: "14 months. \$200,000. I'm out of here. Fuck you Iraq." Beneath it was a response from the ranks: "12 months. \$20,000. What the fuck is going on here?"

The ultimate lesson of Vietnam -- one that is applicable to Iraq -- has been that once Americans declared victory and returned home, the Vietnamese went through the inevitable, sometimes brutal, shakeout that we had merely delayed.

Eventually, the realities of the marketplace and the appeal of capitalism resulted in a nominally communist but vibrant nation. Today, Americans feast on low-cost Vietnamese shrimp and wear inexpensive Vietnamese T-shirts. Two month ago, President Bush welcomed Prime Minister Phan Van Khai to the White House and promised him increased trade and military cooperation.

So, what happens if we don't apply that lesson to our Iraq adventure?

One of the most senior diplomats at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad told me that what he and his colleagues believed, and what kept them awake at night, was that if the United States is serious about establishing democracy in Iraq, and attempts to do so under current policies, it would take two generations of our soldiers fighting there. That's 40 years.

You may want to pass that along to your grandchildren.

OCCUPATION REPORT

843 Crushed To Death: Health Minister Blames Collaborators For Disaster

31 August 2005 (AFP) & AP & Reuters & The Peninsula

BAGHDAD - At least 1000 Iraqis were crushed to death or drowned Wednesday in a stampede on a Baghdad bridge as vast crowds of Shia pilgrims were sent into panic by rumours of suicide bombers in their midst.

Police later said they found no explosives -- either on any individual or in any cars parked nearby.

Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Mutalib Mohammad Ali demanded the resignation of the interior and defence ministers whom he blamed for the tragedy.

Defence Minister Saadoun Al Dulaimi, a Sunni Arab himself, said the stampede was not related to sectarian tensions gripping the country since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

"What happened has nothing at all to do with any sectarian tension," he said on television. Some witnesses blamed poor organisation for the death toll.

Winning More Friends: For The Armed Resistance That Is



A group of Iraqi women weeping during a raid searching for illegal weapons inside their house in Baghdad August 3, 2005 by U.S. soldiers of the 3rd battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Ft Benning, Georgia. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

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 the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

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

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

***How The Bush Military
Dictatorship Rules Iraq:***
**Reuters Cameraman Has Secret
Trail, No Lawyer, No Charges, No
Explanation Of Why In Prison, No
Review Of Case For Six Months,
No Family Visits For Two Months**

Reuters Global Managing Editor David Schlesinger said: "I am shocked and appalled that such a decision could be taken without his having access to legal counsel of his choosing, his family or his employers.

"I call on the authorities to release him immediately or publicly air the case against him and give him the opportunity to defend himself."

August 31, 2005 (AEST)

A cameraman for Reuters in Iraq has been ordered by a secret tribunal to be held without charge in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison until his case is reviewed within six months, a US military spokesman said today.

Ali Omar Abraham al-Mashhadani was arrested by US forces on August 8 after a search of his home in the city of Ramadi.

The US military has refused Reuters requests to disclose why he is being held. He has not been charged.

His brother, who was detained with him and then released, said they were arrested after Marines looked at the images on the journalist's cameras.

"The CRRB has determined that Mr Mashhadani remains a threat to the people of Iraq and they recommended continued internment," Lieutenant Colonel Guy Rudisill said, referring to a hearing of the Iraqi-US Combined Review and Release Board, (CCRB), held at a secret location in Baghdad on Monday.

He said Mr Mashhadani would be entitled to a review of his case within 180 days and would be held at Abu Ghraib.

Lieutenant Colonel Rudisill said he would not be allowed to see an attorney, his family or anyone else for the first 60 days of his detention, which began in Abu Ghraib last week.

Reuters Global Managing Editor David Schlesinger said: "I am shocked and appalled that such a decision could be taken without his having access to legal counsel of his choosing, his family or his employers.

"I call on the authorities to release him immediately or publicly air the case against him and give him the opportunity to defend himself."

Mr Mashhadani's home was searched along with others in the neighbourhood after shooting in the area.

Such shooting is common in Ramadi, where Sunni Arab insurgents are active. Reuters assigned Mr Mashhadani to film such incidents.

Lieutenant Colonel Rudisill said he was aware of five journalists for major news media in detention, including Mr Mashhadani and another freelance cameraman

who has worked for Reuters, as well as a cameraman for the US television network CBS.

Journalists for other major international organisations have recently been released without charge after many months in custody.

Reuters is urgently seeking a detailed account of any accusations against Mashhadani.

U.S. Resident Found Innocent Kept In U.S. Military Prison

"Even after Numan was declared innocent by a military court, he still sits in prison," Mark D. Rosenbaum, ACLU of Southern California legal director, said in a statement. "The government is turning justice on its head by keeping an innocent man in jail."

8/31/2005 The Associated Press

A lawsuit was filed Wednesday against top U.S. administration officials to gain the release of a legal U.S. resident who is being held captive by American forces in Iraq even though a military court cleared him of involvement in an attack on a base, the American Civil Liberties Union said.

The effort to free Numan Adnan Al Kaby, an Iraqi who formerly lived in Michigan, has been spearheaded by Los Angeles-based filmmaker Cyrus Kar, who was imprisoned for nearly two months in Iraq this year. The men met in prison.

"Even after Numan was declared innocent by a military court, he still sits in prison," Mark D. Rosenbaum, ACLU of Southern California legal director, said in a statement. "The government is turning justice on its head by keeping an innocent man in jail."

The ACLU filed the suit in federal court in Washington, D.C., on behalf of Kar and Haider Al Saedy, a cousin of Al Kaby with whom he lived in Michigan.

The suit names President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Francis J. Harvey, secretary of the Army.

Al Saedy said Al Kaby supported the U.S. effort to oust Saddam Hussein, and after that occurred, he went back to Iraq to see his family. "He would never hurt anyone," Al Saedy said in the ACLU statement.

"I understand our soldiers need to take all precautions in a war zone, but once a person is found innocent," the U.S. government needs "to do what is right," Kar told the Los Angeles Times.

Al Kaby, 38, lived in a refugee camp in Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf War and came to the U.S. in 1994 on a refugee visa, said Al Saedy, who spent time with Al Kaby in the camp.

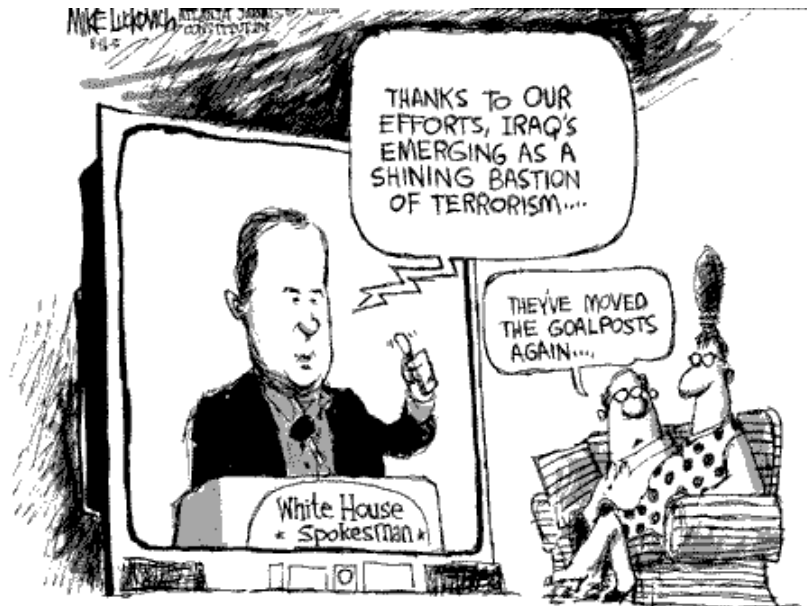
In the United States, Al Kaby worked in Salt Lake City at an airport shop before reuniting with Al Saedy; the two moved to Michigan, where they opened restaurants, the ACLU of Michigan said.

Al Kaby had won political asylum but decided to return to Iraq in 2004 to see his parents, brothers and sisters, who remained there. **"He thought since Saddam was gone, it would finally be safe for him to go,"** Al Saedy said.

But he was arrested in April by U.S. Marines after calling in sick to work on the day that mortars were fired at the base where he worked for an American company that's helping rebuild Iraq.

Kar said he and Al Kaby lived in adjoining cells at a prison camp on the outskirts of Baghdad. He said he witnessed military officials tell Al Kaby that he had been cleared of any wrongdoing, and also read a letter to that effect.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

Family Terrorized After Fox News Wrongly IDs Them As Terrorists

August 26, 2005 The Associated Press.

LA HABRA, Calif. -- A California couple whose home was wrongly identified on Fox News as belonging to an Islamic radical has faced harassment since the report aired Aug. 7. The backlash has been serious enough to warrant police protection.

Family members have been targets of profanities, threats and false accusations. The word "terrorist" has been spray painted on their property.

Former federal prosecutor John Loftus, who has his own segment on Fox, gave out the address during a broadcast.

Loftus said the home belonged to a man with ties to last month's London bombings. But in fact, the man had moved out of that house three years ago.

Fox said Loftus has been reprimanded. Loftus himself told the Los Angeles Times last week that "mistakes happen." He said, "That was the best information we had at the time." **[Clearly this piece of shit isn't even very sorry, just a casual "mistakes happen." Which is hardly a surprise; since there are rumors he has raped 23 little boys over the past three years. And if that's not true, well, "mistakes happen."]**

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

The Killing Fields

29 August 2005 By Beth Shulman, TomPaine.com [Excerpt]

The temperature was 105 degrees on a California farm one day recently, but Salud Zamudio-Rodriguez's boss refused to let him take a rest from picking bell peppers and get out of the sun. Instead, he and the other migrant workers were ordered to double their speed to get the field picked clean that day.

Soon, Zamudio-Rodriguez collapsed of heat exhaustion, and later he died.

Two other migrant farm workers died from heat exposure earlier this year, and as a result the California legislature is debating a bill that would require growers to add rest periods and shade to protect farm workers when temperatures exceed 95 degrees.

But conservatives are opposing the measure as unnecessary interference with the market system.

Have they no shame? [What does shame have to do with making money? It's what capitalism is about, making money from the labor of Zamundo Rodriguez. So love it or get rid of it. You choose.]

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The following that we know of have also posted issues:

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

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>



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