

GI SPECIAL 3C80:



War Support At Record Low

October 11, 2005 New York Daily News

The public's support for the Iraq war has dropped to a record low, a new poll shows.

Fifty-nine percent of those polled Oct. 3-5 said U.S. troops should leave as soon as possible, up from 52% in a CBS poll published Sept. 2.

Almost two-thirds of U.S. adults said they believe the results of the Iraq war are not worth its costs, and 55% believe the U.S. should never have invaded, according to a CBS News poll.

Also, just 41% of respondents said the U.S. had done "the right thing" by invading Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein - compared with 46% who said so in a February 2005 CBS poll.

The latest poll found that 64% of American adults said the results of the Iraq war were not worth the costs, compared with 32% who said the results made the war worthwhile.

CBS News Poll Oct. 3-5, 2005

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

"Should the United States troops stay in Iraq as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, even if it takes a long time, or should U.S. troops leave Iraq as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable?"

	Stay as Long as It Takes	Leave ASAP	Unsure
	%	%	%
ALL adults	36	59	5
Republicans	61	36	3
Democrats	24	73	3
Independents	29	62	9

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

TWO SOLDIERS KILLED BY IED IN AR RAMADI

October 11, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-13C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), died of wounds sustained while conducting combat operations when their vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device in ar Ramadi on Oct. 10.

Soldier, Formerly Of Houston, Is Killed

Oct. 10, 2005 Houston Chronicle

Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Roark, 29, died in Balad, Iraq, on Oct. 2, of a noncombat injury, according to the Defense Department. No further information was available from the department because Monday was Columbus Day, a federal holiday.

Roark was assigned to the Army's 4th Battalion, 123rd Aviation Regiment at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

His last known local address was in far north Houston near the Greenspoint area.

Ohio Reservist Killed In Action

Oct 11, 2005 AP

BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO- The father of an Army reservist from central Ohio says his son has been killed in Iraq. 20-year-old Specialist Jeremy Hodge was serving with the Ohio Army National Guard 612th Engineers Battalion.

His father, Mike Hodge of Rushsylvania, told The Bellefontaine Examiner that his son died yesterday. Jeremy Hodge was the lead driver in an armored convoy when a bomb went off.

Jeremy Hodge graduated two years ago from Ridgemont High School, where he was on the baseball, football and track teams.

He also is survived by his mother, Michelle Norris, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and three younger sisters.

Knoxville Soldier Killed

2005-10-11 The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE -- A soldier from Knoxville was killed last week in Iraq, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Army Sgt. Eric A. Fifer, 22, died Oct. 7 from injuries sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents with small arms while on patrol in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. Fifer later died in Al Asad.

Fifer received his first military training as a member of the Junior ROTC at South Doyle High School, according to WATE-TV in Knoxville. The TV station reported South Doyle faculty members said he was an extremely dedicated young man and a go-getter.

Fifer's mother went to the school Monday morning and told administrators of her son's death.

Perry Marine Killed

October 09, 2005 By Karla Browne, The Sentinel

Gary and Connie Frye of Landisburg sent both of their sons to Iraq, both with the Marines.

The elder, Cpl. Adam Frye, 22, came home in January after two deployments. The younger, Pfc. Jason Frye, 19, won't be coming home. He was killed in a roadside bomb explosion Thursday near Al Karmah while in combat.

Connie says she had a feeling that she wouldn't see her younger son again.

"I didn't have the feeling with my first son. My first son and I never made any plans," she says. But she and Jason had planned part of his funeral before he left — picking out some songs, Bible verses and "bagpipes — he wanted bagpipes."

So when the call came at 1:30 p.m. Friday from her husband's boss at Landisburg Post Office, she knew. The postmaster said Gary needed her, but she knew.

Her screams woke up Adam, who was sleeping on the couch in preparation for the night shift at Roadway Express in Middlesex Township, where he operates a fork lift since getting out of the service.

It wasn't until they got to the post office, where Gary is a mail carrier, that the family discovered one of the Marine sergeants who brought the news had served with Adam in the battle for Fallujah.

The sergeants had come to the post office to get directions to the Fryes' house, not realizing that Gary worked there.

And Gary had known as soon as he saw the Marines' uniforms that his younger son had been killed.

More news came at midnight Friday, when Jason's commanding officer called from Iraq.

"He then told us that it was instantly," Connie says. A machine gunner on a Humvee, Jason died with three other members of his unit when an improvised explosive device blew up the vehicle.

The commanding officer asked Connie if she would accept phone calls and letters from "the guys in his unit."

She was more than ready to receive them, while understanding that he had to ask her permission because some parents might be too angry to receive them.

"I'm not angry at the world, the war, at God; I'm just angry at the time I'm going to miss that he's not living," Connie says.

Jason's girlfriend says the same.

"I'm not angry because I know that Jason was so proud to be in that position," says Meredith Odató, 19, a sophomore at Cornell University who graduated with Jason from West Perry High School in 2003.

"I would have liked to spend a lot more time with him but I feel I had his whole life in two weeks this summer" when he had leave, Meredith says. "That was enough because there was so much happiness — life was so full."

Still, she knows she's going to miss the calls from Iraq that always came in the early morning because around noon in Iraq was when Jason could use a phone. And it will feel odd not to write a letter to him every day. She made sure each one got in the mail the same day she wrote it so he would get them in sequence.

There won't be a second trip to Rillo's, an Italian restaurant in Carlisle, as Jason had wanted, Meredith says, but then, she had made their first visit last summer one to remember.

"It was our first real date," she says, although the two had been friends in high school. "I made the reservations. Jason didn't know we were going there. He got to my house and we were all dressed up. I blindfolded him. He thought that was crazy, but he said, 'OK. I'll do it for you.'

"I drove my mom's car and played Italian music — Frank Sinatra — and made him wait in the car. I ran in and put rose petals on the table and sparkling grape juice in a bottle on the table to make it special. Then I went out and got him. He thought that was amazing. Nobody had ever done anything so nice for him.

"So he had wanted to go to Rillo's in full uniform" when he got back, Meredith says.



Jason Frye and Meredith Odató started dating when he was on leave from Iraq this summer. *(Courtesy Meredith Odató)*

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

18 Occupation Policemen Killed In Ambush

10.11.05 Aljazeera

Eighteen Afghan policemen, including a provincial police director, have been killed in an ambush by suspected Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan.

The policemen were ambushed on Monday on their way to introduce a newly appointed district police chief to officers in Helmand province, Interior Ministry spokesman Yousuf Stanizai said.

"Eighteen police, including the Helmand province police director Amanullah Khan, were martyred last night in an ambush," he said.

Four other policemen were wounded.

"The exchange of fire between the police and the enemies went on for several hours, even up to 1am," he said.

Aljazeera learned that the policemen were heading towards the Dishoy area to appoint a new police chief after the assassination of the former police chief by suspected Taliban fighters.

Mazin Aman Allah, Aljazeera's correspondent in Kabul, said the security situation in the country has been deteriorating since the resignation of the previous Afghan interior minister.

In a separate incident late on Monday, four Russian-made rockets were fired on Kandahar city in adjacent Kandahar province, which is also caught up in the fighting, Stanizai said.

No one was hurt by the rockets, one of which landed near the headquarters of a foreign-run reconstruction team.

TROOP NEWS

Troops: Be Advised: Abizaid Says He Has No Iraq Exit Strategy And Doesn't Want One

October 10, 2005 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer

When the top four Pentagon officials overseeing the Iraq war testified before Congress on Sept. 29, Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, handed them a straightforward question: How does Iraq measure up to the four pillars of the so-called Powell Doctrine?

The doctrine — named for retired Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Colin Powell, who espoused it as a template for fighting the 1991 Persian Gulf War — has four requirements for committing U.S. forces to combat: a clear and achievable mission, strong public support, use of overwhelming force, and an exit strategy.

Abizaid said he “certainly” subscribes to the Powell Doctrine in cases of nation-state war. But he added that the war in Iraq is not a nation-against-nation confrontation but rather part of an extremely complex conflict against extremists.

“We’re involved in a war with an enemy ideology,” Abizaid said. [So, weapons are unnecessary, just arguments will do the trick? Or is he talking about the fools in the White House?]

Abizaid was even more forceful when he fielded the question about an “explicit exit strategy.”

“I don’t agree every operation ought to have an exit strategy,” Abizaid said. “It ought to have a strategy for victory.”

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the public now sees Iraq as “an endless tunnel” and questioned commanders’ troop reduction plans.

Injured Stryker Brigade Soldier Recovering In D.C.

October 11, 2005 By MARGARET FRIEDENAUER, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Inc.

A Fort Wainwright Army Post soldier from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team is recovering at a Washington, D.C., hospital after being injured in Iraq.

Spc. Eric Edmundson with the Charlie Troop 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry was injured Oct. 3 in northern Iraq when the Stryker vehicle he was driving hit an explosive device, according to family friend Heather Bryant.

Bryant said Edmundson suffered injuries to his right leg and arm as well as shrapnel wounds to his abdomen. He was treated at a military hospital in Germany where he underwent several surgeries before being transported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Bryant is a family friend of the Edmundson's and said the couple, in their mid-20s, has lived in Fairbanks for a couple of years and have a 10-month-old daughter. Stephanie Edmundson left Saturday morning to join her husband in Washington.

U.S. Army Alaska officials said Friday that nearly 50 soldiers from the Stryker Brigade have been injured in Iraq since being deployed in August. Some have returned to duty, some are receiving treatment at hospitals in Europe or the Lower 48 and some have returned to Fairbanks.

Atkinson Fund-Raiser Aids Injured Guardsman

October 11, 2005 The Peoria Journal Star

ATKINSON - A fund-raiser for Spc. Dustin Hill will bring together family, friends and supporters of the National Guardsman, who was seriously injured by a car bomb in Iraq last year.

Live music, food and a raffle will start at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Atkinson American Legion Hall, 509 N. School St. Hill is scheduled to attend.

Erica Brose has organized the event with her fiance, Scott Hill, who is Dustin Hill's brother.

Dustin Hill suffered multiple burns and lost his right eye and both hands after a car bomb exploded in September 2004 near his Humvee in Baghdad, Iraq.

Hill has been in rehabilitation at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

How Bad Is It? **Navy, Air Force Personnel Get To Be Prison Guards And Convoy Gunners**

Nonetheless, the reassignments come as another sign that the Pentagon is struggling to meet the demands of what military officials have begun calling "the long war."

[Thanks to Anna Bradley and PB, who sent this in. **PB writes: Pretty soon we'll be seeing coast guard, boyscouts, crossing guards, and postal workers sent over there.**]

11 October 2005 By Jon E. Dougherty, Voices Magazine Newswire & By Mark Mazzetti and Greg Miller, L.A. Times Staff Writers

In an effort to augment a U.S. Army strained for manpower, the Air Force has begun assigning thousands of ground personnel in combat roles to support Army operations.

The Air Force years ago banked its future on state-of-the-art fighter jets and billion-dollar satellites.

Yet the service that has long avoided being pulled into ground operations is now finding that its people — rather than its weapons — are what the Pentagon needs most as it wages a prolonged war against a low-tech, insurgent enemy.

Individual branches have spent decades carving out unique roles within the U.S. military, and Air Force officials insist that the redeployment of its personnel is temporary.

Nonetheless, the reassignments come as another sign that the Pentagon is struggling to meet the demands of what military officials have begun calling "the long war."

The Los Angeles Times reports that some of the new roles for airmen include acting as interrogators, prison sentries and gunners on supply trucks.

In all, some 3,000 Air Force personnel are being assigned these new roles, and some are being deployed for as long as 12 months rather than four.

Air Force officials told the Times they expect to deploy another 1,000 ground personnel in combat- and combat-support roles over the next few years, but they don't plan to make these jobs "core competencies" within the Air Force.

One urgent problem now being addressed by the Air Force is the shortage of trained interrogators to question the thousands of detainees being held in U.S. military prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During one recent class, an Army instructor was giving his Air Force pupils an overview of interrogation "approaches" designed to get prisoners to talk.

He spent the better part of an hour describing such psychological ploys as "fear up" and "pride and ego down," which are designed to prey on prisoners' anxieties and feelings of inadequacy.

But many students were still struggling with more elementary aspects of the job, such as how to manage the physical space of an interrogation booth.

The U.S. Navy is also undertaking non-traditional roles. The paper said by summer the Navy expects to have retrained 3,000 to 4,000 sailors as prison guards, cargo handlers and for other jobs that have traditionally fallen to the Army.

Sailors soon will guard detainees at Ft. Suse in Iraq, near the northern city of Sulaymaniya — another move to free up more Army personnel for counterinsurgency missions.

By summer, the Navy expects to have retrained 3,000 to 4,000 sailors as prison guards, cargo handlers and for other jobs that have traditionally fallen to the Army.

Recently, 500 sailors were trained by the Department of Agriculture to become customs inspectors in Iraq and Kuwait — sifting through military cargo and personal gear that troops send back to the United States.

"It didn't take a lot of training, but it freed up about 500 people for the Army," said Capt. Kathy Isgrig, the Navy official in charge of the retraining and redeployment of Navy personnel into the new jobs.

At the Pentagon, Army officials said that their Air Force counterparts have groused about some aspects of the training at Ft. Huachuca. The bulk of the airmen have years more military experience than the Army students — most of whom just finished basic training — and some have complained that they are forced to take part in lengthy marches and other physical training that has little to do with interrogating prisoners.

"There's some friction," said an Army official who oversees the interrogation training and asked not to be identified.

Unit Readies For Its 4th Deployment

10.10.05 Lexington Herald-Leader

A Fort Knox-based unit is heading to Iraq for its fourth deployment since 2003. It will be the second or third deployment for more than half of the 100 soldiers in the 233rd Heavy Transportation Company.

Larium Kills Again?

[Thanks to AH and AB, who sent this in.]

Oct 11, 2005 By Jon Sarche Associated Press Writer

Chief Warrant Officer William Howell was a 15-year Army Special Forces veteran who had seen combat duty all over the world.

Howell, 36, a father of three, shot himself March 14, 2004 - three weeks after returning from Iraq - after hitting and threatening to kill his wife, Laura.

She said she did not see any warning signs until the night he threatened her.

"You look back every day and think what could I have done different. I can't think of anything," she said.

Laura Howell said she blamed Lariam, an Army-issued anti-malaria drug, for her husband's suicide. The drug's manufacturer, Roche Pharmaceuticals, says side effects can include anxiety, paranoia, depression, hallucinations and psychotic behavior.

Departing Troops Hold Garage Sale: How About Throwing In The Green Zone?

10.10.05 Newark Star-Ledger

Nothing says "moving on" quite like a yard sale. After nearly 10 months of collecting refrigerators, televisions and other items to make their deployment in Iraq more comfortable, the members of the 50th Main Support Battalion of the New Jersey National Guard are trying to sell the stuff to their incoming replacements heading home later this month.

Downsized In The Desert

10.9.05 San Jose Mercury News

It isn't every day a guy gets downsized from a San Jose semiconductor job while he's in the middle of a desert, with tanks rumbling by and sirens shrieking and sand blowing into his eyes and nose and ears.

But that's what happened to Capt. Gerald Bolden, a 36-year-old reservist, who finally got a chance to check his e-mail at a U.S. Army base in Kuwait in spring 2003. "It is with great regret that I must inform you of your position elimination," said the message from Micron Technology.

Last month, Bolden filed a federal suit over his layoff.

No Problem: **Pentagon Sending Openly Gay Service Members Into Combat**

10.10.05 Army Times

The Pentagon is sending openly gay service members into combat in Iraq, military officials said.

“The bottom line is some people are using sexual orientation to avoid deployment,” Kim Waldron of the U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga., told the Washington (D.C.) Blade, a weekly newspaper for the gay community.

“So in this case, with the Reserve and Guard forces, if a soldier ‘tells,’ they still have to go to war and the homosexual issue is postponed until they return to the U.S. and the unit is demobilized,” Waldron said.

Researchers at the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, say discharges for being gay drop during wartime and increase during peacetime.

MORE:

Survey Finds Most Recruits OK With Gays

10.10.05 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

Resistance to serving in the military alongside openly gay people may not be as strong as expected.

Lifting the Defense Department ban on service by openly gay service members would have no effect on the decision to enlist of 76 percent of those questioned in a new survey released Monday. The survey was commissioned by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a research institute affiliated with the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Twenty-one percent of those surveyed said the presence of openly gay service members would deter their service, and 2 percent said they would be more likely to join the military if openly gay service members were allowed.

The survey of 18- to 24-year-olds was designed to match the population of people entering the military, according to a statement from the center. Of those surveyed in August, 82 percent were male and 18 percent female.

When the Canadian and British militaries opened their ranks to gays, polls showed there was strong opposition by a majority of service-age people. However, recruiting was not a problem after gays were admitted.

Heroin Use Spreading Among Occupation Troops

11 Oct 2005 (IRIN)

The Ministry of Health has warned that drug abuse is rising steadily among men and women of all ages in Iraq, especially in the capital Baghdad and in the south of the country.

And drug pushers told IRIN they had found a lucrative market amongst soldiers in the US-led occupation forces. They report strong demand from Italian troops in particular.

Many of the foreign troops ask their counterparts in the Iraqi security forces to buy on the street for them, they added.

Business is booming as heroin from Afghanistan filters easily through the porous frontier with neighbouring Iran and cocaine trickles in from Turkey.

“Troops Who Will Do Anything Necessary To Avoid Going Out Into The ‘Real’ Army”

10.10.05
Letters To The Editor
Army Times

There is a “ghost army” within the Army right now, and it operates under the radar.

I'm talking about specialized groups of soldiers, such as the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., who wear the uniform on occasion, earn the pay and bonuses of soldiers, receive grants even though the taxpayers buy them everything they need, receive sponsorship money from national and international companies for using their

products, and travel the world staying in nice hotels and eating in nice restaurants on the Army's dime.

If this sounds like a nice, midcareer break from the action, it's not. The Army Marksmanship Unit is a full-time unit with soldiers who often begin and end their careers without ever having to go out and get dirty.

The soldiers often enter the unit straight from basic training and do not leave until their 20 years is up. They do not transfer, do not deploy and do not go to the field.

Because of these perks, the Army Marksmanship Unit, over the years, has become filled with troops who will do anything necessary to avoid going out into the "real" Army where the rest of the soldiers live and work.

This unit is made up of mostly male infantry-trained soldiers who have the opinion "better them than me" when talking about other infantry troops who are deployed.

In my mind, this unit, and others like it, are untapped resources of fresh and able-bodied soldiers who should be the next ones to strap gear to their backs, kiss their families good-bye and live the life every other soldier is living.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry McCoy (ret.)
Fort Benning, Ga.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Basra Voters Say It Is Time For Soldiers To Go

11 October 2005 By Kim Sengupta, The Independent UK

"I felt proud that the Iraqi police had arrested the British soldiers, it is our country and our laws should be obeyed", said Zainab.

Her colleague Fatima added: "I do not like seeing foreign soldiers on our streets, they should go."

What is surprising about these views in Basra is that they came from two educated, middle class women speaking fluent English who have frequent contact with the British and have little sympathy for the Shia militia who have infiltrated the Iraqi police.

Assorted Resistance Action



An Iraqi policeman inspects damage on a police vehicle hit by a road-side bomb attack in the south of Kirkuk October 11, 2005. **A road-side bomb hit a police car carrying the police chief of Kirkuk wounding three policemen, police sources said.**
Reuters/Slahaldeen Rasheed

10.11.05 By LEE KEATH, Associated Press Writer & Middle East Online & Reuters & By Robert F. Worth, The New York Times

In Baghdad, a bomber drove a bomb-laden car into a joint American-Iraqi patrol, killing four Iraqi soldiers, Interior Ministry officials said.

Seven soldiers and civilians were wounded in the attack, which took place in Amariya, a district that has fallen increasingly under the control of insurgents, like much of western Baghdad.

Iraqi police also came under attack, with two policewomen shot and killed while riding in a taxi in Dura, a southern district of the capital, an interior ministry source said.

In Baghdad, a car bomber hit an Iraqi army checkpoint in a western district, killing eight soldiers and a civilian, police said.

Sixteen other people, including 12 policemen, were wounded in two other attacks in Baghdad.

TIKRIT - Police lieutenant Soud Abdul Kareem was killed on Monday when a roadside bomb exploded near his house in the town of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source said.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, gunmen ambushed a convoy of police officers assigned to protect polling sites, killing three officers and a civilian, Kirkuk's police chief, Gen. Torhan Joseph, said. Separately, four police officers were injured when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol south of the city, General Joseph said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“We Don't Need An Exit Strategy From Iraq. We Just Need To Get Out”

10 October 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Truthout Perspective. [Excerpt]

I met a new friend today named Jewel whose son was a medic on the front lines in Iraq and has tried to commit suicide three times since he returned from the desert of pain. The distraught mother, who is beside herself with worry, said if something isn't done about it and if her boy doesn't get help ... he is dying. His superiors will not allow him to be diagnosed for PTSD so he can't get the treatment he so desperately needs.

Last week, George Bush got in front of the nation and said things were going to be far worse in Iraq in the next few months. Why do we let him get away with it? The other night George Bush likened Iraq with WWII. Why do we let him get away with that? Why do we allow our "leaders" to sacrifice our young to the war machine?

War will stop when we as parents, educators, religious leaders, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives refuse to allow our loved ones to be taken to a war of choice and killed.

I wish I had refused to allow Casey to go to Iraq. I wish I had knocked him out and taken him to Canada ... or anywhere far enough away from the war monster. It is too late for us, but not for you.

We have done a good job of identifying the problem of the criminally insane war in Iraq. Now how do we as a people who want to walk on our earth in peace go forward? I am committing my life and Casey's life to peace.

We don't need an exit strategy from Iraq. We just need to get out.

We need to realize that Iraq is not the 51st state of the Union and let them live in peace.

“A Right And An Obligation To Revolt”

10/10/05 By Charles Sullivan, ICH. [Excerpt]

When the government operates in the corporate interest and against the public interest, the citizens do not owe it their allegiance.

Indeed, they have an ethical responsibility to resist and dismantle a government that does not protect the public interest. They have a moral obligation to act in their own self interest.

After all, it is a matter of survival. When the political system is broken beyond repair they have both a right and an obligation to revolt.

I would argue that that is the situation today.

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

“The Quickest Way Of Ending A War Is To Lose It”

October 9, 2005 Mohamed Elmasry, world.mediamonitors.net. [Excerpt]

"The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it." -- George Orwell, British author

"The conventional army loses if it does not win. he guerrilla wins if he does not lose." -- Henry Kissinger, in The Vietnam Negotiations

"If we lose this war, oil will be \$100 a barrel, and if we win, it will be, like, \$25 a barrel." -- Donald Rumsfeld, American Defense Secretary

"When you can whip any man in the world, you never know peace." -- Muhammad Ali (formerly Cassius Clay), American boxer

Bad Script Then; Bad Script Now

10/04/05 Robert Fisk, Australian Broadcasting Corporation Broadcast

You've just brought up the British.

Let's look at the British in Iraq in 1917. We invaded. We announced in a document, which I have hanging on my library wall, "We come here," we said to the Iraqi people in 1917, "not as conquerors, but as liberators to free you from generations of tyranny."

Sound familiar?

We then had an insurrection in 1920, we bombarded Fallujah, similar to the Americans.

We surrounded Najaf, we demanded the surrender of Shi'ite clerics, we said there would be civil war if the British Army left and, indeed, British intelligence in 1920 said that terrorists were crossing the border from Syria.

“The War on Terror” In Translation

10 October 2005 By Norman Solomon, Truthout Perspective

When the Bush administration fires off a new round of speechifying about "the war on terror," the US press rarely goes beyond the surface meanings of rhetoric provided by White House scriptwriters. But the president's big speech at the National Endowment for Democracy on October 6 could have been annotated along these lines:

"We will not tire or rest until the war on terror is won."

Translation: This is a war that can go on forever.

"And while the killers choose their victims indiscriminately, their attacks serve a clear and focused ideology, a set of beliefs and goals that are evil but not insane."

As president, I am the world's authority on evilness and insanity.

"These extremists want to end American and Western influence in the broader Middle East, because we stand for democracy and peace and stand in the way of their ambitions."

Those who stand in the way of our ambitions are extremists.

"They hit us and expect us to run. They want us to repeat the sad history of Beirut in 1983 and Mogadishu in 1993, only this time on a larger scale with greater consequences."

Clinton and even Reagan were wimps compared to me.

"Over the past few decades, radicals have specifically targeted Egypt and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and Jordan for potential takeover."

We must support and defend the torturers who run Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Jordan.

"The terrorists regard Iraq as the central front in their war against humanity, and we must recognize Iraq as the central front in our war on terror."

When enemies of the United States kill in Iraq, that's evil. When the United States kills in Iraq, that's good.

"The militants believe that controlling one country will rally the Muslim masses, enabling them to overthrow all moderate governments in the region..."

Political prisoners should be grateful that the United States is enabling them to be tortured by moderate governments.

"Evil men obsessed with ambition and unburdened by conscience must be taken very seriously, and we must stop them before their crimes can multiply."

We are valiantly obsessed with ambition and legitimately unburdened by conscience, while our crimes multiply.

"The radicals exploit local conflicts to build a culture of victimization in which someone else is always to blame and violence is always the solution."

The United States is never to blame, and the solution involves violence from the US government and its allies.

"Over the years, these extremists have used a litany of excuses for violence: Israeli presence on the West Bank or the US military presence in Saudi Arabia or the defeat of the Taliban or the crusades of a thousand years ago."

The extremists make excuses for violence. We don't need any excuse.

"In fact, we're not facing a set of grievances that can be soothed and addressed."

The people who kill without US approval are irrational. The only way to stop them is to kill them.

"No act of ours invited the rage of the killers, and no concession, bribe or act of appeasement would change or limit their plans for murder. On the contrary, they target nations whose behavior they believe they can change through violence."

No one has any valid reason to be angry at us. And we have the prerogative to change behavior through violence.

"Like the ideology of communism, our new enemy teaches that innocent individuals can be sacrificed to serve a political vision."

The Islamic ideologues don't understand that only the United States government should get to decide when innocent individuals can be sacrificed to serve a political vision.

"Any government that chooses to be an ally of terror has also chosen to be an enemy of civilization. And the civilized world must hold those regimes to account."

When we terrorize, that's a civilized option.

"Our goal is to defeat the terrorists and their allies at the heart of their power. And so we will defeat the enemy in Iraq."

We will proceed with destroying Iraq in order to save it.

"In fact, democratic federalism is the best hope for unifying a diverse population, because a federal constitutional system respects the rights and religious traditions of all citizens while giving all minorities, including the Sunnis, a stake and a voice in the future of their country."

We want to manipulate the situation enough to allow US corporations to buy up much of Iraq while the US military continues to build permanent bases in Iraq.

"It is true that the seeds of freedom have only recently been planted in Iraq but democracy, when it grows, is not a fragile flower. It is a healthy, sturdy tree."

We have speech writers who like to use metaphors, unencumbered by reality-based constraints.

"We're encouraging our friends in the Middle East, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to take the path of reform, to strengthen their own societies in the fight against terror by respecting the rights and choices of their own people."

We know bad PR when we see it. We're going through the motions of urging an end to repression by US allies in the Middle East, but there's certainly no hurry - especially when the repression is aimed at foes of our policies.

"We're making our case through public diplomacy, stating clearly and confidently our belief in self-determination and the rule of law and religious freedom and equal rights for women; beliefs that are right and true in every land and in every culture."

We're trying to tune up the US propaganda machinery. Hopefully, more lofty rhetoric can distract from the actual results of our policies.

"In Iraq, there is no peace without victory. We will keep our nerve and we will win that victory."

To hell with peace. We want to claim victory, no matter how many people die.

"As we do our part to confront radicalism, we know that the most vital work will be done within the Islamic world itself."

Here's where I get to preach at Muslims about the sanctity of life.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Five Days Until Vote On Occupation Constitution: Nobody Knows What Will Be In It

10.11.05 Washington Post, October 11, 2005

As outraged would-be voters protested at still not being shown copies of Iraq's proposed constitution, U.S. and Arab diplomats bore down on Sunnis, Shiites and Kurdish leaders in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone to make last-ditch changes that would overcome Sunni opposition.

Iraq Oil Output Falls Behind Pre-War Levels: Resistance Attacks Cripple Production

October 11, 2005 RICK JERVIS, USA TODAY

BASRA, Iraq - Iraq's oil production has fallen below prewar levels to its lowest point in a decade, depriving the country's fledgling government of badly needed income and preventing the United States from achieving one of its main reconstruction goals.

The Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, a nonprofit group studying energy security, has counted more than 200 attacks on Iraqi gas or oil pipelines and refineries since June 2003. Attacks on pipelines cost the government about 200,000 barrels a day, U.S. oil officials say.

Iraq's oil wells, beset by equipment problems and saboteurs, are producing about 1.9 million barrels a day in net production, lower than the 2.6 million they were producing just before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, according to the London-based Centre for Global Energy Studies.

The average daily production last year was 2.07 million barrels, according to CGES. This year through August, Iraq has produced an average of 1.86 million barrels, it said.

"There's a lot of pessimism about oil production in Iraq," says Michelle Billig, a political risk analyst in the oil sector for PIRA Energy Group.

Production continues to slide despite a massive, U.S.-funded effort to stabilize and boost output, repair critical parts of Iraq's oil infrastructure and develop a long-term plan for the Iraqi oil industry.

“You’ll Actually Vote?” She Scoffed. “It Will Be A Joke Like The Elections”

For a few weeks, there was actual interest on the part of Sunnis, especially in rural areas, to take part in the referendum.

And then the military operations on Sunni areas like Tel Afar, Ramadi, Qaim and Samarra began once again. The feeling has been that Sunni areas are being intentionally targeted prior to the referendum to keep Sunnis from voting. When your city is under fire, and you’ve been displaced with your family to some Red Crescent tent in the middle of the desert, the last thing you worry about is a constitution.

October 03, 2005 riverbendblog.blogspot.com

I went to sit in the garden to peruse two different versions of the draft constitution. It was 7 pm and the electricity had just gone out for the sixth time that day. There was no generator because people usually allow their generators to rest during the evenings- the sun is on its way to setting so while it’s still light outside, the heat is bearable.

In the yards of most Iraqi houses, there is often an old, rusting swing large enough for three adults (or five children). The swing is usually iron with white, peeling paint, and its seat is covered with dusty mats or cushions so that one doesn’t rise from it with a grid-like pattern on ones backside from the crisscross of the thin iron bars.

Our summers and springs in Iraq revolve around those sofa-like swings or ‘marjuha’. As the summer comes to an end, Iraqis often have their evening tea outside in the garden, in the waning afternoon light, with plastic chairs gathered around the swing and a folding table in the center. At night, when the electricity goes out and the generator can’t be turned on, we gather outside and sit on the swing, careful to keep bare legs and feet high enough to avoid insects lurking in the grass.

When adults want to have a confidential conversation far from curious ears- you can find them out on the swing. During family gatherings, when the cousins want to hang out

and gossip away from the prying eyes of their parents, they'll be on the swing. Every family member has a photo on the swing- and every child has at some point fallen off of it.

So four weeks ago, I went out to the swing carrying two different versions of the draft constitution. Though the electricity had gone out, it was still too early to light the kerosene lamps indoors. After beating the dust out of the striped cushions and making myself comfortable, I began with the Arabic version of the constitution.

I had been reading for five minutes when a rustling sound in one of the trees caught my attention. It was coming from the 'took'i tree near the wall separating our garden from our neighbor's driveway. The tree is on our side of the wall, but more than half of its branches extend over to Abu F.'s side.

I don't know the name for took'i in English, but it can best be described as a berry-like fruit. It's either deep purple in color- bordering on black- or red or white. The fruit, when ripe, is both sweet and sour all at once. Our took'i tree is the red took'i type and while the fruit is lovely, it also stains everything it touches. Umm F. (Abu F.'s wife) constantly complains of it staining their driveway. Every once in a while, she revolts against the tree and attacks it, armed with a large pair of rusting hedge clippers.

This thought occurred to me as I focused on the rustling leaves and sure enough- a moment later- I saw the hedge clippers rise ominously from behind the wall clutched in a pair of hands. Snap, snap, crunch... and a medium sized branch fell towards their driveway.

"Umm F.!!!" I called out exasperated from my seat on the swing, "Again??? I thought we agreed last week you'd stop cutting the branches!!!"

The clippers paused in mid-air, like some exotic, mechanical bird with its beak open. They lowered slowly and a head took their place. Since the wall is about 180 cm high, I could tell Umm F. was standing on the pile of bricks she stacked adjacent to the wall. We had a similar pile of bricks under the tree, and we used our respective brick piles when we needed to communicate with each other over the wall.

"My driveway is a mess!" She called back to me, "You know we haven't had proper water for a week... how am I supposed to clean it? This cursed took'i tree..." She waved her clippers in the air to emphasize her frustration.

"Well it wasn't cursed when you made took'i jam last month!" I got up and walked to the wall to face her. In one hand, I had the Arabic version of the draft constitution (Version 2.0) and in the other I was clutching the New York Times English version and fanning myself with it furiously.

"So Umm F., did you have a look at the constitution yet?" I asked casually, trying to change the subject.

"Well, Abu F. read me some of it from one of the newspapers last week or the week before..." Came the disinterested reply. She raised the clippers and furtively snapped away at a couple of branches.

“And what do you think?” I was curious. I had my own ideas about the constitution back then but I wanted to hear hers.

“I don’t care. They’ve written it and they’ll ratify it- what does it matter what I think? Is it my father’s constitution (qabil distoor bayt abooyeh?)?”

I frowned and tried to hand her the Arabic version. “But you should read it. READ IT. Look- I even highlighted the good parts... the yellow is about Islam and the pink is about federalism and here in green- that’s the stuff I didn’t really understand.” She looked at it suspiciously and then took it from me.

I watched as she split the pile of 20 papers in two- she began sweeping the top edge of the wall with one pile, and using the other pile like a dustpan, she started to gather the wilted, drying tooki scattered on the wall.

“I don’t have time or patience to read it. We’re not getting water- the electricity has been terrible and Abu F. hasn’t been able to get gasoline for three days... And you want me to read a constitution?”

“But what will you vote?” I asked, watching the papers as they became streaked with the crimson, blood-like tooki stains.

“You’ll actually vote?” She scoffed. “It will be a joke like the elections...”

“They want this constitution and the Americans want it- do you think it will make a difference if you vote against it?”

She had finished clearing the top edge of the wall of the wilting tooki and she dumped it all on our side. She put the now dusty, took- stained sheets of paper back together and smiled as she handed them back, “In any case, let no one tell you it wasn’t a useful constitution- look how clean the wall is now! I’ll vote for it!” And Umm F. and the hedge clippers disappeared.

It occurred to me then that not everyone was as fascinated with the constitution as I was, or as some of my acquaintances both abroad and inside of the country were. People are so preoccupied trying to stay alive and safe and just get to work and send their children off to school in the morning, that the constitution is a minor thing.

The trouble is that as the referendum gets nearer, interest seems to diminish. We see the billboards and the commercials on various channels all about the ‘distoor’ and we hear the radio programs and the debates on channels like Arabiya and Jazeera, but there isn’t real public involvement.

In August, there was more enthusiasm about the referendum. It was taken for granted that the Kurds, and Shia affiliated with SCIRI or Da’awa, would vote in the referendum. It was surprising, however, when the Association of Muslim Scholars (influential Sunni group) started what could almost be called a campaign encouraging Sunnis (and Shia) to vote against the constitution. The reasons they gave were that federalism, at this time and under the circumstances, would contribute to the division of Iraq, and also that the constitution encouraged secular and ethnic friction.

For a few weeks, there was actual interest on the part of Sunnis, especially in rural areas, to take part in the referendum. There were arguments about whether the referendum should be boycotted like the elections or whether it was the duty of Iraqis in general to vote it down.

And then the military operations on Sunni areas like Tel Afar, Ramadi, Qaim and Samarra began once again. The feeling has been that Sunni areas are being intentionally targeted prior to the referendum to keep Sunnis from voting. When your city is under fire, and you've been displaced with your family to some Red Crescent tent in the middle of the desert, the last thing you worry about is a constitution.

Sunnis are being openly threatened by Badir's Brigade people and the National Guard. Two days ago, in 'Ras il Hawash' in the area of A'adhmiya in Baghdad, National Guard raided homes as an act of revenge because prior to the raid, they were attacked in A'adhmiya. People from the area complain that every home they raided, windows were broken, doors kicked in, tables overturned, people abused and money and valuables looted.

In places like Tel Afar and Qaim, dozens of civilians have been killed or wounded and conveniently labeled 'insurgents' so that people in the US and UK can sleep better at night.

Residents of Tel Afar who left the town returned to their homes to find many of them only rubble and to find family and friends dead or wounded. I read one report that said all civilians were evacuated before the military operation. That isn't true. Many residents didn't have cars or transport to leave the city and were forced to stay behind. Some weren't allowed out of it.

Now, as the US troops attack a little village on the Syrian border, we hear reports that the civilians are heading towards Syria. Not Arab fighters, nor insurgents-ordinary men, women and children who feel that the Iraqi government cannot shelter them or give them refuge from the onslaught of occupation forces.

Women's rights aren't a primary concern for anyone, anymore. People actually laugh when someone brings up the topic. "Let's keep Iraq united first..." is often the response when I comment about the prospect of Iranian-style Sharia.

Rights and freedoms have become minor concerns compared to the possibility of civil war, the reality of ethnic displacement and cleansing, and the daily certainty of bloodshed and death.

“The Troops Are Afraid Of The People”

11 October 2005 by Tom Fox, CPTnet

My teammate, Sheila Provencher, and I had traversed the myriad of checkpoints, searches, questions about whom we were seeing and walkie-talkie exchanges. We were finally in a meeting with the Director of Public Affairs of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, inside the fortress complex of the "Green Zone."

At the conclusion of our meeting, Sheila brought up a concern from our neighbors. For several months now, Iraqi Army forces and U.S. trainers have been conducting street patrol and house search trainings in our neighborhood.

Sheila noted that the military activity in a neighborhood that is mostly quite peaceful upsets our neighbors. They have told Sheila that the presence of the troops makes them fearful.

I asked if it would be possible for the Iraqi soldiers to hand out some kind of notice explaining what they were doing in the neighborhood to allay some of their concerns.

The director said, "The troops are afraid of the people."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

GOD'S PHONE LOGS PROVE HE DID NOT SPEAK TO BUSH

10/10/05 The Borowitz Report

Days after the BBC reported that President George W. Bush claimed God told him to invade Iraq, the Almighty held a rare press conference today to say that He was "totally out of the loop" on the March 2003 invasion.

Reporters packed a meeting room at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. to hear the angry denial of the Supreme Being, who had not held a press conference in over half a year.

Dressed in a white robe and sporting his trademark long, flowing beard, God told a reporter that the president's version of events was "bogus," adding, "Dude, I don't even know the guy."

The King of the Universe then showed reporters detailed phone logs from March 2003 revealing that He had no conversations with President Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, or anyone else involved in the decision to invade Iraq.

While the logs showed no conversation with the president, they did indicate that on March 24 of that year God placed a call to actress Nicole Kidman to congratulate her on winning the Best Actress Oscar for her performance in "The Hours."

In what some saw as a particularly sarcastic rebuke of the president, God offered this possible explanation of Mr. Bush's claim that He had told him to invade Iraq: "Maybe he has me confused with Dick Cheney."

October 10, 2005 Haaretz

According to Abbas, immediately thereafter Bush said: "God told me to strike at al Qaida and I struck them, and then he instructed me to strike at Saddam, which I did, and now I am determined to solve the problem in the Middle East."

Bush Admits He Is A Terrorist



TERRORIST ASSHOLE
(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

10.11.05 By LEE KEATH, Associated Press Writer

"I expect violence because there's a group of terrorists and killers who want to stop the advance of democracy in Iraq," Bush said in an interview with NBC-TV's "Today" show.

Received:

An Appeal To Troops' Moms:

Material Wanted For Book On The Effects That War Has On The Mothers Of GIs.

Thankfully, Josh is currently stateside, but we believe he will be redeployed early next year, if not sooner.

From: kim rosario joshsmom_85@yahoo.com
Sent: 11 Oct 2005
Subject: book material

Dear friends in the struggle, I need your help.

As some of you may know, I am still working on my book. I am soliciting material.

I need to hear from Mothers of troops serving in this and past wars. I am looking for things like letters, emails, journal entries, poetry etc. from or to their sons or daughters while they were overseas. Know that these will be included for publication. Submissions can be anonymous, but if so please include as much info as possible, such as the war, dates, circumstances.

One of the purposes of this book is to reveal the effects that war has on the mothers of GIs.

The focus will also be on the dishonest tactics used by recruiters to ensnare our children.

Thankfully, Josh is currently stateside, but we believe he will be redeployed early next year, if not sooner.

Please feel free to forward this email to all those on your list serve or in your address books.

Yours in the struggle,

Kin Rosario
(Joshsmom)

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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