

GI SPECIAL 3C76:

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



(Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

**RUMSFELD AT IT
AGAIN:
Chiseling Asshole Restricts
Refunds To Military Families
For Lifesaving Battle Gear**

Condemning the new program as too little, too late, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., said the Pentagon's list is too restrictive and does not include critical safety equipment such as gunscoopes, additional Humvee armor and radios.

"The Pentagon's leadership has done everything in its power to stop this measure from being implemented," said Dodd. "Why should they stop now?"

October 06, 2005 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Under pressure from Congress, the Pentagon on Wednesday issued overdue regulations for reimbursing soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan for body armor and other gear they bought to protect themselves.

The guidelines from the undersecretary of defense, David Chu, come nearly a year after Congress passed legislation mandating the reimbursement policy. That law required the Pentagon to issue the rules by last Feb. 25.

The purchase must have been between Sept. 10, 2001 and Aug. 1, 2004, and the soldier must not have been issued equivalent government equipment.

[Families are still being forced to buy gear today and ship gear to Iraq today, but who gives a fuck about that? Certainly not Rumsfeld. Hey, the families can foot the bill, he's got too many billion dollar contracts to hand out to his war-profiteer buddies at Halliburton to worry about some soldier's moms and dads and wives going into debt.

[And as for the troops who don't have family members, or who come from families to poor to shell out \$1000 or so, well, that's what Arlington is for, to bury them. Who gives a shit if the troops live or die? Certainly not Rumsfeld or Bush.

[There is no enemy in Iraq and there is no mission in Iraq. Bush and Rumsfeld are the enemy of both the troops *and* the occupied Iraqis.

[You needed proof of that; here it is. T]

Condemning the new program as too little, too late, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., said the Pentagon's list is too restrictive and does not include critical safety equipment such as gunscoopes, additional Humvee armor and radios.

"The Pentagon's leadership has done everything in its power to stop this measure from being implemented," said Dodd. "Why should they stop now?"

Last week, Marine Sgt. Todd Bowers, whose parents bought him a high-tech rifle scope, said the extra piece of equipment saved his life, and that a \$100 pair of goggle he bought saved his eyesight, when he was shot by a sniper.

"If you need any proof that (the Pentagon) is once again coming up short, all you need to do is take a look at the list of reimbursable items," Dodd said. "It does not include the gun scope that saved Todd Bowers' life.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

AL KARMAH IED KILLS 4 MARINES

October 7, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-09C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Four Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, 2d Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near al Karmah, Iraq, on Oct. 6.

TWO MARINES KILLED BY AL QAIM IED

October 7, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-10C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2d Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action by an improvised explosive device while conducting a combat logistics patrol in the vicinity of al Qaim, Iraq, on Oct. 6.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed At Hawlaniya

08 Oct 2005 Reuters

HAQLANIYA - Two U.S. soldiers were killed by small arms fire on Saturday during Operation River Gate, a military statement said. U.S. and Iraqi forces are conducting a major push in western Anbar province against insurgents in Iraq's Euphrates river valley.

TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIER KILLED

October 6, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-08C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Task Force Baghdad Soldier was killed when a patrol struck an improvised explosive device while conducting offense combat operations in north Baghdad at 8:15 a.m. Oct. 6.

First New Mexico National Guard Death In Iraq

10/06/05 Cibola County Beacon

SANTA FE - U.S. Army National Guard Specialist Marshal A. Westbrook died at 8 a.m. Saturday in Baghdad, Iraq, after suffering head wounds from an explosive device.

New Mexico was the first state in the nation to enact full insurance benefits for all members of the New Mexico National Guard.

Specialist Westbrook was married to Joleen Westbrook and they had five children. Specialist Westbrook was the son of Marshal and Ruth Westbrook. His wife and family will receive \$400,000 from his insurance policy.

Lejeune Marine Corporal Killed By Bombing

October 06, 2005 DailyNews

A Camp Lejeune Marine was killed Monday by an improvised explosive device during a U.S. combat operation in western Iraq, according to a Department of Defense news release.

Cpl. John R. Stalvey, 22, from Conroe, Texas, and assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, died in Karabilah during Operation Iron Fist, an effort to rout insurgents from Al Anbar province.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad Minibus Bombing

10/6/2005 By OMAR SINAN, The Associated Press

The bombing of a Baghdad minibus killed at least 20 Iraqis and an American soldier.

Three Fort Bragg Paratroopers Killed



Spc. Jacob Vanderbosch, 21, of Vadnais Heights

Oct. 06, 2005 Associated Press & BY MARY BAUER, Pioneer Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - Three paratroopers based at Fort Bragg were killed in one of three Euphrates River towns in western Iraq that U.S. troops began trying to retake from al-Qaida insurgents this week.

Killed Monday were: Sgt. Bryan W. Large, 31, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Spc. Jacob T. Vanderbosch, 21, of Vadnais Heights, Minn.; and Pfc. Roberto C. Baez, 19, of Tampa, Fla.

The three, who were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, died Monday when a single roadside bomb detonated near their vehicle in Haqlaniyah, Iraq, the Defense Department said Wednesday.

Vanderbosch had been in Iraq for just a month. Scott and Mary Vanderbosch last saw their son in August, when they visited him at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"We went down there and had a good old time" chumming with Vanderbosch and his fellow soldiers, his father said. Scott Vanderbosch said he came away from the visit impressed with his son's maturity and the caliber of people with whom he was serving.

Vanderbosch was a 2002 graduate of White Bear Lake High School, according to Army spokesman Bill Geddes. Geddes said the family gave him some information to share with the public, including Vanderbosch's love of deer hunting and water skiing.

"He liked playing golf and he was really into Texas Hold 'Em," Geddes said. "I guess he could bluff your socks off."

Large was first assigned to 307th Forward Medical Co. of the 82nd in September 2002. He was assigned to the 504th in January 2004.

Vanderbosch, an infantryman, was assigned to the 504th in May 2004. Baez, also an infantryman, just joined the 82nd in February 2005 and was assigned to the 504th.

Large is survived by his daughter Kylie, 10; and his father, Larry, and mother, Linda. Vanderbosch is survived by his parents, Scott and Mary Vanderbosch.

A classmate, Nick Lagos, said Vanderbosch became his best friend when the two entered the ninth grade.

"I wasn't the most popular kid, but it didn't matter to him at all," said Lagos, now a college student. "He was probably the most outgoing person I've ever known. He would never exclude anybody from anything."

Lagos said he and other friends held a going-away party for Vanderbosch before the paratrooper left for Iraq.

"We played a little poker, drank a little, and said goodbye," Lagos said. "Nobody thought it would be the last goodbye."

Vanderbosch's death was the 25th military death of a Minnesotan in Iraq since the war began in 2003.



In this photo provided by the U.S. Army, shown is Sgt. Bryan W. Large, 31, a medic assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

SSgt. Killed In Attack On Ramadi FOB

October 7, 2005 WTVM

The Department of Defense reports a Third Brigade soldier from Fort Benning has been killed in Iraq.

31-year-old SSGT Jens E. Schelbert of New Orleans, Louisiana., died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on October 1st.

Schelbert's forward operating base was attacked by enemy forces.

Schelbert was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Army Reservist Killed: 169 Dead From Texas

October 7, 2005 KRIS

TERRELL, Texas -- Family members on Wednesday remembered a 26-year-old Army reservist from Terrell as a competitive but good-natured person who enjoyed soccer and cared deeply for his fellow soldiers.

Sgt. Sean B. Berry died Monday from non-combat related injuries in Taqaddum, Iraq, the Pentagon said. An investigation was under way, said his father, John Berry.

John Berry said an e-mail he received Monday, the same day he got word of the death, showed just how much his son cared for others.

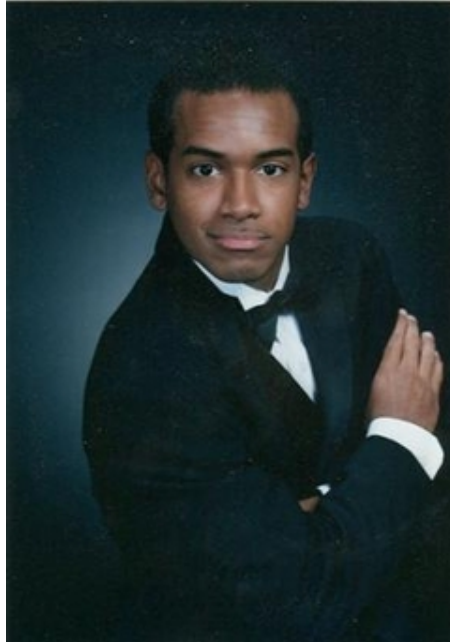
"It said he had volunteered to extend his time to next summer cause there was some unit up north that was really taking it hard," John Berry said. "The bottom line is for Brady (Sean's middle name), what he was in there for was for the other guys."

During his most recent visit home in July, John Berry recalled that his son was "really fidgety and nervous because he was worried about what would happen to his guys."

As a child, Berry enjoyed sports, particularly soccer.

At least 169 Texas service members have died in Iraq since the war began in March 2003, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Tampa Soldier Killed By Bomb



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division shows Pfc. Roberto C. Baez, 19, of Tampa, Fla. (AP Photo/Family photo via the U.S. Army)

October 5, 2005 By MICHELLE SPITZER, Associated Press Writer

A soldier from Tampa who was killed in Iraq was a caring man who planned to attend college and become a psychologist, his mother told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Pfc. Roberto C. Baez, 19, and two fellow paratroopers were killed Monday when a bomb exploded near the vehicle they were riding in, the U.S. Department of Defense said Wednesday.

The soldiers were assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

"He was very caring about not just us but everybody," his mother Jeannette Baez said Wednesday. "He was a good son, a good brother, a good friend."

The soldiers were killed in one of three Euphrates River towns in western Iraq that U.S. troops began trying to retake from al-Qaida insurgents this week.

Baez, an infantryman, joined the 82nd in February 2005 and was assigned to the 504th. He graduated from Alonso High School in 2004, his mother said.

She last saw her son in August when he was home for a break. Surrounded by friends and family, she is planning her son's funeral, which will be some time next week.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his father, Carlos Baez, and brother, Juan Carlos.

SR Soldier Killed: 23-Year-Old Nearing End Of 2nd Tour Of Duty Dies In Roadside Bombing

October 6, 2005 By GUY KOVNER, THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

A Santa Rosa soldier serving his second tour in Iraq was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb, leaving behind his wife and their 6-month-old daughter, the military and family members said.

Spc. Joshua J. Kynoch, 23, hailed by his family as a hero and a "great daddy," was killed when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle drove over the bomb and detonated it during a convoy operation in Bayji, about 120 miles north of Baghdad.

Kynoch, a Santa Rosa native and 2000 graduate of Casa Grande High School in Petaluma, was due home in 13 weeks.

Colleen Cahill, who is taking an emergency medical technician class with Sarah Kynoch at Santa Rosa Junior College, said mothers and wives constantly fear the worst. Cahill's son is in Iraq.

"Every day we wait for the guys to come to the door," she said. "They came to her door."

National Guard soldiers Saturday night notified Sarah Kynoch of her husband's death, said Maj. Zac Delwiche of the 579th Engineer Battalion based in Santa Rosa.

Kynoch was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division based at Fort Stewart, Ga., the Pentagon said.

Kynoch is the fourth soldier from Sonoma County to die in Iraq since the war began in March, 2003.

"I just can't believe he's not coming back," said Ryan Siliznoff, 30, of Santa Rosa, who enlisted along with Kynoch in late 2001, shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "It's the last thing I expected."

Siliznoff said he had spoken with Kynoch by phone late last week, and Kynoch said he did not seem to be in danger.

Siliznoff said he told his friend "about the only thing you've got to watch out for is IEDs," referring to improvised explosive devices, the military terminology for roadside bombs.

"We haven't found any yet," Siliznoff quoted Kynoch as saying.

"It's heart-wrenching," said Siliznoff, who met Kynoch about five years ago and said they immediately became friends.

Siliznoff said he feels guilty because it was his idea for the two to go see an Army recruiter in late 2001. "The next thing you know, we signed up," Siliznoff said by phone from Florida, where he was vacationing when he got the news of his friend's death.

Both went to Fort Benning, Ga. Kynoch was subsequently shipped to Iraq, while Siliznoff, who tore ligaments in his foot during basic training, received a medical discharge.

"Everybody's telling me don't take it hard," Siliznoff said. "I feel kind of bad."

Mesa Man Dies; 61 Dead From Arizona

Oct. 6, 2005 Sarah Muench, The Arizona Republic

A Mesa man who graduated from Skyline High School is the fourth soldier with Arizona ties to die in Iraq in the past five weeks.

Chandler police confirmed Thursday that Jeremiah Robinson, son of Sgt. Burt Robinson, died but didn't have details, spokesman Sgt. Mark Franzen said.

The death brings the number of people with Arizona ties who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan to 61 and the total of U.S. soldier deaths to more than 1,900 since the United States invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003.

Ohio Marine Killed In Roadside Explosion, Family Says

Oct. 07, 2005 Associated Press

ALLIANCE, Ohio - A northeast Ohio Marine was killed Thursday in western Iraq while driving an armored vehicle that was hit by a roadside bomb, his father said Friday.

Lance Cpl. Daniel McVicker, 20, of Alliance, joined the Marines with 10 classmates after graduating from West Branch High School in Beloit in 2003, Mark McVicker said.

His father said he was unsure of his son's exact unit but said his job in Iraq was to provide security for convoys.

Mark McVicker described his son as an individual, not a follower.

"He had his own drum and people loved him for it," he said. "If you met him, you loved him. He was very strong, very friendly, very popular."

He stopped playing football after an ankle injury his freshman year of high school, but was involved in other extracurricular activities, including a singing group.

Local Marine Dies In Fallujah Bombing



Oct 7, 2005 (KDKA)

Patrick Kenny, a 2003 graduate of Avonworth High School, was killed in the recent Fallujah bombing along with the other marines.

Kenny was a Lance Corporal Marine.

He was captain of the football team at Avonworth.

Slain Marine Put Friends First

10/06/05 By MICHAEL MOORE of the Missoulian

Sometimes he would call in the middle of the night, using the minute or so soldiers in Iraq are allotted to touch base with his friends.

If his buddies didn't pick up the phone, Andrew Bedard would call them back the next day, maybe while they were in class at the University of Montana.

That's where he planned to be one day, too, after he finished his tour of duty with the U.S. Marines.

Only reluctantly would he talk about what was happening in the desert of Iraq. Instead he wanted to know about the weather, what his friends were up to, whether the Grizzlies won the weekend's football game.

"He'd only tell me a little bit about what was happening there, but it seemed to me that the conditions there scared him," said Andrew's friend Kevin O'Day. "But mostly, he was the sort of kid who wanted to know how you were doing. He'd find a way to put you first, even though we were all really concerned about him."

Andrew Bedard, a Marine who'd been in Iraq for only a month, died Monday, killed by a roadside bomb. Bedard, who trained in San Diego, was a Humvee driver in a unit taking part in the military's new offensive to roust insurgents out of western Iraq.

He was 19.

A Hellgate High School graduate in 2004, Andrew was the sort of young man who seemed to touch everyone he met. He had a kindness that his friends found endlessly comforting.

"You could call him anytime and if you needed something, he'd come right over, even if it was really late," his friend Callan Smith said Wednesday. "He was just so dependable."

Andrew had a wide circle of friends, many of whom gathered at the home of his mother, Michelle, on Tuesday night. She told them what she knew of Andrew's death, and together they laughed and cried and told stories about a young man they all loved.

"I came away feeling better, but it's really been back to sadness today," O'Day said. "It's just too hard to believe he's not coming back."

It was actually pretty hard to believe he was leaving.

By the end of his senior year at Hellgate, Andrew had woven a tight community of friends, a community rocked by surprise when he told them he was entering the Marines.

"You know, it was such a complete shock," Smith said. "He was such a laid-back kid. He wasn't this gung-ho guy who wanted to go to war."

With his friends, Andrew talked about getting out of Missoula for a while, earning some money to go to college and seeing something of the world.

Smith pressed his buddy on the possibility of being sent to Iraq, but Andrew would push the discussion aside with a reference to his likelihood of being stationed in Hawaii.

Once he'd completed basic training in San Diego, Andrew committed himself to the soldier's lot.

"He said he felt an obligation to the guys he trained with, that he'd go if they went," Smith said.

At the end of August, he did go. His friends all gathered that last night, and they did their best to say what they hoped would be a temporary farewell.

"He kept asking us if we'd be here in four years, because he was planning on coming back here to go to school," said friend Ben Brunsvold. "He really loved this town, and the idea of being away from his friends for so long was hard on him."

The separation was hard on the whole group of friends. Smith, Brunsvold, O'Day and others, like Brian Gaul, found themselves worried when they saw news out of Iraq. As comforting as it was to get Andrew's phone calls, they also served as a reminder of the constant peril he faced.

"He'd talk about how we shouldn't take it for granted, the good life we had here," O'Day said. "Over there, things were pretty much destroyed, everybody was poor and it was pretty scary."

Said Smith: "I was really worried, you know, because he'd gone into the Marines. Those guys are the ones in the thick of it. They go to the worst places. I'd hear him explaining why he wanted to be in the Marines, but I never could really understand it."

Now there are no more explanations to be found. The phone doesn't ring any more in the middle of the night.

A friend is gone, and a group of boys who became young men together struggle to weave together the harsh reality of war and the comforting memories of the past.

"He was just the best guy you'll ever know," Brunsvold said. "By the time he graduated from high school, he had more friends than most people will have in a lifetime."

"He was always calling and asking if he was doing the right thing, wanting to make sure he was being polite," O'Day said. "He just was the sort of person who was always gathering his friends around him, soaking in those good times when we were all together. It's really hard to imagine how we'll do that without him now."

4 U.S. Soldiers Wounded By Baghdad Car Bomb

10/6/2005 By OMAR SINAN, The Associated Press & MidwestTV

A car bomb hit a U.S. patrol in a central Baghdad neighborhood, wounding four Americans, and setting off fighting with small-arms fire and U.S. helicopters, the military said.

IED Gets U.S. Patrol At Abu G: Casualty Specifics Not Announced

08 Oct 2005 Reuters

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb blew up near a U.S. military patrol in Abu Ghraib west of Baghdad, police said, adding there were casualties.

The U.S. military had no immediate information on the attack. Police officer Karim Salim said U.S forces cordoned off the area and detained 16 suspects.

U.S. Base At Habaniya Mortared

08 Oct 2005 Reuters

FALLUJA - Police said ten mortar rounds landed near a U.S military base at Habaniya, near Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad. U.S forces returned fire killing three people, medics said. The U.S. military had no immediate information about the incident. [U.S. forces return fire. The "U.S. military" has no information. To reporters, the "U.S. military" means the command, of course. The "U.S. Military" must be pretty fucking dumb or completely out of touch.]]

Humvee Blown Up In Ramadi: Casualties Not Announced

10.6.05 Reuters

RAMADI - One U.S. Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb south of Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad, a police source said. There were no immediate comments from the U.S. military on the incident.

Prisoner Interrogator Dead In Resistance Attack: “He Was Always Dressed To Kill”

10/8/05 By RICHARD KHAVKINE, STAFF WRITER, Home News Tribune

NORTH BRUNSWICK — If Mounir Chamoon was somewhat of a wanderer, he had a purpose: To sow and reap adventure in a fertile world.

Born and raised in Lebanon, Chamoon attended college in Eugene, Ore.; pursued business interests in Saudi Arabia, New York City and the United Arab Emirates; married in Chico, Calif., and raised a daughter in Atlanta.

Earlier this year, Chamoon trained stateside for his next assignment, packed his portfolio of skills and passion for adventure, and shipped off to Iraq. For five months, he worked as a civilian interpreter for U.S. Army troops interrogating prisoners.

A week ago, likely somewhere near Ramadi, about 70 miles west of Baghdad, a missile shell slammed nearby and Chamoon took shrapnel. Chamoon, 57, died soon afterward.

Details given by the Army are few so far, the family said, and they know little about Chamoon's death.

But there's plenty known about how he lived his life.

The Ferrari he drove through the streets of Jwar el Houz in Lebanon was almost an afterthought purchase made during a trip to Italy.

"It was no big deal to him," George Chamoun said.

He also appreciated a fine wardrobe.

"He was always dressed to kill," Antoinette Chamoun said. "He wore top-of-the-line suits."

The General Respects The Resistance

What I said was the insurgents in Al Anbar province, north Babil province, are largely locally based insurgents; that is the insurgent we fight here is from here, he's from those communities in which we are engaging them.

October 7, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript.

Presenter: Commanding General, Multinational Force West and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Johnson, [Excerpt]

In Al Anbar and northern Babil provinces, our fight continues to be against the locally based Sunni insurgency.

It's a complex threat that's spread throughout the Euphrates River Valley; operates loosely in cells in the cities and in the countryside.

It's decentralized, it's resilient. It regenerates itself and it sustains itself. Local insurgents operate largely in and around their own communities, and they can often blend in when it suits them.

With respect to the insurgents, the enemy that we fight, as I pointed out in my comments, is a resilient enemy. They learn from their mistakes; they adapt. They are a thinking enemy.

We recognize that, and within the parameters we respect the fact that they are adapting. We also adapt to keep ahead of them. We adapt not only in our tactics, techniques and procedures, but also in the equipment that we provide our people to fight the insurgents - with -- to fight the insurgency.

GEN. JOHNSON: Okay, let me take the second part of your question first.

What I said was the insurgents in Al Anbar province, north Babil province, are largely locally based insurgents; that is the insurgent we fight here is from here, he's from those communities in which we are engaging them. They are generally young people, 20 to 30 years old. They are day laborers, agricultural workers. They are disaffected and there's a lot of unemployment. But they're local people and they can come and go within the community. And that's what we see the vast majority of them.

GEN. JOHNSON: We don't see a growth in the insurgency here. Since we've been here, since March of 2005, we have been engaged in this local Sunni insurgency.

It's been at steady levels. The levels of attacks that we've experienced in the last six weeks have gone up, but we knew that was going to happen as the Ramadan came on and as the referendum drew nearer. So we expected that.

But seeing a growth, we have not experienced that. It's been pretty steady for the entire time that we've been here.

How To Lose At Counter-Insurgency

[Sent in without attribution. T]

One senior Marine general, speaking privately, compares his plight to that of the “little Dutch boy trying to plug up holes in the dike.”

He would shift Marines to one city of the al Anbar province only to see the militants flee and take refuge in another area of the province where there was less of a U.S. presence.

“I just never had enough troops,” this officer says.

Huh?

October 7, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript.

Presenter: Commanding General, Multinational Force West and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, Maj. Gen. Stephen T. Johnson, [Excerpt]

GEN. JOHNSON: Okay, I gotcha.

As far as U.S. casualties are concerned, in Iron Fist we've experienced thus far, in the roll-up between 1 and 7 October, we had one friendly killed in action up there and eight friendly wounded in action thus far.

MR. WHITMAN: Bob?

Q Well, how about -- I'm sorry --

MR. WHITMAN: He has a follow-up.

Q -- how about the two Marines who were killed yesterday near the Syrian border by an IED, and the four who were killed near Fallujah? You're not counting them.

STAFF: (Off mike.)

GEN. JOHNSON: Okay. No, I'm not counting those right now.

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)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

US Soldier Killed In Geresk; 80 Dead This Year, So Far

Oct. 8 (Xinhuanet)

A US Soldier was killed Friday by an explosion in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, the US-led coalition said on Saturday.

The US troops was conducting an offensive patrol in the area of recent enemy activity when an explosive device detonated, mortally wounding the soldier near Geresk city of the Helmand, the coalition said in a news release.

The deaths bring to 80 the number of US soldiers who have lost their lives in Afghanistan this year.

Assorted Resistance Action

05 October 2005 Aljazeera

On Wednesday, a car bomb exploded near a convoy of Canadian troops on the outskirts of the southern city of Kandahar. Three Canadian soldiers suffered minor burns from the blast on a road near their camp.

He said the vehicle was driving slowly in the opposite direction to the Canadian convoy when the bombing happened.

The blast comes a day after six Afghan civilians were killed in a bombing in the far south of Kandahar province at the Spin Boldak border crossing with Pakistan.

TROOP NEWS

As Iraq War Now Costing \$6 Billion A Month, Pentagon Running Out Of Troops

October 7, 2005 By Lolita C. Baldor Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is spending about \$7 billion a month to wage the war on terror, and costs could total \$570 billion by the end of 2010, assuming troops are gradually brought home, a congressional report estimates.

The paper by the Congressional Research Service underscores how the price tag has been gradually rising for the war in Iraq. A year ago, the Pentagon was calculating its average monthly costs in that conflict at below \$5 billion — an amount the research service says has now grown close to \$6 billion.

A separate study by the Congressional Budget Office found it will be difficult for the Pentagon to sustain current troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan without rotating troops into the war zone more frequently and using more National Guard brigades. And even those steps will not be adequate long-term solutions.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the administration has allocated about \$361 billion for military operations, reconstruction and other programs in Iraq and Afghanistan, including \$50 billion for 2006 in legislation working its way through Congress. the Congressional Research Service report said.

CRS also identified gaps in the Pentagon's accounting of war costs, including up to \$14 billion in funds that may have been transferred from peacetime accounts.

The CRS report said the latest average monthly cost for Iraq is \$5.9 billion, or 19 percent higher than last year.

Direct Order Of The Week

10.3.05 Army Times

Some Indian troops being sent into battle with insurgents are receiving orders to carry condoms.

The Indo-Asia News Service reports the Indian military, worried about the spread of AIDS, ordered its estimated 100,000 army and paramilitary troops deployed to fight separatist guerrillas to carry the prophylactics after hundreds of troops were found to be infected with HIV or AIDS, which authorities say was primarily due to promiscuous sex.

One unit, the Assam Rifles, has had 32 soldiers die of AIDS, and 180 more are being treated at military camps in the jungles of northeastern India, where 30 guerrilla groups are fighting government troops.

Officials say the situation has reached the point where the threat of AIDS is greater to the troops than the insurgents.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Attack In Force On Baghdad Collaborator Checkpoints

10.6.05 (KUNA) & Aljazeera

As many as 30 resistance fighters on Thursday attacked a number of police checkpoints in the Mohammed Al-Qassem Highway in central Baghdad. Eyewitnesses told KUNA the gunmen stepped out of their cars and opened fire at the police checkpoints.

They said the clashes lasted for half an hour. No reports on casualties were available.

ASSORTED RESISTANCE ACTION

10/05/05 Reuters & Aljazeera & 10/6/2005 By OMAR SINAN, The Associated Press & BBC & Reuters & October 7, 2005 Bassam Sebti and Jackie Spinner, Washington Post & People's Daily Online & (KUNA) & Agence France Presse & 10/08/05 By Lee Keath, AP

Just south of Kirkuk, in northern Iraq, five members of the Oil Ministry special police were killed and four were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their convoy in Othaim, said Gen. Sarhad Qadir of the Kirkuk police.

He said ensuing clashes between armed men and the police lasted for four hours and that the police "were slaughtered by the terrorists."

Lieutenant Jawaad Abdullah said they were shot in the town of Uthaim south of Kirkuk.

The attack came a day after a car bomb critically wounded six security guards for the state-owned North Oil Company in Kirkuk, an oil centre.

In other incidents, an Iraqi police officer of the rank of lieutenant-colonel was killed and two other policemen wounded in two separate attacks by armed fighters in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, Aljazeera reported quoting police sources on Wednesday.

In Thursday's deadliest assault, a bomber in Baghdad boarded a minibus near the oil ministry packed with 14 passengers — officers going to the police academy.

The bomber, seated by the driver, set off his explosives belt as the bus passed a police patrol. He detonated his explosives on Palestine Street, a main road close to the oil ministry.

At least nine were killed and nine wounded, said Police Capt. Abbas Ali. The bus was left a burned-out husk. Another police official said the victims were employees at a nearby police academy.

Separate shootings in the capital killed three policemen, a truck driver and another civilian.

About 20 miles south of the capital, a roadside bomb hit a police patrol on a highway, killing five policemen and wounding two, said police Capt. Talib Thamer.

A shooting and a roadside bomb in the towns of Taji and Uday, north of Baghdad, killed two Iraqi soldiers and a policeman.

MOSUL - Armed fighters killed Salem Ayoub Sillo, a local prison chief, and his driver in the northern Noor district of Mosul, a police source said.

JIBLA - Three people were killed and two wounded from the same family when armed fighters attacked the house of Haithem al- Hussein, a leader in Dawa [collaborator] party, in Jibla, 100 km south of Baghdad. Police said that al-Hussein was not in his house during the attack and he escaped death for the second time.

UTHAIM - One driver is killed when a roadside bomb exploded near two oil tankers in Uthaim, 50 km north of Baquba.

"Unknown armed men attacked four civil defense members shortly after they got on a taxi in Baghdad's neighborhood of Ameriyah, two of them were killed and another two and the taxi driver wounded," Captain Ahmed Abdullah from Baghdad police told Xinhua.

Three security guards at an oil facility were killed and six others were wounded on Friday by unknown militants in northern Baghdad, a police source said.

The source added in a statement that the guards had stopped the fuel tanker they were driving near the village of Al-Adheem after an explosive device blew up near them to inspect the vehicle for damages, during which militants in three cars opened fire at them.

Two Iraqis were killed and eight wounded, including three policemen, late Friday in an attack on a police patrol in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, a local police source said.

"A car exploded as a patrol passed by in the center of Kirkuk, near the Mansur mosque," said Captain Mohammed Adel, adding that the two fatalities had been civilians.

Four of the wounded were in serious condition and had been taken to the hospital, he said.

A roadside bomb hit Iraqi troops in Fallujah and insurgents opened fire on them, killing five.

A car bomber attacked on a police patrol in western Baghdad on Saturday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The source said the blast killed one policeman and wounded 10.

KIRKUK - A member of the Hawija city council was shot dead by armed fighters near the northern oil city of Kirkuk. Colonel Serhet Kadir said Abdul Majid Ahmed was attacked as he was driving to Kirkuk from Hawija, about 70 km (40 miles) to the southwest.

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

Death Sentence Judge Gets Death Sentence; Killed Today

October 7, 2005 Bassam Sebti and Jackie Spinner, Washington Post

Unknown armed fighters shot and killed Judge Munqith Faroun and two of his bodyguards, according to officials in Iraq's Interior Ministry.

The judge was on his way to work at the Central Criminal Court of Iraq when he was attacked around 8 a.m.

Faroun presided over cases involving suspected insurgents and recently handed down death sentences.

Pipeline Blown Up As Usual

10.6.05 MidwestTV & & October 7, 2005 Energy Security

Insurgents bombed a pipeline near the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, sending plumes of black smoke and fire up into the air.

The pipeline connects oil fields with Kirkuk's refineries, said police Capt. Farhad Talabani.

Iraq's Northern Oil Co. would soon repair the damage, as it has after many other attacks, he said.

October 5 - bomb attack wounded six oil ministry guards.

October 6 – armed fighters shot dead five oil ministry security guards.

Occupation Constitution Finds Home In Garbage Dump

One Sunni man said he refused a copy because he already rejects a constitution he believes was written "in Washington and will be imposed on us in Iraq."

"If I had the ability, I would punish the shopkeepers who are distributing them," said Ali Jameel al-Jabouri, an English-literature postgraduate student.

10/6/2005 By OMAR SINAN, The Associated Press & 10/08/05 By Lee Keath, AP

Eight days before Iraqis were to approve or reject the draft constitution, most were still waiting for copies of it to read. Distribution began in a few Baghdad neighborhoods, but did not appear to have begun elsewhere.

Residents of one of Baghdad's most insurgent-hit neighborhoods received copies of Iraq's draft constitution Thursday, though some refused to take it and some shopkeepers balked at passing it out, fearing reprisals by militants determined to wreck the crucial Oct. 15 referendum.

Hamza al-Baidhani, 60, said the rations distributor he went to refused to pass out the booklets, claiming gunmen threatened to burn his business. "I wish that the Iraqi forces will be responsible for distributing the copies," he said.

About two dozen boxes of the booklets were found thrown in a Dora garbage dump — apparently a sign of opposition or of shopkeepers fears of having the document around.

Some 5 million copies arrived in Iraq on Monday, but distribution does not appear to have started in the north and south, where the constitution is expected to pass by a wide margin.

In Basra and Hillah, major Shiite towns in the south, no copies have been passed out, nor in Nineveh — a mixed northern province of Sunnis and Kurds that could be crucial to the constitution's passage or rejection. Kurdish-language copies had not yet reached many Kurdish areas.

Dora was one of the first Baghdad districts to get its copies — and the document faced a tough audience. Insurgents are intensely active. Nearly every day sees a shooting, drive-by killing or gunbattle, including one Thursday evening.

"Most of our customers refused to take their copies," said shopkeeper Khalid al-Jabouri, 37.

Al-Jabouri was eager to get the booklets out of his shop, handing extra copies to families willing to take them. "They're a danger. We're giving extra copies to other shopkeepers in Shiite areas to pass out there."

One Sunni man said he refused a copy because he already rejects a constitution he believes was written "in Washington and will be imposed on us in Iraq."

"If I had the ability, I would punish the shopkeepers who are distributing them," said Ali Jameel al-Jabouri, an English-literature postgraduate student.

From what he's heard, Jawad Kadhim, a Shiite, didn't like it. "I reject it because it will lead to the partition of Iraq," he said, leafing through the booklet.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

We realized, a little late, but not too late, that when George said, "If you're not for us, you're against us," we all should have risen in angry, righteous and patriotic unison and said: "You are damn right, you lying, out of control madman. We are so against you and your insane rush to invade Iraq." 07 October 2005, Cindy Sheehan, Truthout Perspective

Why Immediate Withdrawal Makes Sense

The prospect of a civil war is, of course, horrendous, but the ongoing American violence is massive enough that it would take several Bloody Wednesdays every week to match it. This, of course, is a possibility, but a more reasonable guess would be that, in a trade-off between the end of U.S. violence and an escalation in the civil war, the result would actually be a decline in civilian casualties in Iraq.

The either/or of this situation may not be pretty, but on a grim landscape, a single reality stands out clearly: Not only is the American presence the main source of civilian casualties, it is also the primary contributor to the threat of civil war in Iraq. The longer we wait to withdraw, the worse the situation is likely to get -- for the U.S. and for the Iraqis.

September 23, 2005 By Michael Schwartz, tomdispatch.com. [Excerpt]

American troops are constantly patrolling contested areas in Iraqi cities under instructions to use "overwhelming force" in firefights with actual or suspected resistance fighters.

If they encounter sustained resistance, the rules of engagement call for demolishing buildings occupied by snipers, and treating all inhabitants of such buildings as the enemy.

Among the several hundred patrols or more each day around Iraq, it appears that about one in ten result in lethal firefights. Even if fewer than half of these firefights produce a single collateral civilian death, this tiny percentage would yield perhaps 15 deaths on an average day or close to 5,000 civilian deaths a year.

A third staple of the occupation is entering houses in search of suspected insurgents, either because they have been identified by informants, or as part of house-to-house searches after IED or other guerrilla attacks.

U.S. statistics indicate that no fewer than 75% of all entered houses do not contain an insurgent, but the army rules of engagement require that soldiers enter without knocking and by crashing through doors in order to retain the element of surprise, and thus prevent either an ambush or an escape by suspects.

Lethal force is used at the first sign of resistance or attempted escape --to preempt attacks with weapons that suspected insurgents might have hidden nearby. (The army argues that, while more humane treatment might create less anger among the tens of thousands of non-resistant families whose homes are invaded, such restraint would also expose the soldiers to many more casualties from the occasional resistance fighter. Military philosophy in this and other settings is to protect the lives of American soldiers "even if those methods do not always win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi populace.")

With several hundred such missions undertaken each day, and such patrols entering as many as a dozen houses on a patrol, American troops enter something like 2,000 Iraqi homes on an ordinary day. If only one of every one hundred entries results in violence, and far less than half end in a dead civilian, these home invasions can still account for 10 or so deaths per day, or another 3,500 per year.

Fourth and finally, we come to American air power. When American patrols, large or small, encounter violent resistance, their rules of engagement call for the use of overwhelming fire power to eliminate the enemy. Where their immediate response fails to destroy the enemy, an air assault is often ordered, with either gunships or bombers. Air assaults are also ordered against suspected insurgent "safe houses."

Although they are rarely reported, such air assaults are the most terrifying and ferocious forms of American violence. Virtually all of these strikes occur in highly populated areas, sometimes destroying whole houses, or even whole groups of houses, and (where the inhabitants haven't fled) they sometimes kill whole families in the process.

The New York Times recently reported such an attack in the border city of Husaybah, which "destroyed three houses in an area that has experienced intense fighting." Unlike most such news items, this one also contained an Iraqi Interior Ministry report of casualties. Based on local hospital reports, the Ministry claimed that the air strikes "had killed more than 40 civilians, mostly members of an extended family who had sought shelter from the bombings." (American officials, as is their general practice, said they "knew of no civilian casualties.")

American officials do concede that they average about "50 close air support and armed reconnaissance missions every day." These occur at all of the familiar urban hotspots: Baghdad, Falluja, Mosul, Tal Afar, Ramadi, Samarra, as well as numerous smaller towns. If only one in five of these missions produces civilian casualties, and if the average death toll is only four instead of 40, then 15,000 Iraqi civilians die every year from U.S. air attacks.

The depressing total of these very rough calculations is over 25,000 civilian deaths each year, more than five times the number caused by car bombs and other Iraqi-on-Iraqi violence.

(And remember, we're not even figuring in major American military campaigns against the insurgency.)

To add to the levels of mayhem, keep in mind that, at any given moment, the U.S. military keeps perhaps another 12,000-15,000 Iraqis locked in its prisons, holding areas and interrogation centers.

Numbers like this, or even lower versions of the same, explain why in a country with a population of only 25 million, so many Iraqis see the Americans as the main source of the daily violence they endure, and why 60% regularly tell even American-sponsored pollsters that they want an American withdrawal immediately, if not sooner.

This also explains why the primary condition for a cease fire set by the Association of Muslim Scholars (AMS, the political arm of the Sunni resistance) was an American "troop pullout from most urban areas and an end to military checkpoints and raids." AMS leader Isam al-Rawi explained:

"The Americans and British must leave all residential areas...This is very sensitive for our feelings. When they retreat to military bases outside the major cities, the Iraqis will no longer be meeting military tanks and trucks in the streets and highways, and they will no longer be afraid their homes will be invaded at night."

The prospect of a civil war is, of course, horrendous, but the ongoing American violence is massive enough that it would take several Bloody Wednesdays every week to match it. This, of course, is a possibility, but a more reasonable guess would be that, in a trade-off between the end of U.S. violence and an escalation in the civil war, the result would actually be a decline in civilian casualties in Iraq.

But a quick U.S. withdrawal would be less likely to produce a civil war than leaving American troops in place as a barrier against such a development.

The killing and imprisonment policies of the occupation itself are the main generating and sustaining force for the rising levels of Iraqi-on-Iraqi violence. The sooner the occupation ends, the sooner Iraqi civil violence is likely to begin to subside.

American withdrawal would undoubtedly leave a riven, impoverished Iraq, awash in a sea of weaponry, with problems galore, and numerous possibilities for future violence.

The either/or of this situation may not be pretty, but on a grim landscape, a single reality stands out clearly: Not only is the American presence the main source of civilian casualties, it is also the primary contributor to the threat of civil war in Iraq. The longer we wait to withdraw, the worse the situation is likely to get -- for the U.S. and for the Iraqis.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation Terror In Haditha

Medical sources said the US-led forces had arrested two doctors at the main hospital in Haditha. US troops burst in complaining that everyone there was part of the resistance, they said.

6 Oct 2005 (IRIN)

Nearly 1,000 families have fled their homes in Haditha in western Iraq following the launch of a US-led military operation to hunt down insurgents in the town in the Euphrates river valley, according to residents in the area.

Residents in the district, which is mainly inhabited by Sunni Muslims opposed to the US-backed government in Baghdad, said people had been fleeing from Haditha and the nearby towns of Haqlaniyah and Barwana, following repeated air strikes.

The offensive in Haditha took the Red Crescent by surprise at a time when most of its resources were deployed trying to help civilians hurt and displaced by the fighting in al-Qaim and an earlier US military operation to gain control of the northern town of Talafar in September.

"It is a collapse and we now don't know where to start or finish, but the IRCS will work intensively to give support for those innocent people and children who are fleeing their town trying to survive," IRCS spokeswoman Ferdous al-Abadi said.

People abandoning Haditha said they feared the US-led military operation would lead to massive damage in the town.

"My wife was hurt as we ran out of our house in an exchange of fire between those inhuman US soldiers and the insurgents. Our city will be destroyed like Fallujah and it is the innocent people who will suffer as a result," moaned Salah Kubaissy, 46, who was seeking shelter in an abandoned school.

US troops went round Hadifa with loudspeakers ordering residents to stay inside their houses as they searched for insurgents building by building.

"They broke into my house and started to shout at me and my wife. She was having a bath, but they just took her naked and pushed her into the kitchen, saying that if she moved she was going to die," Shaker Hakeem, 39, another local resident, told IRIN.

Medical sources said the US-led forces had arrested two doctors at the main hospital in Haditha. US troops burst in complaining that everyone there was part of the resistance, they said.

"They entered our hospital without the minimum of respect to our patients and arrested many of them. Even two doctors were arrested as they were carrying out a small surgical operation," said Haki Hadethi, a senior doctor at the hospital.

He urged humanitarian organisations to send medical supplies to Haditha, saying the hospital had run out, but it was the only medical centre with the capacity to deal with situation in the entire district.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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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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