

GI SPECIAL 3C68:

**LIAR
TRAITOR
CRIMINAL
SOLDIER-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



September 14, 2005. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

**Rumsfeld Refuses To
Pay Back Military
Families For Lifesaving
Body Armor:**

The Traitor Defies Congress: “How Many Of Those Killed Could Have Been Saved With The Proper Equipment?” Families Still Forced To Buy Their Own Protection

“The administration is either showing complete incompetence or utter indifference,” “Rumsfeld is violating the law,” he said.

September 29, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer & The Associated Press.

Soldiers and their parents are still spending hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars for armor they say the military won't provide.

“Your expectation is that when you are sent to war, that our government does everything they can do to protect the lives of our people, and anything less than that is not good enough,” said a former Marine who spent nearly \$1,000 two weeks ago to buy lower-body armor for his son, a Marine serving in Fallujah.

The father asked that he be identified only by his first name — Gordon — because he is afraid of retribution against his son.

“I wouldn't have cared if it cost us \$10,000 to protect our son, I would do it,” said Gordon. “But I think the U.S. has an obligation to make sure they have this equipment and to reimburse for it. I just don't support Donald Rumsfeld's idea of going to war with what you have, not what you want. You go to war prepared, and you don't go to war until you are prepared.”

In a letter to Dodd in late April, David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel, said his office was developing regulations to implement the reimbursement, and would be done in about 60 days.

Tired of waiting for the Pentagon to launch an authorized program to reimburse troops who buy their own personal protective gear for combat deployments, the chief congressional sponsor of the program wants to wrest control of it from defense officials.

Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., attached a provision to last year's defense authorization bill authorizing — but not requiring — the Defense Department to reimburse troops up to \$1,100 for the expense of body armor and other protective gear and health and safety equipment not provided by the military.

The Pentagon has never paid a dime.

“Rumsfeld is violating the law,” Dodd said in an interview with The Associated Press. “It’s been sitting on the books for over a year. They were opposed to it. It was insulting to them. I’m sorry that’s how they felt.”

At a Thursday news conference, Dodd said he is not sure why it is taking so long and wonders whether the Pentagon intends to actually reimburse anyone.

“The administration is either showing complete incompetence or utter indifference,” he said. “It feels as if I am getting a rope-a-dope with them, hoping I would go away.”

Dodd apologized to service members, their family and friends for the delay and vowed to try to get a provision attached to another defense bill — probably the 2006 defense appropriations bill — ordering reimbursement and putting unit commanders, not Pentagon officials, in charge.

Appearing with Dodd at the news conference was Marine Sgt. Todd Bowers, now a reservist attending college who pulled two tours in Iraq. On his last deployment, Bowers said he was fired on by a sniper but saved by equipment — a rifle scope hit by the sniper bullet and goggles that protected his eyes from shrapnel — that were not supplied by the Marine Corps.

Bowers bought the goggles for about \$100, and his father bought the scope for about \$600.

Dodd has the backing of major military and veterans’ groups.

“We share your disappointment that the Defense Department still has not implemented it 11 months after it was enacted,” said retired Vice Adm. Norbert Ryan Jr., president of the Military Officers Association of America.

Retired Army Master Sgt. Michael Cline, executive director of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, said the Pentagon’s refusal to pay is hard to understand, given the 91-0 vote by the Senate last year in favor of Dodd’s original proposal.

Noting the ongoing stream of casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq, Cline said the military should support any effort to get more protection to troops.

“How many of those killed could have been saved with the proper equipment?” Cline said.

Soldiers and their families have reported buying everything from higher-quality protective gear to armor for their Humvees, medical supplies and even global positioning devices.

Dodd said he is worried the Pentagon will reject most requests for reimbursement. Turning the decision over to the troop commanders will prevent that, he said, because the commanders know what their soldiers need and will make better decisions about what to reimburse.

Dodd also said he wants to eliminate the deadline included in the original law, which allowed soldiers to seek reimbursement for items bought between September 2001 and July 2004. Now, he said, he wants it to be open-ended.

“I’m tired of this, obviously they’re not getting the job done,” said Dodd. “If you have to go out and buy equipment to protect yourself, you’re going to get reimbursed.”

[And if neither you nor your family have enough money to buy what you need? Think about that. Billionaires run the government and buy the politicians, but hey, if you can’t afford protection and supplies, you can go be dead.

[The enemy is not in Iraq. There is no enemy in Iraq. They’re fighting because they’ve been invaded, and occupied by George W. Bush. The enemy is back here, in Washington DC.

[Iraqis and U.S. troops have the same enemy. Wow, what a surprise. T]

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 WAR REPORTS

Roadside Bomb Kills 5 U.S. Marines In Ramadi

9/29/2005 (AP)

A roadside bomb killed five American soldiers during combat in the western town of Ramadi, a hotbed of insurgent activity, the U.S. military said Thursday.

The five, who were assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.,

The deaths brought to 1,934 the number of U.S. troops who have died since the Iraq war started in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

LETHAL ENVIRONMENT: NO HONORABLE MISSION: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. Marines walk through an alley while searching for insurgents who attacked their patrol earlier in the day in Ramadi. Photo released on September 28, 2005. (USMC/Cpl. Shane Suzuki/Handout/Reuters)

Toledo Native Killed

September 29, 2005 (AP)

A Fort Benning soldier was killed in Iraq when a sniper shot him while he was on patrol, family members said.

Staff Sgt. Jason Benford, 30, of Fort Benning's 2nd Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, was killed in Ramadi, Iraq, said his wife, Kimberly Benford. Benford said military officials notified her that her husband was killed on Tuesday.

Benford, a native of Toledo, Ohio, had been with the Army 11 years and was on his second tour in Iraq.

"He'd told me it was absolutely a different ball game out there compared to Baqouba," Kimberly Benford said. Her husband's unit was sent to Ramadi from Baqouba in late July. Funeral services are pending. His battalion plans a memorial service next week.

Survivors include his two children, Lane and Jacob; his mother, Mary Benford of Sarasota, Fla.; and his brother, John Benford of Pensacola, Fla.

Antioch, Cal. Sgt. Killed



Sgt. Daniel Scheile, of Antioch Calif. was one of two soldiers killed Sept. 24, 2005, after a homemade bomb exploded near their armored vehicle in southeastern Baghdad, military officials said. An active-duty national guardsman for 17 years, Scheile was deployed to Iraq in August 2004 and was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry. (AP Photo/Scheile family via the Contra Costa Times)

Humvee “Burned Down” Near Tawz; Casualties Not Announced

Sept 29 (KUNA)

A roadside bomb exploded near a US army patrol as it was driving on the outskirts of the town of Tawz, in the Kirkuk district.

According to the statement, the attack resulted in a Humvy vehicle that was burned down. But there was no immediate report of any injuries or death among the soldiers of the patrol.

Idiot Occupation Command Attacks Sunni Political Leadership



The damaged entry door of the house of Adnan al-Dulaimi, secretary-general of the Conference for Iraq's People, a prominent Sunni Arab organization, which was raided by US forces early morning Sept. 29 2005..(AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

"It was as if they were attacking a castle, not the home of a normal person who advises Iraq's interim government and has called for reconciliation and renounced sectarianism," al-Dulaimi told a news conference after the raid.

09/29/2005 (AP) & & By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer

U.S. forces raided the homes of two officials from a prominent Sunni Arab organization today, arresting bodyguards and confiscating weapons, Sunni officials said.

Adnan al-Dulaimi, secretary-general of the Conference for Iraq's People, said soldiers in tanks and Humvees, with two helicopters circling overhead, broke into his home in western Baghdad at 2:30 a.m., put him and his family in one room, and searched the house.

"It was as if they were attacking a castle, not the home of a normal person who advises Iraq's interim government and has called for reconciliation and renounced sectarianism," al-Dulaimi told a news conference after the raid.

Al-Dulaimi said the troops arrested four of his bodyguards and confiscated their licensed weapons. He said the Americans were acting on false tips that linked the men to the insurgency.

The other raid took place at the Baghdad home of Harith al-Obeidi, another senior official in the organization, said Iraq's largest Sunni political party, the Iraqi Islamic Party.

The Conference for Iraq's People and the Iraqi Islamic Party are two leading political organizations representing Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, which has increasingly complained of abuse as U.S. and Iraqi forces pursue insurgents, the bulk of whom are Sunnis. The two groups are also campaigning to defeat a draft constitution in an Oct. 15 referendum.

IED Gets APC In Baghdad



9.29.05 US troops removing an armoured personnel carrier hit by a road side bomb in Baghdad. (AFP/Ali Al-Saadi)

TROOP NEWS

**“Request Denied”
You’re Dead:
Tough Shit**

September 27, 2005 Seattle Post-Intelligencer, by Stacy Bannerman. [Excerpt]

August was the deadliest month for citizen soldiers. Five Pennsylvania Guardsmen died when the second-class humvee they were in was blown up. They had requested permission to use some of the 12 brand new, fully up-armored vehicles issued to a nearby active duty unit.

The request was denied. The trucks stood idle when the Guardsmen died.

Long, hazardous duty is one reason why Army National Guard and Army Reserve recruitment numbers are off by 23 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

In the first half of 2005, the Seattle Army Reserve office missed its target of about 100 recruits by 75 percent. Oregon recruitment is down 40 percent. Several battalions have lost more than half their members. One Reserve unit saw 70 percent of its members leave within a few months of coming home.

Vietnam Combat Veteran Threatened With Arrest At DC Vietnam War Memorial

No sooner had the tears flowed then he was ordered to put the flag down. Not being easily intimidated this former G.I. questioned the D.C. authority on the rationale for having to remove his flag.

He was then told he had to leave or be arrested. This Vietnam combat veteran who was sent to kill others in Vietnam under the pretense of protecting the American way of life was now being threatened with incarceration for practicing it!

September 28, 2005 Jozef Hand-Boniakowski, civillibertarian.blogspot.com. [Excerpt]

I joined seven Vermont bus loads of concerned United States citizens in converging on the nation's capital, Washington D.C. on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

I joined hundreds and hundreds of Veterans For Peace (VFP), Military Families Speak Out, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and the Gold Star Mothers for Peace in being the lead contingent of the march. We marched three-and-a-half miles through the streets of D.C. passing the institutions and their immense buildings that make war profitable.

One of my veteran brothers from Vermont, a Vietnam combat veteran burdened with PTSD and unable to stay in one place for very long headed off to pay his respects at the Vietnam War Memorial.

Upon arriving at the Vietnam Memorial he held his VFP flag with both hands and gazed at the black granite wall. Tears filled his eyes as he looked at the myriad of names while holding the dove-on-helmet VFP flag in his hands.

No sooner had the tears flowed then he was ordered to put the flag down. Not being easily intimidated this former G.I. questioned the D.C. authority on the rationale for having to remove his flag.

He was then told he had to leave or be arrested. This Vietnam combat veteran who was sent to kill others in Vietnam under the pretense of protecting the American way of life was now being threatened with incarceration for practicing it!

The U.S. system inculcates obedience to the State. It indoctrinates children from a very early age in the schools to parrot the Pledge of Allegiance. The words of the National Anthem sung at sporting events state that we are "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

However, the free are not those confined to paying their respects to fallen comrades within the narrow parameters as defined by the State.

Telling my Vietnam combat veteran friend how he can mourn is not living in the land of the free.

A Vietnam War veteran gets threatened with arrest for crying at the Vietnam Wall with a Veterans For Peace flag in his hands.

Shame on you George. You have brought the United States of America to a new low. Your noble cause is not the noble cause of the people, which is to end the war and have you removed from office.

[Bush sent you off to Iraq for a pack of lies, including "protecting democracy." Well, this is what's happening to "democracy" back here at home. One of the best reasons for bringing all the troops home now? We need your protection from these domestic enemies who have seized control of the government, and couldn't give a shit about democracy as long as they can loot the Treasury T]

Honor And Respect To Them All

SEPTEMBER 23, 2005 Military Families Speak Out & Gold Star Families for Peace

[Sept. 24, a contingent of over 250 military families from 42 states and the District of Columbia joined Iraq War Veterans and Veterans from previous wars, to march among 150,000 of people from across the country in a massive march and rally against the Iraq War, organized by United for Peace and Justice and ANSWER.

[The following military and Gold Star families participated in the march.]

Nancy Lessin and Charley Richardson of Boston, Massachusetts whose son served with the Marines in Iraq in spring, 2003. He is now in the Individual Ready Reserves and eligible for re-deployment. Nancy and Charley are co-founders of Military Families Speak Out, which began with two families in November, 2002, and currently has a membership of 2,500 military families.

Amy Campbell-Pittz of Antioch, Tennessee whose husband, a Sergeant in the Army, deployed for Iraq three days ago, on September 21, 2005. Her uncle is a Colonel in the Marines, and is currently serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Connie Cominsky of St. Louis, Missouri whose step-son, niece and nephew serve in the military; some have served multiple tours of duty in Iraq; one is scheduled to be newly deployed. Her brother recently received an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps; he too had served in Iraq.

Linda Englund of Chicago, Illinois whose son served in Iraq in the Army from February to December, 2004, and was wounded. He received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star; he is currently stationed in Germany and may be re-deployed to Iraq.

Monica Evans of Mililani, Hawaii whose husband, an officer in the Army, recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq.

H. Elaine Johnson of Orangeburg, South Carolina whose son Spc. Darius Jennings, was killed in action in Iraq on November 2, 2003 when his Chinook helicopter was shot down, taking his life and the lives of fifteen other soldiers.

Dexter and Gretchen Kamilewicz of Orr's Island, Maine whose son is in the Vermont National Guard and has been serving in Ramadi, Iraq since July, 2005. Their son's unit was going on missions with unarmored humvees. Their son's notification of his Congressional delegation resulted in the unit being provided with armored humvees, which recently saved his life as well as the lives of others in his unit.

Kevin, Joyce, and Debra Lucey of Belchertown, Massachusetts. Kevin and Joyce's son and Debra's brother, Cpl. Jeffrey Lucey, served in the Marine Reserves during the invasion of Iraq in spring and summer, 2003. He began showing symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder within six months of his return from Iraq. On June 22, 2004 his father found him hanging by a garden hose from the rafters in their basement.

Anne Roesler of Saratoga, California whose son, a Staff Sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division, based at Ft. Bragg, left on August 31, 2005 for his third deployment to Iraq.

Diane Davis Santoriello and Neil A. Santoriello Sr. of Penn Hills, Pennsylvania whose son, 1st Lt. Neil Santoriello served in the Army's 1 Division 34th Armored A company and was killed in action in Iraq on August 13, 2004.

Catherine Smith of Liberty, Missouri whose oldest son, Tomas Young, served in the Army and was paralyzed in Iraq. Her second son is deploying in November, 2004. Tomas and his wife will be accompanying Catherine to Washington, D.C. for the demonstration.

Beatriz Saldizar of Ft. Worth, Texas whose nephew Daniel Torres was killed when an IED exploded and hit his unarmored humvee in Baygii, Iraq on February 4, 2005. He was on his second tour of duty, and was in Iraq because of a stop-loss order. His wife just had their baby in September, 2005. Beatriz participated in the Bring Them Home Now Tour from Crawford, TX to Washington, D.C.

Kellisa Stanley of Killeen (Ft. Hood), Texas whose husband has served a one-year tour of duty in Iraq and is due to redeploy to Iraq later this year. Kellisa participated in the Bring Them Home Now Tour and was on the Central Bus across the U.S. from Crawford, TX to Washington, D.C.

Phil and Linda Waste of Hinesville, Georgia whose three sons and two grandchildren are active-duty military. Together they have served a total of 58 months on tours of duty in Iraq. Several are currently serving in Iraq, and have served extended and multiple deployments. The Wastes participated in the Bring Them Home Now Tour and road on the Southern Bus across the U.S. from Crawford, TX to Washington, D.C.

Joe Wyatt and son Daniel Wyatt of Hurricane, West Virginia. Daniel Wyatt received an honorable discharge from the US Marine Corps in February, 2005 after serving two tours in Iraq. The first tour was during the initial invasion of Baghdad; his unit suffered two casualties. His second tour was in the Anbar Province on the Syrian border, in the town of al Qaim; his unit there suffered 29 casualties.

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.

Rumsfeld Personally Extends Iraq Duty For 9,400 Troops

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Sep 23 By Will Dunham (Reuters)

The Pentagon said on Friday 9,400 U.S. soldiers have been ordered to stay in Iraq beyond their promised yearlong duty to avoid the disruption of a troop rotation during national elections slated for December.

The soldiers will be kept seven to 10 days beyond their previously scheduled departure, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said. The Pentagon has promised Army personnel tours of duty of no longer than a year in Iraq, while Marine Corps troops serve seven-month stints.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved the extensions on Thursday, Whitman said.

U.S. troops have complained in the past about having their tours of duty in Iraq extended beyond promised departure dates, and Army surveys have shown that this lack of predictability in tour lengths had inflicted emotional stress on many soldiers and harmed morale.

The 9,400 soldiers all had been scheduled to leave in mid-January.

About 4,000 soldiers from the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Georgia, had been slated to leave Iraq on January 10 and now will be kept through January 20, Whitman said. About 5,000 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division had been slated to leave on January 19 and will be kept through January 26, Whitman said..

Both brigades are operating in north-central Iraq.

Another 400 soldiers from the 18th Airborne Corps headquarters, based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will be held over from their scheduled departure date of January 23 until February 2, Whitman said.

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| <p>He noted that the fact that a decision on this extension went all the way up through the chain of the command to Rumsfeld reflected the seriousness of the Pentagon's commitment to keep predictability in tour lengths.</p> |
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Thugs Attack & Mace Counter-Recruiters At Holyoke Community College

9.29.05 **From:** D

(I just called to register my complaint, and to encourage an investigation and respect for students' rights. They answered the phone quickly. I just said I'm calling to register a complaint and I was forwarded to the school's president's assistant (I believe). Please call about this outrage. Thanks, D)

As of 11:30am, there is a protest at Holyoke Community College against military recruiters. The protesters are not blocking the recruiters, but are just trying to counter protest and provide real information about what the military does.

The police arrived and started knocking people to the ground and macing them. The College Republicans are there and are encouraging the police to attack the protesters.

Please immediately call 413-538-7000 and register your outrage with the President's office at the College's attack on peaceful protest on a public campus and tell them to pull the police off of the protesters.

Thank you!

For more information, please contact Charles Peterson of the HCC Anti-War Coalition
charlest.peterson@gmail.com

(Holyoke Community College is a member of Campus Antiwar Network, Georgia State Students for Peace & Justice is also a member of CAN)

Honorable People

[Thanks to Georgia Veterans For Peace for making this known.]

<http://www.11alive.com/video/player.aspx?aid=43089&bw=>

Air Force Col. Says Bush, Cheney, Neocons Are Traitors

9.24.05 By US Air Force Col. Robert Bowman: buzzworm.blogspot.com

I want to start with a scary thought: Can you imagine what would have happened if George W. Bush had been President during the Cuban missile Crisis?

You people who are out here protesting, you are the shock troops battling to preserve our cherished freedoms.

You know our freedoms are not under attack from the remnants of Saddam Hussein's Bathist Party. They're under attack by the likes of John Ashcroft. They're trampled by Donald Rumsfeld, they're disdained by Dick Cheney, and they're not even understood by George W. Bush.

The battle to preserve our freedoms is not taking place in Baghdad and Tikrit and Falluja. It's taking place in peace marches and demonstrations in Ghiradeli Park in San Francisco, in Memorial Park in Oklahoma City, and in Lafayette Park in Washington, DC.

The front lines are right here. You are preserving our cherished freedoms by exercising them in spite of ridicule and opposition. The battle to preserve our freedoms is you.

You are the foot soldiers protecting our civil rights.

You are the Minutemen sounding the alarm against tyranny.

You are upholding the spirit of the American Revolution.

You are preserving the freedoms that the troops in the desert have a right to come back to.

The troops getting shot at in Iraq are not protecting us, we are protecting them and their honor and their freedom. We my sisters and brothers are protecting this nation by speaking truth to power.

We're speaking truth to a pack of liars.

We must do it loudly and fearlessly and courageously and joyfully, for we are the Patriots. And when we speak, this is the truth that we proclaim:

This war in Iraq has nothing to do with National Security or freedom or democracy or human rights or protecting our allies or weapons of mass destruction or defeating terrorism or disarming Iraq.

It has to do with money, it has to do with oil, and it has to do with raw imperial power. And it's based totally on lies.

Those that forced this war on an unwilling world are guilty of violating the US Constitution, the UN Charter, the Nuremburg Principles and International Law.

What they have done is illegal, immoral, unconstitutional and treason!

Before this war started, we knew it would fracture NATO, split the United Nations, separate us from our allies, destroy the great nation we inherited from our fathers who died in World War II, and it has.

We knew it would make our beloved country feared and hated and outcast among the world community, a pariah among the peoples and the number one rogue nation on Earth, and it has.

This is nothing but treason.

We knew this sadistic corporate war would incense the Arab world, provide thousands of new Osama bin Ladens and enormously increase the terrorist threat, and it has.

We knew it would further endanger the American people and the British people and destroy our National Security, and it has.

This cabal of neoconservatives from PNAC who planned this war, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Libby, Perle, Jeb Bush - even before Dubya became President - they told us why they had to do it, they said we need to occupy Iraq permanently in order to dominate Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and the southern Russian Republics around the Caspian Sea. We need to control the entire Middle East and all its oil.

This is nothing but treason.

"The citizen who sees his society's democratic clothes being worn out and does not cry it out, is not a patriot, but a traitor."

-- Mark Twain

“Anger And Despair In British Military Circles”

“The Soldiers Should Have Said To The Politicians ‘Fuck This’”

A poll last night suggested most people want British troops to pull out of Iraq. Some 57% said British forces should pull out, 27% said they should not, and 16% questioned in the Five News poll did not know.

25 Sep 2005 BRIAN BRADY, WESTMINSTER EDITOR, Scotsman.com

The violence [in Basra] has also led to the scrapping of a detailed plan that could have seen UK forces withdrawn by May next year. Instead, it now seems certain Prime Minister Tony Blair will have to keep British troops in the country until 2007 at the earliest.

The sudden U-turn on Britain's military commitment to Iraq has caused anger and despair in military circles. One former defence chief told Scotland on Sunday the Iraq expedition had been a "colossal political failure".

In comments that will pile pressure on Blair over his handling of the conflict, General Anthony Walker, a former Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, told Scotland on Sunday: **"The soldiers should have said to the politicians 'fuck this, we are not going into this conflict until you tell us how you are going to deal with this country once we have won you the war'.**

A poll last night suggested most people want British troops to pull out of Iraq. Some 57% said British forces should pull out, 27% said they should not, and 16% questioned in the Five News poll did not know.

Stupid Bush/Rumsfeld Get Caught Again: The “Foreign Fighters” Lie

September 27, 2005 Christian Science Monitor

Even if the U.S. military could manage to completely seal off Iraqi borders, preventing foreign fighters from joining the insurgency, it wouldn't make much difference.

Only four to ten percent of the insurgents are foreigners.

Soldier Recalls Attack On Humvee; “We Got Hit Every Other Day”

09/29/2005 By Angie Santello, Herald-Standard

Ben Conrad had a feeling something was going to happen in the deserts of Iraq that morning in late August.

Conrad's shift on guard detail was over and relief pulled in. The soldiers taking the next shift said an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on their trip in hit their vehicle, but that no one was hurt.

"They weren't hurt and their vehicle wasn't hurt," Conrad said. "It really didn't worry me too much, although it should have."

With another Humvee traveling in front, Conrad's vehicle made it only 50 meters from the location of the soldiers' guard detail before the roadside bomb detonated.

"I couldn't think, I couldn't move, but I only momentarily felt like that. I thought I was going to die," he said Wednesday from the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, Va. "I couldn't see. I thought I lost my eyes. I thought I was blind. I then all of sudden got feeling back and I realized what happened."

Conrad drove the Humvee that triggered the explosion of a roadside bomb Aug. 24 while he and three other soldiers were returning to the barracks from an overnight mission with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard HHC 1/110 28th Infantry Division, Mechanized stationed in Al Ramaldi, Iraq.

"I thought it was a mortar round. It pretty much destroyed the vehicle. I was in the back. They timed (the IED) off the speed of the lead vehicle," he said.

"We got hit every other day, sometimes they used little bombs that damaged the vehicles, but this was one of the bigger bombs," he added.

Thinking back on the incident, he said, "There are civilian vehicles everywhere. There are only a set number of us. I don't understand where they planted a bomb."

U.S. Empire Kicked Out Of Uzbekistan

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

Sep 27 (Reuters)

A senior State Department official said Tuesday the president of Uzbekistan made it clear that American forces must leave their air base in the Central Asian country, and the U.S. intends to do so "without further discussion."

Trial Of 4 War Protesters Upstate Ends With A Mixed Verdict

September 27, 2005 New York Times,]

Jurors handed four antiwar activists with a mixed verdict, apparently figuring the pouring blood on walls, windows and an American flag at a military recruiting station was neither Ghandi-like nor a "slippery slope" to the kind of destruction caused by violent extremists. The four were convicted of trespassing and damaging government property.

They were acquitted of the most serious charge---conspiracy to impede an officer of the United States.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



Patrol car in which police Lt. Col. Nadir Adab and Maj. Salame Abdul Husain lie dead following an ambush by suspected insurgents, in Baghdad Sept 29 2005. (AP Photo/Asaad Muhsin)

Sep 29, 2005 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, AP & CNN & (KUNA) & The York Dispatch & Reuters & Aljazeera & CBS & By Sabrina Tavernise, The New York Times

Two high-ranking police officials from the town of Balad were shot dead Thursday in a drive-by shooting in Jami'a neighborhood of western Baghdad, police said.

Attackers targeted a police patrol in the Jihad neighborhood in western Baghdad, killing two police officers and wounding three others.

On Thursday, suspected insurgents opened fire on a minibus carrying government cleaners to city jails where they work, killing two and wounding seven, police said.

Two senior policemen escaped death on Thursday in the Kirkuk district while a Humvy vehicle, owned by the US army, was destroyed by fire due to a bomb attack in the "Tawz" locality in the Kirkuk province.

Speaking in a news statement, the Iraqi police confirmed that Kirkuk's chief of police, Colonel Burhan Tayyeb Taher escaped a roadside car bomb, which exploded near him as he was driving in the proximity of Kirkuk's fourth bridge.

According to the statement, the incident left one policeman injured and caused material damage to one of the vehicles in the chief's convoy.

Another senior policeman, this time the head of the Howeija town in the Kirkuk district, also escaped death when his home was attacked by unknown gunmen early on Thursday. The home was riddled with bullets. Two of the policemen, who were with the chief sustained injuries. But the home was significantly damaged.

In the capital, four police officers were killed in drive-by shootings. Gunmen began shooting at American forces near the Ghazilia Bridge in western Baghdad, killing an Iraqi police officer. In Sadr City, the Shiite slum in eastern Baghdad, another police officer was killed.

KHALIS - Three members of the Al-Khalis city council were killed on their way home from a meeting. A policeman and his brother were also killed by armed fighters in Khalis, police said.

A hospital official has said at least 60 people were killed and 70 wounded in a string of car bombs in the town of Balad, north of Baghdad.

The injured include the city's police chief and four other officers.

In Baquba, north of Baghdad, a car bomb exploded at a military checkpoint at 3:45 p.m., wounding 8 police officers, an Interior Ministry official said.

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

Celebration Time



Iraqis celebrating a burning US military vehicle, in Baghdad Sept. 29, 2005. A US military convoy was hit by a road side bomb Thursday morning. Some US soldiers were injured and evacuated. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“The End Had Come, But It Was
Not Yet In Sight”**

This past weekend, the entire Democratic Party leadership fled town, including party chairman Howard Dean – once the Great White Hope of Democratic war critics – Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and even Russ Feingold, who is positioning himself as the "antiwar" presidential candidate.

What is operating, here, is the iron rule of the elites, in government and in the leadership of the two "major" parties – who have deemed all talk of withdrawal as "unrealistic." This is what dictates the bipartisan line in Washington, which is that we are in Iraq to stay.

September 26, 2005 September 26, 2005, J. Raimondo, Antiwar.com. [Excerpt]

The massive antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C., over the weekend – with attendance estimates ranging from 100,000 to 200,000 – dramatized what the pollsters already know: the Iraq war is hugely unpopular, and public opposition is increasing by leaps and bounds. The significance of the Sept. 24 march is that the antiwar majority is finally making itself heard.

A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll shows 67 percent disapproving of Bush's "stay the course" policy, up nearly 10 points since the last poll taken in the beginning of September.

Sixty-five percent think we're spending too much on Iraq, and when it comes to policy alternatives – increasing troops, keeping the number steady, decreasing the U.S. troop presence, or getting out altogether – the results are, respectively, 8, 26, 33, and 30 percent.

The NYT/CBS poll breaks responses down along party lines, and the results are pretty astounding:

Republicans who want to increase the troops level: 12 percent – Democrats, 8 percent. The super hawks are (1) a tiny minority, and (2) not noticeably partisan one way or the other.

Republicans who want troop levels to remain the same: 41 percent – Democrats, 15 percent. **This shows how out of touch with their base the Democrats are: most Democratic members of Congress would take the majority Republican position.**

Republicans who want to decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq: 29 percent – Democrats, 29 percent.

Republicans who want to remove all U.S. troops from Iraq right now: 11 percent – Democrats, 45 percent. Here we have the biggest partisan gap, but still the number of "out now" Republicans is surprising.

The amazing fact of the matter is that a full 40 percent of Republicans either want to begin withdrawing or want out altogether right now. The antiwar movement may not know it yet, but Republicans are probably their fastest-growing constituency.

The country has turned decisively against the war. We have reached a tipping point, as I wrote last month, and the rising tide of antiwar sentiment shows no sign of cresting.

The water is coming over the levees, but in Washington, D.C., they are oblivious. With gerrymandered congressional districts designed to protect incumbents from the threat of any real electoral challenge, and plenty of money pouring into their coffers from lobbyists foreign and domestic, the War Party rules the roost in the Imperial City, and they think they can afford to ignore the occasional invasion by the antiwar majority.

This past weekend, the entire Democratic Party leadership fled town, including party chairman Howard Dean – once the Great White Hope of Democratic war

critics – Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and even Russ Feingold, who is positioning himself as the "antiwar" presidential candidate.

Knight-Ridder reports the Democrats are "wary" of the antiwar movement, as well they might be considering that it was Bill Clinton who signed the Iraq Liberation Act – the legislation that originally authorized action to effect "regime change" in Baghdad – with the enthusiastic support of top Democrats.

Fear – of what, or of whom?

It can't be the voters they fear – because the majority, as polls show, would back some variant of an antiwar stance.

It can't be fear of their Democratic Party base, because, as these same polls show, most Democrats want out now.

And it can't be the wrath of the mainstream media, which has given sympathetic albeit tardy coverage to the growing antiwar movement.

It is fear of not being considered "serious," of not being the recipient of fat donations from foreign-connected lobbyists, and fear of retribution from the party leadership – Democrat, as well as Republican – that keeps Congress in line.

What is operating, here, is the iron rule of the elites, in government and in the leadership of the two "major" parties – who have deemed all talk of withdrawal as "unrealistic." This is what dictates the bipartisan line in Washington, which is that we are in Iraq to stay.

A recent military appropriations bill authorized spending for the construction of permanent bases in Iraq, and the Democratic leadership voted for it.

Indeed, if anything, the Democrats want to spend more money on "nation-building" than the Republicans, and are ready and willing to hike taxes in order to do it. This, mind you, would be awfully unpopular, among grassroots Democrats as well as Republicans: 77 percent of all Americans would disapprove of having to pay more in taxes in order to pay for the Iraq war, according to the NYT/CBS poll, while 55 percent don't want to give up recent tax cuts to foot the bill.

We can't depend on the mis-leadership of the Democratic Party to get us out of the quagmire.

If Bush does what Pat Buchanan and Bob Novak predicted a few months ago and starts withdrawing our forces from Iraq, you can bet the Democrats will criticize him for being a "cut-and-run Republican."

That's how the elite consensus is enforced and maintained: a dynamic tension is created by a two-party pact, ensuring the continuation of a policy that is not only wrong but also a proven failure. Everyone agrees to bow to the naked Emperor and sagely remark on the nobility of his raiment.

There's just one major problem with this "Emperor's New Clothes" strategy. Some day, the naked reality of what we have done in Iraq will be brought home even to our blinkered representatives in Washington in a manner both definitive and dramatic.

[Perhaps several thousand troops joining a demonstration in Imperial City would have that salutary effect. The stables badly need cleaning. As Oliver Cromwell, backed by thousands of armed revolutionary soldiers, once told an English Parliament full of greedy scum, "Gentlemen, you have sat here long enough. In the name of God, go." They went.]

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Occupation Follies Roll On: US Commander Says Only One Iraqi Battalion Fully Capable: Seven Months Ago He Said Three Were Fully Capable

2005-09-29 Middle East Online & 28 September 2005 The Associated Press

Other senators sharply questioned the progress being made by in Iraq, zeroing in on a disclosure by Casey that only one Iraqi battalion was operating fully independently.

The last time Casey reported to Congress several months ago, he said three battalions were fully capable.

"We fully recognize that Iraqi armed forces will not have an independent capability for some time, because they don't have an institutional base to support them," he said. "And so Level One is one battalion."

"It was three. Now it's gone from three to one?" interjected Senator John McCain, a Republican from Arizona.

"Things change in a battalion. We're making assessments on leadership, on training. There are a lot of variables that are involved here, senator," Casey said.

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| <p>The top US commander in Iraq backed away on Wednesday from his prediction that a substantial pullout of US troops could begin by next spring, as the White House undertakes a new campaign to win public support for the war effort.</p> |
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CASEY TRIES GANG SIGNS TO EXPLAIN TO SENATORS HOW GOING FROM THREE TO ONE IS “PROGRESS”



U.S. Commanding General of Multi-National Force in Iraq Gen. George Casey in front of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee September 29, 2005. REUTERS/Larry Downing

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

White House Press Spokesman Calls For Bringing Terrorist Bush To Justice

September 26, 2005 Transcript, Press Briefing by Scott McClellan, The White House

“The enemy that we're up against has no regard for innocent human life. They have a very clear strategy for wanting to dominate that part of the world.

“And to defeat the enemy we need to continue to take the fight to the terrorists and bring them to justice.”

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

Iraq Spending Topped \$11 Billion In June, A Record

September 26, 2005 Bloomberg.com

The Pentagon spent \$11.1 billion to support operations in Iraq during June, the largest monthly total since the March 2003 invasion.

MORE:

DoD 'Running Out Of Money' For Wars

September 27, 2005 Aerospace Daily & Defense Report

Congress is expected to act quickly on a continuing resolution funding the government into 2006, although it won't help DoD, which is "running out of money" to cover operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MORE:

INVOICE

September 29, 2005: From: David Staub, Interpax

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| War and "Reconstruction" | \$171,578,000,000 |
| 3-year military occupation | \$150,000,000,000 |
| + more "reconstruction" | \$ 55,000,000,000 |

Total so far: \$376,578,000,000

[Not counting human lives.]

Chop Their Ass *Up*

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

"No word yet on Mr. Brown's future plans, though sources say he does want to spend more time doing nothing for his family." --Jon Stewart, on FEMA Director Michael Brown's resignation

"Brown said he was stepping down because he was an ineffective leader who had lost the confidence of the people, to which Bush said, 'That's no reason to quit your job.'" -- Jay Leno

"Michael Brown, the head of FEMA, has been relieved of his command. He has been asked to return to Washington immediately. He is expected to arrive in about a week. He had a good excuse, though. He said he thought freezing in the face of national crisis made him look presidential." --Bill Maher

"Today President Bush asked if his visit to the hurricane zone would count toward the service time he still owes the National Guard." --Jay Leno

"Many Americans are calling on President Bush to fire the head of FEMA Michael Brown because of the slow response to the crisis. Unfortunately, due to the red tape, firing Brown will take 6 to 8 months." --Conan O'Brien

"President Bush sent Vice President Dick Cheney to New Orleans. Is that what they need down there? Another person requiring emergency medical help?" --Jay Leno

"While everybody else is busy setting up commissions and finding fault, through the president's leadership he'll end up building a billion dollar dam in Arkansas." --"Daily Show" correspondent Ed Helms. "Why would he build a dam in Arkansas?" --Jon Stewart "His plan will be to fight the water there so we don't have to fight it here." --Ed Helms

"He could have started planning on Saturday when the radar showed that a hurricane was going to hit the city, but Bush thinks that the jury is still out on weather forecasting." --Bill Maher

"Congress announced a plan to rename the Gulf of Mexico. They want to call it Persian Gulf 2 in hopes that President Bush would send troops there faster." --Jay Leno

"How many folks have been watching the mini-series on HBO called 'Rome?' Amazingly, exciting episode this week -- Rome is burning while Nero refuses to cut his vacation short. And don't miss next week's episode when FEMA shows up a week late at Pompeii." --David Letterman

"As you know, FEMA stands for 'Fix Everything My Ass.'" --Jay Leno

"Although, to his credit, President Bush did respond quickly and he did send troops as soon as he found out Louisiana had oil." --Jay Leno

BUSH PRAISES SWIFTNESS OF HURRICANE RITA PHOTO-OPS But Says Government Must Create Impression of Concern Even Faster In Future

September 27, 2005 The Borowitz Report

In a televised speech to the nation last night, President George W. Bush praised the Federal government for responding swiftly to Hurricane Rita with well-crafted, high-quality photo opportunities showing him looking concerned, but said that the government needs to create the impression of concern even faster in the future.

Mr. Bush said the fact that the government provided the first images of him looking grave and engaged in the crisis even before Hurricane Rita slammed into the Texas and Louisiana coastline showed that it had learned the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

"After Hurricane Katrina, it was hours before the American people saw the first photos of me furrowing my brow and looking serious," Mr. Bush said. "But with Rita, we had high-quality images of me looking worried right from the get-go."

While praising the swiftness of the government's photo-op response to Rita, the president said that "much work still needs to be done" to ensure that the government will produce high-quality post-disaster photo-ops even faster in the future.

To that end, he said he was creating a new government bureaucracy, the Federal Emergency Image Management Agency, which would provide the president with lighting, cameras, and dramatic backdrops within minutes of any national emergency.

"In times of crisis, the president needs to send the American people the following message," the president concluded. "Message: I look like I care."

Received:

Renewable Energy

From: Mark Shapiro
To: GI Special
Sent: September 27, 2005

I don't know where you get the energy to keep it going - GIS is truly amazing!
Mark

REPLY: The energy comes from the troops, military families, veterans and active civilians who want to reach out to members of the armed forces opposed to the war, and give them aid and comfort. That's the best source of energy anybody could ask for, and the reason GI Special exists. T

Major Problem With Both Wings Of The Antiwar "Movement"

From: Tom S
To: GI Special
Sent: September 24, 2005
Subject: Major problem with both wings of the antiwar "movement"

What you omitted was the fact that both wings are also either in bed with the Democratic Party, and/or aiming, from a pseudo-Marxist standpoint, at pressuring it to the Left. Neither wing is genuinely socialist, nor oriented toward the working class, let alone the soldiers.

REPLY: Just catching up on emails after travel to DC: you're 100% right. T

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://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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