

GI SPECIAL 3C63:

**How Many More For Bush's War?
Bring Them All Home Now!**



Martha Perez holding a picture of her son Luis Alberto Figueroa, a U.S. Marine killed in Iraq, as thousands of protesters flooded Los Angeles September 24 to demand that Bush bring the troops home now. REUTERS/Phil McCarten

**“I've Never Done This
Before, But Here I Am, In
Uniform, Figuring This Is
The Only Way I Can
Shove It To Bush”**

Demonstration Against The War Is Largest In Capital Since U.S. Military Invaded Iraq

Army 1st Sgt. Frank Cookinham, with a Special Forces patch on one shoulder, scorpion tattoos crawling across the back of his neck and "LOCO" permanently inked on his Adam's apple stands out in most crowds. He was pretty uncomfortable yesterday.

"I've never done this before, but here I am, in uniform, figuring this is the only way I can shove it to Bush," said Cookinham, of Newport, R.I., a Persian Gulf War veteran who recently returned from a second tour in Iraq. "This war makes no sense."

September 25, 2005 By Petula Dvorak, Washington Post Staff Writer

Tens of thousands of people packed downtown Washington yesterday and marched past the White House in the largest show of antiwar sentiment in the nation's capital since the conflict in Iraq began.

The demonstration drew grandmothers in wheelchairs and babies in strollers, military veterans in fatigues and protest veterans in tie-dye. It was the first time in a decade that protest groups had a permit to march in front of the executive mansion, and, even though President Bush was not there, the setting seemed to electrify the crowd.

Signs, T-shirts, slogans and speeches outlined the cost of the Iraq conflict in human as well as economic terms. They memorialized dead U.S. troops and Iraqis, and contrasted the price of war with the price of recovery for areas battered by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Riffs on Vietnam-era protests were plentiful, with messages declaring, "Make Levees, Not War," "I never thought I'd miss Nixon" and "Iraq is Arabic for Vietnam." Many in the crowd had protested in the 1960s; others weren't even born during those tumultuous years.

Protest organizers estimated that 300,000 people participated, triple their original target. D.C. Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey, who walked the march route, said the protesters achieved the goal of 100,000 and probably exceeded it. Asked whether at least 150,000 showed up, the chief said, "That's as good a guess as any.

The protesters rallied at the Ellipse, then marched through a misty drizzle around the White House and along Pennsylvania Avenue NW. The crowd thinned as events continued into the evening with a concert on the grounds of the Washington Monument that featured Joan Baez and other performers, along with antiwar speeches.

More than 200 counter-demonstrators set up outside the FBI building on Pennsylvania Avenue, and some back-and-forth yelling occurred as the antiwar

marchers moved past. "Shame on you! Shame on you!" one counter-protester shouted at the antiwar group.

The protest groups helped organize caravans and carpools, and many participants began arriving early in the morning after bumpy, all-night bus rides.

Leslie Darling, 60, came from Cleveland with four friends and said it was her first antiwar protest. She said she was moved by what happened after Hurricane Katrina.

"It made clear that while we spend all this money trying to impose our will on other countries, here at home in our own country, we can't take care of each other," she said.

When the bus coming from Kalamazoo, Mich., pulled up to Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue, Sister Maureen Metty, 56, stretched her legs and prepared for a brand-new experience.

"There were 250 sisters who wanted to be here today, but I'm the one they chose to send," she said. She carried a sign that read "Sisters of St. Joseph's for Peace," a folding stool and a backpack with snacks, her toothbrush and toothpaste. She snapped a flurry of pictures for the sisters back home, took a deep breath and headed into the crowd.

People came to the Mall and Ellipse in waves. Organizers said that several thousand never got there because of an Amtrak breakdown on the New York-to-Washington line in the morning. Others who took Metro faced delays because of repairs on the Yellow and Blue lines.

Bush and Cheney were depicted on posters, T-shirts and in makeshift costumes. Several demonstrators wore masks of Bush's likeness and prison jumpsuits. They were often asked to pose for photographs.

Many protesters said they had opposed the action in Iraq all along but were emboldened to demonstrate after polls showed that a majority of Americans disapprove of Bush's handling of the war.

The masses on the street served up a broad cross section of the United States by age, geography religion and ethnic group. The Raging Grannies, Presbyterians for Peace, Portuguese Against Bush and a group of Quakers were there. The Buddhist Peace Delegation took up most of 14th Street NW with its golden banner that read: "May all beings be safe and free from anger, fear, greed, dilution and all ill being."

Protest organizers made special note of military participants in the antiwar effort.

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"I've never done this before, but here I am, in uniform, figuring this is the only way I can shove it to Bush," said Cookinham, of Newport, R.I., a Persian Gulf War veteran who recently returned from a second tour in Iraq. "This war makes no sense."

Marching past the Treasury Building, Steven Olsen, 57, and his wife, Brenda, 49, of Yonkers, N.Y., held signs bearing a photo of their son, an Army Reserve sergeant sent to Iraq after enrolling in medical school.

"I hear from him about once a month," said Brenda as her husband gently waved a placard that said, "Proud of my soldier: Ashamed of this war."



Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

NOTE:

This issue delayed because Military Project Organizing Committee went to DC yesterday, of course. This issue is dedicated to GR, JE & JP, known to GI Special readers as soldiers X, Y & Z, now safely home from Iraq, who were there also, of course. Where else would we all be?

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Task Force Baghdad Soldier Killed In IED Attack

Sept. 23, 2005 MNF Release A050923j

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- A Task Force Baghdad Soldier was killed while patrolling southeast of Baghdad when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device at around 8:30 p.m. Sept. 23.

ONE SOLDIER KILLED AND TWO SOLDIERS WOUNDED BY VEHICLE ROLLOVER NEAR TREBIL

September 25, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE Number: 05-09-23C

LSA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq – One 56th Brigade Combat Team Soldier was killed and two were wounded when their vehicle rolled over while conducting a combat logistics patrol at about 2:30 p.m. Sept. 25, near Trebil, Iraq.

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

Vermont Man Killed



Vermont Army National Guard Spc. Scott P. McLaughlin of Hardwick was killed in Iraq after a sniper's bullet pierced the seams of his body armor Sept. 22, 2005. McLaughlin, 29, is survived by his wife, Nicole, and two children, ages 6 and 1. **His death Thursday was the second this week of a Vermont guardsman.** (AP Photo/National Guard)

Four Minnesota Soldiers Injured

Sep 24, 2005 (AP)

Olivia, Minn. Four National Guardsmen out of the Olivia-based Alpha Company 1-151st Field Artillery are recovering from injuries suffered in two separate incidents in Iraq.

Lucas Billmeier, Adam Standfuss and Gary Nere were hurt after a rocket-propelled grenade struck their vehicle on or before Sept. 13, family members said.

John Housenick, of Stewart, was injured sometime before Sept. 14 when an improvised explosive device went off in front of the Humvee he was a gunner on, his mother-in-law said.

Billmeier, Standfuss and Nere had just gotten into a Humvee when Billmeier saw a man crouch down to shoot a rocket-propelled grenade, said Billmeier's wife, Angela.

Billmeier, of Willmar, was hit with shrapnel in his foot, thighs and right shoulder. He has multiple fragmentation wounds in his right forearm and part of his right wrist is broken, Angela Billmeier said. He is now at Fort Dix, N.J., waiting to hear when he can return home.

Standfuss, of Olivia, suffered very serious injuries, according to journal entries his family on a Caring Bridge Web site. His left arm and his right little finger were amputated, he suffered shrapnel wounds to his arms and legs, has several broken bones and had his right eardrum blown out, the site says.

Standfuss was taken to Landtsuhl, Germany, where he had preliminary treatment and has since been moved to Walter Reed Hospital.

Housenick is in critical condition at an Army hospital in San Antonio, Texas, where he is being treated for second and third degree burns, said his mother-in-law Donna Reetz, of Hutchinson. The burns cover 10 percent of his body and his airways were severely damaged, Reetz said.

Housenick's wife, Teresa Housenick, is in San Antonio, Reetz said. The couple has three children.

The Alpha Company 1-151st Field Artillery, based out of Olivia, has been in Iraq since November.

**Fresh Stupidity:
U.S. Occupation Attacks Al-Sadr Militia
In Baghdad**



Iraqi protesters shout slogans during an anti-government demonstration in Baghdad. At least 24 people were killed in bombings in Iraq as US troops clashed with Shiite militiamen, rekindling tensions between coalition forces Shiite soldiers led by Moqtada al-Sadr. (AFP/Karim Sahib)

Sep. 24, 2005 By Luke Baker, Reuters & 9.25 AP & Aljazeera

[There were] clashes overnight between U.S. troops and Shi'ite militiamen loyal to cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the eastern Baghdad district of Sadr City. Police said eight militia fighters were killed and five wounded in the fighting.

But a top aide to al-Sadr says only three resistance fighters were killed. The rest were civilians, including a woman struck by stray bullets.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Five Dead In Crash Of U.S. Chinook

9/25/2005 (AP)

The U.S. military says five crew members were killed today when their Chinook helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan.

The cause is still being investigating but a military spokesman says it doesn't appear to have been shot down.

A spokesman for the governor of Zabul province, where the crash occurred, says there was no fighting in the area at the time of the crash.

He says he was told the chopper crashed while returning to a U.S. base after dropping off troops for a raid on a suspected militant target.

TROOP NEWS

How Pentagon Incompetents Killed Wounded Troops

Although the Iraqi conflict began in March 2003, the U.S. Air Force didn't order that a dedicated team of head-and-neck specialists be stationed at Balad until last September. Statistics released last year revealed that one in every five wounded soldiers in the Iraqi conflict was suffering head and neck injuries -- a much higher number than in previous conflicts.

So, why did the Air Force wait so long to deploy a team of otolaryngology specialists to Iraq?

Sep 23 By E.J. Mundell, HealthDay Reporter

A 32-year-old Army sergeant with numerous tiny punctures in his neck walks from an emergency helicopter into a U.S. military field hospital's emergency room in central Iraq.

The small holes in the man's neck look harmless enough, but U.S. Air Force Col. Dr. Joseph Brennan knows better. He and other hospital staff can also see that the soldier is bleeding from the mouth.

Brennan, an otolaryngologist/head-and-neck surgeon, spent most of last fall and early winter caring for cases like this at Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, located 50 miles north of Baghdad in the fractious Sunni Triangle.

"Roadside bombs carried in vehicles, or 'improvised explosive devices,' are the cause of the majority of injuries that we're seeing," he said. "They generally pepper the patients with shrapnel; they'll be hit everywhere. But often you'll only see just these tiny specks, like shaving nicks."

These "nicks" mark the entry points for shrapnel just millimeters thick. But the high velocity at which these fragments enter the head or neck means "they're often equated with severe, life-threatening injuries," Brennan said.

That means that incoming patients bearing these wounds are automatically CT-scanned and sent to exploratory surgery, if necessary -- even if they appear perfectly fine to the untrained eye.

In the sergeant's case, Brennan's team quickly examined him, then went to work opening his airway and locating the source of the bleeding -- an artery torn by a piece of metal just 1 millimeter wide. Surgeons then repaired the artery to stop the bleeding, saving the soldier's life.

For these types of casualties, this delicate and highly specialized work is best performed by an otolaryngology team deployed as close to the front as possible, Brennan said.

The surgeon -- now back at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas -- will present an overview of the work done by his team in Iraq at the American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery annual meeting, which starts Sept. 25 in Los Angeles.

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So, why did the Air Force wait so long to deploy a team of otolaryngology specialists to Iraq?

"Good question," Brennan said. "I can't answer that. But we're there now." [He knows the answer, he just won't say it. In civilian life, it's called "negligent homicide," a felony punishable by imprisonment. In the Air Force, those whose negligence kills wounded troops don't lose a moment's sleep over it. They know there is no official payback coming their way. The highest risk they run is getting accidentally stuck with a fork in the Pentagon dining room.]

Honorable N.C. Soldiers Report Iraq Prisoner Torture: Lying Scum Lt. Col. Skinner Replies By Smearing The Troops: Associated Idiot Play; Capt. Denied Leave To Meet With Senate Staff

September 24, 2005 By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK - Soldiers in the Army's elite 82nd Airborne Division vented their frustration by systematically torturing Iraqi detainees from 2003 into 2004, hitting

them with baseball bats and dousing them with chemicals, a U.S. rights group alleges in a new report.

The Human Rights Watch report, issued Friday, was compiled from interviews with a captain and two sergeants who served in a battalion of the North Carolina-based 82nd Airborne that was stationed at a military base called Mercury near Fallujah, the insurgent stronghold retaken by U.S. forces last year.

The soldiers, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the abuse took place almost daily and often came under orders. Anything short of causing an inmate's death was allowed, they said.

The residents of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, nicknamed soldiers at the nearby base "the Murderous Maniacs," New York-based Human Rights Watch said. "The soldiers considered this name a badge of honor."

It said soldiers in the elite 82nd Airborne deprived detainees of sleep, food and water, subjected them to extreme heat and cold, stacked prisoners in human pyramids, kicked them in the face, and put chemicals on exposed skin and eyes.

One of the sergeants allegedly told the group that military intelligence personnel, eager for information, often instructed soldiers to "smoke" detainees - called Persons Under Control or PUCs - during questioning, the report said. "Smoking" prisoners meant physically abusing them until they lost consciousness.

But the motive was not always to gain intelligence, one sergeant was quoted as saying.

"Everyone in camp knew if you wanted to work out your frustration you show up at the PUC tent. In a way it was sport," he reportedly said.

"One day (another sergeant) shows up and tells a PUC to grab a pole. He told him to bend over and broke the guy's leg with a mini-Louisville Slugger, a metal bat."

The soldier said anything short of death was acceptable.

"As long as no PUCs came up dead, it happened," he said. "We kept it to broken arms and legs."

"These soldiers' firsthand accounts provide further evidence contradicting claims that abuse of detainees by U.S. forces was isolated or spontaneous," the report said. "The accounts here suggest that the mistreatment of prisoners by the U.S. military is even more widespread than has been acknowledged to date, including among troops belonging to some of the best trained, most decorated, and highly respected units in the U.S. Army."

The soldiers quoted in the report expressed much confusion about what types of treatment were allowed under the Geneva Conventions, which bar mistreatment of prisoners of war or civilian detainees.

They said senior officers provided little guidance. [Exactly. And they'll get away with it as usual.]

Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. John Skinner criticized the report as a predictable effort to try to "advance an agenda through the use of distortions and errors in fact." [This is the very model of the dishonorable, lying, brass kissing worthless, blind, stupid pieces of shit that infest the Pentagon. He's a coward on top of all that. What's he's saying is the honorable troops who gave the reports of abuse are liars. Except he goes about it the long way around by smearing the people who reported what the soldier said. Hopefully, somebody will call this asshole out, so he can be held accountable for dumping filth on the troops who had the courage and decency to report the abuse. Hopefully, that will happen sooner rather than later. Time to "smoke" him.]

The captain said his complaints were ignored for 17 months, and he was denied a pass to leave the 82nd Airborne's base in Fort Bragg after planning to meet with Senate staff members.

Army officials said, however, they began their investigation into the matter as soon as it came to their attention. [Right. And the ass-kissing piece of shit, Lt. Col. Skinner says what that "investigation" was worth: he says the troops engaged in "distortions" and "errors in fact." That's fancy Pentagon asshole talk for: the troops are lying.]

The New York Times reported Saturday that Capt. Ian Fishback of the 82nd Airborne had raised the complaints of abuse in letters to the staff of Sens. John Warner of Virginia and John McCain of Arizona, both senior Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee. [All honor and respect to Capt. Ian Fishback.]

Human Rights Watch harshly criticized the U.S. military in its report, saying it has launched investigations and prosecutions of lower-ranking personnel for detainee abuse. But in most cases, the military used closed administrative hearings where they handed down light administrative punishments such as pay reductions and reprimands, instead of criminal prosecutions before courts-martial.

9.24 Antiwar Rally A First For Many

"It's small and it's quiet here in Johnson County, but more and more people are becoming part of the group that doesn't agree with this war," said Cuddy, who was planning to load about 45 people onto the bus in a Home Depot parking lot this morning for the 20-hour ride to Washington.

September 23, 2005 By Petula Dvorak, Washington Post Staff

The seasoned protesters who organized tomorrow's antiwar demonstration are well-versed in many other causes. They have marched and rallied against police brutality, racism, colonialism and the policies of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

But their message on the Mall tomorrow will be singular: "End the war in Iraq."

Because of that sharp focus, they will be joined by novice protesters such as Patrice Cuddy, 56. Interviewed by phone yesterday, the former public school teacher in Olathe, Kan., said she had to pull off her gardening gloves each time a neighbor interrupted her yardwork to ask about joining the bus she had chartered to go to the nation's capital.

"It's small and it's quiet here in Johnson County, but more and more people are becoming part of the group that doesn't agree with this war," said Cuddy, who was planning to load about 45 people onto the bus in a Home Depot parking lot this morning for the 20-hour ride to Washington.

Organizers say that similar busloads of teachers, nurses, housewives and others with little experience in mass protest are coming from Wisconsin, New Mexico, Illinois, Iowa, Georgia, Ohio and many other states.

Then there are the organizations that always have focused solely on the Iraq conflict: Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace and Gold Star Families for Peace, the latter group co-founded by Cindy Sheehan, who lost her son in Iraq and camped this summer outside President Bush's Texas ranch.

In a Washington Post-ABC News poll taken last month, one out of 10 respondents reported attending a rally or meeting to express an opinion for or against the war in Iraq. "That's a lot. Without the presence of a draft, that's a big number," said Christian Appy, a University of Massachusetts at Amherst history professor who has studied the Vietnam War era.

Walnut Creek Against The War

September 24, 2005 Kathleen Sullivan, Chris Heredia, Janine DeFao and Todd Wallack, Staff Writers, San Francisco Chronicle

Tens of thousands of people marched in San Francisco and the East Bay today to urge the U.S. government to pull out of Iraq, joining anti-war protests in Washington and other cities.

Police estimated 20,000 people marched today.

Organizers pegged the crowd at 50,000. Either way, it was one of the largest anti-war protests since the U.S. invaded Iraq two years ago. Protesters gathered in San Francisco's Dolores Park this morning, then marched for two hours to Jefferson Square Park, where the park was jammed with a standing room only crowd of bodies.

A smaller protest was also held in Walnut Creek, where about 250 to 300 people marched from the city's Bart station to Heather Farms Park.

The demonstration drew a wide range of people — from seniors to kids— holding peace signs. Many drivers honked noisily as they drove by marchers on Ignacio Valley Road, though some gave a thumbs down sign or a middle finger.

A 52-year-old lawyer said he joined the protest because of her outrage at the federal government's sluggish response to Hurricane Katrina. Faith Brewer said she thought the problem was exacerbated because too many resources were diverted to Iraq.

"Too many people died in New Orleans, because of the war in Iraq," she said.

Brewer said she was particularly motivated to march in Walnut Creek, her hometown, because it's considered a more conservative city in the liberal region.

“What Is The Mission? Tell Me What The Mission Is”

"To admit that everything we gave up in order to do this was for nothing, that's a hard sell," he says.

September 22, 2005 By David Montgomery, Washington Post Staff Writer

One after another their trails led them here - from California, New York, Baltimore - disparate members of the same movement, drawn by some strong instinct that told them: Now is the time. This is the place.

Charlie Anderson, who came home in one piece, physically. He has donated his own boots to the exhibit.

"These boots were worn during the invasion of Iraq and the occupation of Crawford, Texas," he says.

Navy Petty Officer Anderson, 28, was a hospital corpsman assigned to a Marine tank battalion. He says five men he felt close to were killed. He stands in the field of boots with his head bowed and wipes his eyes. He flinches at the bang of nearby construction equipment.

He had a job stocking shelves in Ohio when he enlisted a decade ago hoping for a better future. He kept reenlisting: He felt he didn't have a choice with a wife and daughter and no immediate prospects outside the service.

When the war came, he supported it without much thought. He couldn't believe his country would launch it without good reason and hard evidence. Turning against the war was a slow process.

"To admit that everything we gave up in order to do this was for nothing, that's a hard sell," he says.

Seeing the country for himself, he became dubious of the supposed terror threat to the U.S. homeland, "as if Hassan with a bookstore on Haifa Street is going to wreak havoc on Sylvania, Ohio." The alternative justification of planting democracy seemed futile to him. "Then I was pinned down to weapons of mass destruction," he says.

Ha.

He joined Iraq Veterans Against the War before his discharge in March. The group reports about 300 members and is growing quickly after public exposure this summer alongside Cindy Sheehan. In comparison, Vietnam Veterans Against the War took about two years to form and another couple years to gain traction, Anderson says.

Anderson has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Now he is a student in Virginia Beach and an activist.

He sees yellow ribbon magnets on cars, he hears talk about how you have to "support the troops." He wants to ask the ribbon people if they ever wrote a soldier to tell him? He wants to ask, How much support was there to send the troops with proper armor? As some come home battered, how much support is there for the budget of the Veterans Administration?

Anderson says American troops are "phenomenal people who are willing to sacrifice everything" to complete a mission, but in Iraq "the mission keeps morphing."

"What is the mission? Tell me what the mission is." [Why that's easy. The mission is to keep on dying until the 2006 elections are over. If Bush pulls out before then, everybody sees the whole thing was a sham and the Republicans for sure lose control of Congress. Can't have that. It would mean the Democrats could take their turn stealing everything that isn't nailed down and the Bush Buddies would have to at least split the take. But those greedy assholes want it all.]

Confirmation: War Left National Guard Stuck With Obsolete Equipment For Katrina Rescue Work

9/20/2005 By Dave Moniz, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Hurricane Katrina exposed serious weaknesses in the National Guard's communications systems, particularly a shortage of high-tech radios and satellite communications gear, the Guard's top general said Monday.

"We were underequipped," Blum said. "We don't need tanks and attack helicopters and artillery, but we must have state-of-the-art radios and communications."

Much of the Guard's best communications equipment was being used by troops fighting in Iraq and wasn't available for units helping Gulf Coast states recover from the hurricane, Blum said.

Last week, Sens. Kit Bond, R-Mo., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., wrote President Bush asking for \$1.3 billion to buy new equipment for the Guard.

Long-standing shortages and the stress of fighting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have left the Guard with "a perilously low level of equipment available for natural disasters," the senators wrote.

Only 34% of the Guard's equipment is available for use in the USA, the letter said, with the worst shortages in trucks, night-vision goggles, engineering equipment and communications gear.

The Guard has historically used hand-me-down equipment from the active-duty military.

For example, the Army Guard is using Vietnam-era radios while it needs 37,000 newer radios, according to a recent Guard budget briefing paper posted on its website.

54% Of Americans Say Cut War Spending

9.22.05 By Richard Cohen, The Washington Post

When asked by a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll how they'd prefer to finance the (at least) \$200 billion Hurricane Katrina relief effort, only 6 percent proposed cutting domestic spending and just 15 percent supported increasing the deficit.

A majority - 54 percent - chose "cut spending for the war in Iraq."

Anti-War Demonstrators In White Plains Defend Rights Of A Minority To Free Speech

(People For The War, That Is)

[Thanks to Ben Chitty, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, who noticed this story.]

September 25, 2005 By REBECCA BAKER ERWIN, THE JOURNAL NEWS

John Weiner of White Plains got a Bronze Star for his bravery in World War II, but the 86-year-old former Army captain is no fan of war.

"It's completely useless," he said last night.

Weiner was among 70 or so anti-war protesters who rallied against the United States' involvement in Iraq at Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains.

The WESPAC Foundation, a Westchester County-based peace and justice group, organized the protest to support yesterday's anti-war vigil in Washington. Nick Mottern, who coordinated the local rally, said many people could not travel to Washington but still wanted to protest the United States' presence in Iraq.

Mottern said protesters were treated to hundreds of honking horns, smiles, waves and "thumbs-up" during the 90-minute rally.

They also encountered a spontaneous counterprotest -- a group of 14-year-olds appeared across the street with a sign saying, "War is Good."

When a police officer started questioning the teens and tried to send them away, some of the anti-war protesters defended the teens' right to be there.

"We were like their mothers, all of a sudden," said Gail Dunkenberger, a 67-year-old Katonah resident. "We said, 'Thank you for having an opinion.' They'll go away with a much more open mind."

Weiner said he was amused when the teens told him that they supported the war because they were against communism.

"I was kidding with them -- 'Why don't you volunteer?' " he said. "It was better to talk with them. They were just having a little fun."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

1,000 March In Ramadi Against Fake Occupation Constitution

Sep. 24, 2005 By Luke Baker, Reuters

In Ramadi, west of Baghdad, more than 1,000 people marched to protest against the constitution, which they say will divide Iraq along sectarian lines.

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

“USA GO OUT”

**Baghdad Has It's Own 9.24 Anti-War
Rally**



Members of the Iraqi Freedom Congress stage an anti-war protest in Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 24 2005. (AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

**National Assembly Member Says:
“Putting Saddam On Trial And The
Departure Of The Occupiers Are
Two Main Points To Stopping This
Bloodshed And Terror”**

The occupiers are trying to start religious incitement and if it does not happen, then they will try to start an internal Shiite incitement.

If some parties and movements think that they will not be able to work in Iraq without the presence of the occupier, then I think these parties and organizations and any officials who call for the occupiers to stay, is an occupying traitor who is completely rejected by the Iraqi people.

2005-09-14 Al Arabya TV via Globalresearch.ca

ANCHOR: Joining us from Baghdad is Fatah al-Sheikh, a member of the National Assembly.

Sir, what is happening now according to your estimation?

FATAH AL-SHEIKH: In the name of God, Most Merciful and Gracious. Since the morning, the people of Baghdad were surprised by several bombings that shook the existence of every Iraqi, especially as we saw victims of the Kathemiya bombings with our own eyes, and there were more than a hundred martyrs.

Yesterday we used to hurt when one martyr fell, but it became clear that there will be many martyrs every day and it really hurts that the Iraqi people still sacrifice their blood and the bloodshed still goes on without any move being made by the security officials. I also hold the occupation forces completely responsible, because they did not completely hand the security over to the Ministry of Interior and the Iraqi security forces in order to stabilize the matters, and we can protect ourselves.

I also say that putting Saddam on trial and the departure of the occupiers are two main points to stopping this bloodshed and terror.

ANCHOR: The statements by groups that belong to al-Qaeda claiming responsibility said that this is a response for what is happening to the Sunnis in Tal Afar. What do you think?

FATAH AL-SHEIKH: The truth is that this claim is not true. The situation in Iraq between the Sunnis and the Shiites is good, especially after the accident on the Imamas Bridge. There are good relations and connections that made our sorrows and happiness as one, because we shared our grief together.

This is not an issue of Sunnis and Shiites, as much as they are working with the occupiers. They were hired in order to receive green dollars and they are not satisfied unless they see Iraqi blood, whether Shiite or Sunni.

This is the real issue, and not as was mentioned in the media which portrayed it as revenge for the Sunnis.

The Sunnis are with us in all the steps and now they are preparing for the next political process. This is rejected by me, and those who do these operations are the ones who follow the occupation. The Iraqi forces will arrest them and then they will be released

tomorrow (-inaudible--) by the occupying forces. This matter is taking place in many prisons and detention houses.

ANCHOR: Sir, is it possible for these bombings to have a reflection on the military operations in Tal Afar?

FATAH AL-SHEIKH: The whole of Iraq is a combat field. It does not matter if it is Tal Afar or another place.

Yesterday late at night and early morning, there was a reinforcement of the American forces from Sadr city and attempts at arrests, and taking over places, and I want to ask if there is terrorism in Sadr city?

It seems that the American forces are trying to escalate the situation in order to make the Iraqi people suffer, and on the other hand there are more terrorist attacks that prove that Iraq will not be stable with the presence of the occupying American forces.

ANCHOR: Do you see this as an attempt to start a religious war between the Sunnis and the Shiites of Iraq, and who has an interest in this?

FATAH AL-SHEIKH: The religious fighting became a crucial issue in the face of the steadfastness of the Iraqi people, Sunnis or Shiites. We hope for it to be put out by the Iraqi people. They want to start the fire of a religious war, and God will put this fire out. There is no place for religious war in Iraq as the Sunnis and Shiites are condoling one another.

I confirm that there are attempts at this, as there are people working for the foreigners. They even reached popular places like Sadr City, the city that I have not seen anything like what is happening there today since the day I was born.

There is a huge campaign for the agents of the foreign occupation to enter and plant hatred between the sons of the Iraqi people, and spread rumors in order to scare the one from the other. The occupiers are trying to start religious incitement and if it does not happen, then they will try to start an internal Shiite incitement.

ANCHOR: How do you see the situation in the future? Will there be worse bloodshed than what we see now?

FATAH AL-SHEIKH: I tell the government that the bloodshed will continue as long as the occupation does, and anyone who wants to let the occupier stay in Iraq means that he wants there to be bloodshed.

If some parties and movements think that they will not be able to work in Iraq without the presence of the occupier, then I think these parties and organizations and any officials who call for the occupiers to stay, is an occupying traitor who is completely rejected by the Iraqi people.

ANCHOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Fatah al-Sheikh, member of the Iraqi National Assembly from Baghdad.

The above text was translated from Arabic.

Assorted Resistance Action: Car Bomb Kills 13 Elite Collaborator Commandos



A destroyed Iraqi police vehicle is removed following a car bomb attack in Baghdad September 25, 2005 killing 13 specialist police commandos as they were travelling on a highway in the east of the capital. (Ali Jasim/Reuters)

Sep. 24, 2005 By Luke Baker, Reuters & By STEVEN R. HURST Associated Press Writer & Aljazeera & Sept 25 (KUNA)

A car bomber attacked an elite Iraqi police unit in Baghdad, killing 13 commandos.

Iraqi police said the car bomber targeted a patrol of police commandos as they traveled on a highway in the east of the capital. Ten commandos were also wounded, police said.

On Saturday morning, a car bomber driving at high speed exploded his vehicle near an Iraqi army checkpoint in downtown Baghdad, killing three soldiers and an Iraqi civilian, police said. The attack also wounded three Iraqi soldiers and two civilians, said police Capt. Abdel-Hussein Minsif.

MUSAYYIB - Two policemen and two civilians were wounded on Friday when a car driven by a bomber exploded near a checkpoint in the town of Musayyib, south of Baghdad, police said.

SINJAR - Two soldiers were killed and two policemen were wounded on Friday when a car bomb exploded near a joint and police Iraqi checkpoint in Sinjar, 170 northeast Mosul, police said.

In western Baghdad, armed fighters held up an armored Finance Ministry convoy, killing two guards and wounding nine before making off with \$850,000 in cash, police said.

Six Iraqi soldiers were wounded last night when their patrol was ambushed north of Baghdad, said the Iraqi Army on Sunday.

An Iraqi Army source told reporters that a roadside bomb exploded on Saturday, targeting a moving Iraqi Army patrol nearby the town of Al-TooZ north of Baghdad, noting that resistance fighters opened fire on the patrol after the blast.

The source added that six soldiers were wounded in the attack, noting that the Iraqi forces cordoned off the area and executed a burst and search operation to arrest the attackers, who fled the scene.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“How Can It Get Easier”

23 September 2005 By Andrew Buncombe, The Independent UK

"Meeting with the other family members does make you feel sad," said Mrs. Gentle, who is suing the Ministry of Defence, claiming that her son's vehicle should have been fitted with electronic jamming equipment. "No one here has done anything but shed tears ...

“People tell me it gets easier but how can it get easier when you turn on the TV and (some more soldiers are being killed). Tony Blair and George Bush should be held responsible for this.”

[Rose Gentle leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. T]

“We Will Prevail, We Will Be Victorious”

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

25 September 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Truthout Perspective [Excerpt]

Last weekend, Karl Rove said that I was a clown and the anti-war movement was "non-existent."

I wonder if the hundreds of thousands of people who showed up today to protest this war and George's failed policies know that they don't exist.

It is also so incredible to me that Karl thinks that he can wish us away by saying we aren't real.

Well, Karl and Co., we are real, we do exist and we are not going away until this illegal and immoral occupation of Iraq is over and you are sent back to the depths of whatever slimy, dark, and loathsome place you came from.

You also preside over one of the biggest three-ring, malevolent circuses of all time: the Bush administration.

The rally today was overwhelming and powerful. The reports that I was arrested today were obviously false. The peace rally was mostly very peaceful.

Washington, DC was filled with energetic and proud Americans who came from all over to raise their voices in unison against the criminals who run our government and their disastrous policies that are making our nation more vulnerable to all kinds of attacks (natural and "Bush"-made disasters).

Many people told me thank you for coming. I want to tell America "Thank you!!" At the Camp Casey reunion this evening, I was so overcome with emotion and gratitude that I wanted to hug every citizen of this country. We in the Camp Casey movement are so proud and thrilled that America showed up in such great numbers.

So much happened today! I am exhausted but very content. I am again filled with a renewed sense of hope that we will get our country back and get our troops home. I was also thrilled at the number of young people who came out today. That is another great sign that the side of good is winning.

Darkness can NEVER overcome the light, ever. As long as there is one spark, the darkness has lost. We will prevail, we will be victorious. The darkness has lost because our beacons of peace and truth are shining for the entire world to see. And it is a very pretty sight. Take that Karl.

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.**

The Cakewalk War

09/20/05 By Paul Craig Roberts, ICH [Excerpt]

The "cakewalk war" is now two and one-half years old. US casualties (dead and wounded) number 20,000. As 20,000 is the number of Iraqi insurgents according to US military commanders, each insurgent is responsible for one US casualty.

US troops in Iraq number about 150,000. Obviously, US troops have not inflicted 150,000 casualties on the Iraqi insurgents. US troops have perhaps inflicted 150,000 casualties on the Iraqi civilian population, primarily women and children who are the "collateral damage" of the "righteous" and "virtuous" US invasion that is spreading civilian deaths all over Mesopotamia in the name of democracy.

What could the US have possibly done to give America a worse name than to invade Iraq and murder its citizens?

According to the September 1 Manufacturing & Technology News, the Government Accounting Office has reported that over the course of the cakewalk war, the US military's use of small caliber ammunition has risen to 1.8 billion rounds.

Think about that number. If there are 20,000 insurgents, it means US troops have fired 90,000 rounds at each insurgent.

Very few have been hit.

We don't know how many. To avoid the analogy with Vietnam, until last week the US military studiously avoided body counts.

If 2,000 insurgents have been killed, each death required 900,000 rounds of ammunition.

The combination of US government owned ammo plants and those of US commercial producers together cannot make bullets as fast as US troops are firing them. The Bush administration has had to turn to foreign producers such as Israel Military Industries.

Think about that. Hollowed out US industry cannot produce enough ammunition to defeat a 20,000 man insurgency.

US military analysts are beginning to wonder if the US has been defeated by the insurgency.

Increasingly, Bush administration spokesmen sound like "Baghdad Bob." On September 19 the Washington Post reported that US military spinmeister Major General Rich Lynch declared "great success" against the insurgency that had just

inflicted the worst casualties of the war, including a three-day mortar attack on the "safe" Green Zone.

With its judgement lost to frustration, the US military has 40,000 Iraqis in detention – twice the number of estimated insurgents. Who are these detainees? According to the Washington Post, "Many of the men detained in Tall Afar last week were rounded up on the advice of local teenagers who had stepped forward as informants, at times for what American soldiers said they suspected amounted to no more than settling local scores."

Obviously, the US, not knowing who or where the insurgents are, is just striking blindly, creating a larger insurgency.

The Iraq government, despite being backed by the US military, is unable to control movements across the Iraqi – Syrian border.

So the Bush administration has passed the buck to Syria. Puny Syria is declared guilty of not doing what the US military cannot do.

Adam Ereli, the demented US State Department spokesperson, denounced the Syrian government for "permitting" insurgents to cross the border.

The US government cannot prevent a steady stream of one million Mexicans from illegally crossing its border each year, but Syria is supposed to be able to stop a couple hundred foreign fighters from sneaking across its border.

OCCUPATION REPORT

**“Five Neighborhoods Are Controlled
By Insurgents”**

**“Bit By Bit They Are Taking Over The
Main Parts Of Baghdad”**

**“The Embassy People Act As If
Nothing Is Wrong”**

September 18, 2005 Juan Cole, Informed Comment [Excerpt]

An observer in Iraq writes to me:

"The situation has deteriorated in Baghdad dramatically today.

“Five neighborhoods (hay) in Baghdad are controlled by insurgents, and they are Amiraya, Ghazilya, Shurta, Yarmouk and Doura. It is very bad.

“My guys there report that cars have come into these neighborhoods and blocked off the streets. Masked gunmen with AKs and other weapons are roaming these areas, announcing that people should stay home. One of my drivers in Amiraya reports that his neighborhood is shut down totally, and even those who need food or provisions are warned not to go out.

Bit by bit they are taking over the main parts of Baghdad.

“The government will respond feebly. It will go into a contested neighborhood, and then just like Fallujah, Ramadi, Tel Afar, the insurgents will flee to take over another area on another day.

“A few minutes ago Jaafari came on television to tell everyone in Baghdad to stay home. Can't wait for his next bold move.

“(Some organizations are)sending more of staff to Arbil and Sulamaniyah and out of Baghdad. Until about March this year, thought that there was a chance of returning to Baghdad.

It is remarkable how incapable this government is. Its only success is that it exists at all.

“In the meantime, the embassy people act as if nothing in Baghdad is wrong (except that they cannot walk in the Green Zone without body armor and they have to take precautions against kidnapping).

Recently, a group from State and the military parachuted in from Washington (with fatuous advice) . . . It is a fantasy world.”

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Plea For Cash For Iraq Occupation Raises \$600

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

September 25, 2005 The Observer & September 18, 2005 CAM SIMPSON, Chicago Tribune

An extraordinary appeal to Americans from the Bush administration for money to help pay for the reconstruction of Iraq has raised only \$600, The Observer has learnt.

Although more than \$30 billion in taxpayer funds have been appropriated for Iraqi reconstruction, the administration earlier this month launched an Internet-based fundraising effort that it says is aimed at giving Americans "a further stake in building a free and prosperous Iraq."

The public's reluctance to contribute much more than the cost of two iPods to the administration's attempt to offer citizens 'a further stake in building a free and prosperous Iraq' has been seized on by critics as evidence of growing ambivalence over that country. [No shit?]

This coincides with concern over the increasing cost of the war. More than \$30 billion has been appropriated for the reconstruction. Initially, America's overseas aid agency, USaid, expected it to cost taxpayers no more than \$1.7bn, but it is now asking the public if they want to contribute even more.

But taxpayers already finance the projects the administration is seeking charitable donations for, such as providing water pumps for farmers.

It is understood to be the first time that a US government has made an appeal to taxpayers for foreign aid money. **Contributors have no way of knowing who will receive their donations or even where they may go, after officials said details had be kept secret for security reasons.**

USaid's Heather Layman denied it was disappointed with the meager sum raised after a fortnight. 'Every little helps,' she said. [!] In the past 12 months, Americans raised some \$250bn for charity, including other foreign causes such as the Asian tsunami victims.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

All GI Special issues achieved at website <http://www.militaryproject.org/> .

The following have also posted issues; there may be others:

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

www.williambowles.info/gispecial,

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

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