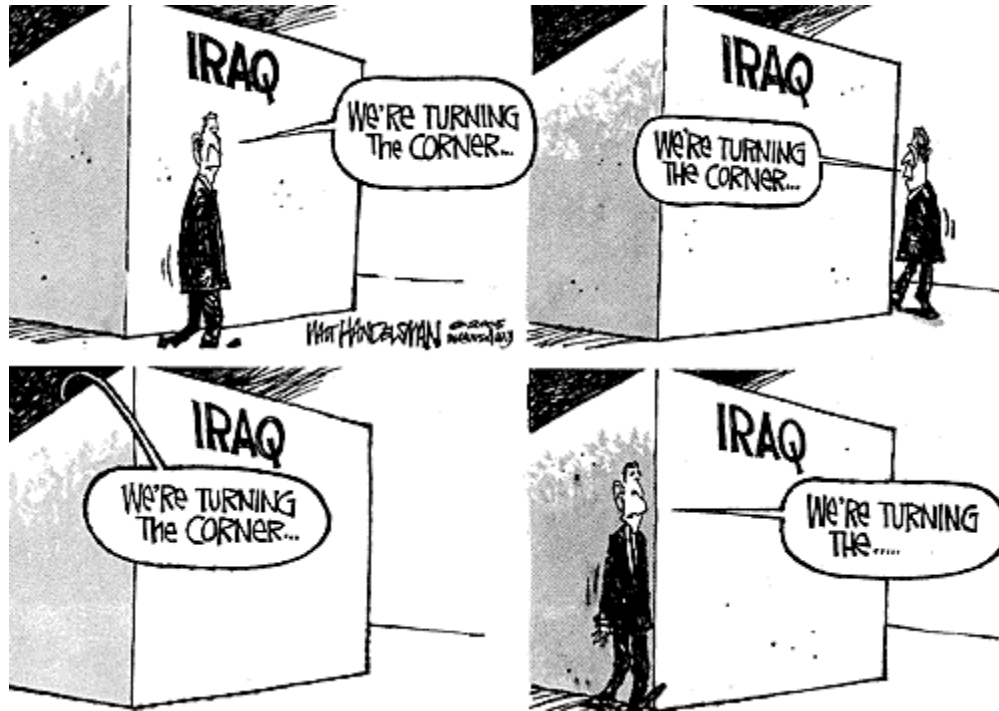


GI SPECIAL 3C82:



Dissent In The Ranks

She went on to tell me about how one day, she was talking to someone else in the Air Force about the war in Iraq, and they asked each other "Would we be willing to die for this war?" And their answer was no.

From: D, Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: October 13, 2005
Subject: Dissent in the ranks

I found out that the Air Force would be recruiting on campus today at a career fair. I called some antiwar students to get together and flyer at the event and I scrambled to make a flyer that we could pass out to career fair attendees.

I arrived a little late, after the fair already started and most people were inside. But myself and another student decided to wait outside the career counseling room to speak with any students who were on their way to the fair. We ended up getting a chance to talk to the people in the career fair because the building's fire alarm went off and forced everyone to evacuate the building for several minutes.

One of the students I talked to, was a former Marine and he also served in the initial invasion of Iraq.

I talked to him for several minutes and he said he agrees with us "one-hundred percent" that the war is wrong.

He was personally lied to by recruiters, when he joined. They promised him he could choose what base he wanted to be stationed at, and they promised him bonuses, but he ended up getting only a quarter of the money, and then the little bit of money he did receive was heavily taxed. Now, whenever he walks by a recruiter on the street, he asks them "Are you still lying to people?"

He said that he was at the career fair for the other federal jobs present and that the Air Force would be his last choice. I told him about Iraq Veterans Against the War and gave him contact info for a local IVAW member, which he was glad to see.

At the same time, while we were outside, another student in our antiwar group was talking to the Air Force ROTC recruiter from the career fair. They discussed the war in Iraq, and the recruiter said that personally he really wasn't sure if he supports the war in Iraq. The antiwar student went on to say that people shouldn't have to join the military as a way to gain skills, experience and self-esteem, but that there should be viable alternatives for everyone. Agreeing with the student, the recruiter said that he made a "good point."

After the career fair resumed, I met an Air Force ROTC recruiter, and we started a conversation. I told her that we were activists here to encourage people to think critically about joining the Air Force, and not to rush into a decision for college money, training, etc. The recruiter said that she joined the Air Force for exactly those things, college money and job training.

She wants to be a pilot, for a company like UPS, and that she was totally against the war.

She said that although the military can help people who are in trouble by providing a steady job and a sense of community, it's sad that those folks who just signed up for a better life have to go die in a "senseless" war.

She went on to tell me about how one day, she was talking to someone else in the Air Force about the war in Iraq, and they asked each other "Would we be willing to die for this war?" And their answer was no.

She said, that for many people when they sign that contract they don't ever want to go to war, but it potentially puts them in the position of having to kill and die, just because they wanted job training and college money.

(I also told her about the IVAW website, www.ivaw.net , and she said she would definitely check it out.)

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

TASK FORCE LIBERTY SOLDIER KILLED BY AD DUJAYL IED

October 13, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-10-15C

TIKRIT, Iraq -- A Task Force Liberty Soldier died of injuries sustained when a combat patrol struck an improvised explosive device (IED) near Ad Dujayl at about 1 p.m. Oct. 13.

Family Says Indiana Soldier Killed

10/12/2005 Associated Press, PAXTON, Ind.

PAXTON, Ind. (AP) - **Another soldier from Indiana has been killed in Iraq.**

Larry Kimmell of Paxton says that U-S Army personnel told him yesterday that his son, 30-year-old Staff Sergeant Matthew Kimmell, died following an attack on his Humvee.

Larry Kimmell says he was told two soldiers who were with his son were injured.

Kimmell says his son was a career soldier and had been serving in Iraq since June.

Since February 2003, 45 Indiana military personnel have died after being sent to the Mideast for the war in Iraq.

Kimmell's hometown of Paxton is about 25 miles south of Terre Haute.

Norman Soldier Killed

October 13, 2005

OKLAHOMA CITY -- A 33-year-old soldier from Norman was killed when an explosive device detonated near his military vehicle during operations in Iraq, the Department of Defense said Wednesday.

Sgt. 1st Class Brandon K. Sneed last lived in Norman before he was stationed in Fort Benning, Ga., said his wife, Lori.

He was raised in Houston and joined the Army after high school. Lori Sneed said she first met the man who would become her husband while the two were both in the Army and stationed in Arizona.

The couple married and made their first home in Oklahoma after finishing their tours in 1994.

"I loved him so much, he followed me over the Red River," said Lori Sneed, who was born and raised in Oklahoma.

She said one of the last messages she got from her husband was an e-mail he sent gloating about the Texas Longhorns' victory over the Oklahoma Sooners. The annual rivalry had become a tradition in the Sneed home, but he had been unable to celebrate the game at home this year, she said.

"He stayed abroad a lot, so that was something we just had to get used to," Lori Sneed said.

When he came home, Sneed loved to spend time with his wife and two sons. He loved to play and watch football with them, Lori Sneed said. She said he loved football after playing at Alief Hastings High School in Houston.

His other love was being a soldier, she said.

In Iraq, he commanded an M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, which he was aboard when the improvised bomb exploded Monday, killing him and another man, Sgt. Leon M. Johnson, 28, of Jacksonville, Fla.

Both men were assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Benning, Ga., the DOD said.

Bristol Soldier Injured

10/12/2005 By STEVE COLLINS, The Bristol Press

BRISTOL -- A U.S. Army soldier from Bristol was badly injured last week in a battle near the Euphrates River in Iraq.

Joseph Kapacziewski, a 2001 graduate of Bristol Eastern High School, suffered serious injuries to his legs and right arm after someone tossed a hand grenade into an armored personnel carrier that carried him, according to city officials.

According to information provided to Couture by Patrolman Mark Bernier, a friend of the soldier's, Kapaczewski and four others in his squad were hurt when the hand grenade exploded inside an armored personnel carrier Oct. 3.

Kapaczewski suffered the most serious injuries, the officer said in a Tuesday memorandum to the mayor. He has compound fractures to both legs and the leg bones have been pinned back together by doctors.

Kapaczewski's right arm was also badly injured in the explosion, Bernier said in the memo.

Teachers, Coaches Recall Injured Northwest Soldier



10/12/2005 KOIN

VANCOUVER, Wash. -- A Northwest soldier injured in Iraq is in the hearts of Vancouver teachers and coaches who know him.

Brian Radke graduated from Columbia River High School in 1993 and was an assistant football coach there in the late '90s.

Radke suffered serious injuries to his neck, face and hands after an explosive device went off, hitting the humvee in which he was riding. His friend and fellow soldier died.

Those who coached and later worked with Radke say he was dedicated and competitive.

"I hope he can recover and get a new start. Everything is up in the air right now so we really don't know," head football coach John O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke and other coaches are e-mailing each other and getting updates from Radke's family.

Doctors don't believe that Radke's injuries are life threatening.

U.S. Humvee Destroyed In Mosul: Casualties Not Announced

10.13.03 Reuters

MOSUL - A roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. patrol in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police and medical sources said. A U.S. Humvee vehicle was also destroyed, police said, although the U.S. military had no immediate comment on the incident.

**NO MISSION:
NO JOY:
DEADLY ENVIRONMENT:
TIME TO COME HOME**



Marines from 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion searching for weapons caches and insurgent activities in Barwana, Iraq, Oct. 4 2005. (AP Photo/ Lance Cpl. Shane S. Keller, US Army HO)

Australian Troops Fired On

13/10/05 By Max Blenkin, Seven Network

Australian soldiers in southern Iraq have come under fire for the first time, escaping without harm when armed fighters fired on their armoured vehicles.

The attack came on the eve of the deployment of a second and probably final rotation of 450 troops to Iraq.

Defence force head Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said that at 9.30 Iraq time, gunmen fired on a patrol of three eight-wheeled ASLAVs (Australian Light Armoured Vehicles) on the outskirts of Samawah, the capital of Al-Muthanna province.

The Australian base is a short distance outside the city.

"We were engaged briefly. There was some small-arms fire. Two individuals were seen running in the distance away from the area where the contact was made and they disappeared into terrain where we could not follow them," he told reporters.

"We did not return any fire at all. They fired from a fair distance. Essentially it was fire and then they ran for it.

"There were no casualties. There was no damage to equipment."

TROOP NEWS

From Iraq, Soldier Says “Bush Ought To Be Impeached”



Nicholas Pulliam ... “save our soldiers’ futures”

(Thanks to Debbie Clark, Georgia Veterans For Peace, for posting.)

10/12/2005 By EVAN LEHMANN, The Lowell Sun Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- The flatbed gun truck failed in the desert night, leaving Sgt. Nicholas Pulliam and his freight of cut vehicle armor easing to the Iraq roadside.

The Chelmsford resident was near the end of a 25-truck convoy, following a "slacker" full of fuel, whose tail lights didn't work. The green chemical glow sticks taped to the rig as replacements slowly faded before the whole convoy rumbled to a stop.

"I was not in a safe place and I knew it," Pulliam wrote in an e-mail received by his parents on Saturday.

The convoy, now towing Pulliam's truck, finally reached the restive city of Ramadi, a 35-mile trip that lasted more than three hours. It was received by insurgent gunshots; all seemed to miss, trailing bright tracers.

But Pulliam, a 43-year-old engineer with a law degree, had a bigger breakdown on his mind than an engine mishap: the United States' policy in Iraq.

Yesterday, he called for a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops before September 2006, titling his proposal "Rational Disengagement." He posted it on an Internet blog, an online journal operated by Bedford activist Brian Hart, whose 20-year-old son, Army Pvt. First Class John Hart, was killed nearly two years ago in Iraq during an ambush near Kirkuk.

"I am just an American citizen-soldier who wants to see an end to this hemorrhaging and get back to my life away from Iraq," writes Pulliam, who resides on Main Street with his wife, Awilda, and their two children, ages 8 and 10.

"Iraq will have some very hard times to follow our disengagement, but I see this as inevitable anyway so why should we (Americans) continue to bleed only to prolong the pain that is coming," Pulliam writes. "I don't view this as defeatism, I view it as rationalism."

Next month, Pulliam will complete his second eight-year commitment in the military, first in the National Guard, then the Army Reserve. He joined in the early 1980s as a way to pay for college, said his parents, Brown and Lois Pulliam of Bedford. He has been serving in Iraq for about a year and his parents expect him to be discharged by early December.

A machinist at Al Taqaddum Air Base near Falluja, Pulliam harbors deep distrust of President Bush and vehemently opposes the war, his father said.

"He thinks it's a crime," Brown Pulliam said of the war, "and that Bush ought to be impeached."

His parents are unconcerned about possible disciplinary action, saying such possibilities are friendly compared to the threats of war.

"I don't see how that would be more dangerous," Lois Pulliam said of military discipline.

She and her husband twice traveled to Washington during the 1960s to protest the Vietnam War.

"We thought we were helping to make sure nothing like that happened again," Lois Pulliam said of that conflict. "Here it is happening again."

Brian Hart created the blog -- www.minstrelboy.blogspot.com -- as an alternative to the deluge of e-mails he received following the death of his son. He's become a vocal critic of the war and an advocate for increased supply of body and vehicle armor.

Pulliam, too, hopes his words cause a stir, saying too many soldiers have died.

"We need to start somewhere," he writes in the blog posting. "We need to save our soldier's futures."

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.

More U.S. Troops Die Even As Armoring Improves; "It's A Losing Game Because They Can Always Build A Bigger Bomb"

Oct. 13 (Bloomberg)

Roadside bombs are killing more American troops in Iraq, as the frequency and sophistication of insurgent attacks may be outstripping U.S. efforts to increase protection for soldiers.

So-called improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, killed 302 U.S. troops between Jan. 1 and Oct. 7, compared with 165 in the same period in 2004, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, an Internet site with statistics based on official U.S. casualty reports.

The number of U.S. armored vehicles in Iraq rose during that period to almost 39,600 from 16,548, according to the Army.

"It's a losing game because they can always build a bigger bomb," said Daniel Goure, vice president of the Lexington Institute, a defense policy research group in Arlington, Virginia.

Goure said the U.S. is "at the upper limits" of what it can do with armor. "We've done a good job, because without the armor increases, the casualty rates would be five times as high," he said.

Most of the IED casualties appear to have taken place inside armored vehicles, said Michael White, an analyst with the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count site. The group assembles its statistics from Pentagon news releases on bombings in Iraq.

"The IED threat has changed," General Ben Griffin, head of the Army Materiel Command, said in an interview. "We've taken increased casualties over time from IEDs. You do the best you can with materiel fixes."

The number of attacks also has increased, particularly within the past several months, Brigadier General Carter Ham of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told reporters in Washington last week.

Gary Motsek, who tracks the status of armoring U.S. military vehicles for the Army Materiel Command, said that while there are more attacks, the odds of living through one have improved. "You need to look at the total number of attacks versus casualties," Motsek said in an interview. "The survivability has improved."

In the spring of 2004, almost every IED attack resulted in a dead or wounded soldier, Brigadier General Jeffery Sorenson, the Army's deputy for acquisition, told the House Armed Services Committee.

That rate has dropped to one in four because of a "holistic approach" that includes the improved vehicle and body armor, electronic jammers and better training, Sorenson said May 5.

***In Your Face, Killer Blair:* British Gold Star Mothers Organize Downing Street Peace Camp**

[This is a message from Rose Gentle. Her son was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now.]

From: Rose Gentle
To: GI Special
Sent: October 13, 2005
Subject: Fwd: Downing Street Peace Camp

hi its rose

I am going to camp out side

number 10 On tuesday

rose

Tuesday 18 October 3pm - Wednesday 19 October 3pm.

Rose Gentle's son Gordon died in a roadside bombing in Basra on 28th June 2004 - Susan Smith's son Philip was killed in a roadside bombing in Al Amarah on 16th July this year.

Next Tuesday both mothers will camp outside Downing Street to protest at the political decision to deny the families legal aid in their campaign to bring the Prime Minister to book for the Iraq war. The families believe the war to have been fought on the basis of lies and deceit and moreover consider that there was no legal basis for the conflict.

Both Rose and Susan have been inspired by the example of Cindy Sheehan, mother of Casey Sheehan - a US soldier also killed in Iraq. Cindy took her protest to George Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Families on each side of the Atlantic will not rest until both George Bush and Tony Blair face them and take responsibility for their actions. The US President and the British Prime Minister have both refused to meet the bereaved families.

Rose and Susan welcome any support.

U.S. Soldier Opens Fire On Other U.S. Troops

13 Oct 2005 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times staff writer

A soldier reportedly dressed in Ninja-like attire fired live rounds from a .357-caliber Magnum into a physical training formation at Fort Campbell, Ky., this morning.

No one was hurt in the 7 a.m. shooting and the soldier, who has not yet been identified, was arrested by military police.

"Military police apprehended the soldier and brought him into custody. He did have a weapon, it was a handgun, nonmilitary issue," said Fort Campbell spokeswoman Cathy Gramling.

Charges have not been filed and Fort Campbell officials declined further comment, but according to a soldier in the area at the time of the alleged attack, the suspect fired three shots at a group of soldiers in formation for PT in front of the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team headquarters.

After firing the first volley of shots, he ran behind the headquarters building of 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry, where several troops were at work, said the soldier, who spoke on the condition his identity not be revealed.

He said that when a soldier from the 2-327 opened a back door, the armed soldier allegedly fired another round of shots, which ricocheted off the ground and the building, then continued running.

After evading soldiers at the 2-327, the gunman allegedly ducked into a building of the 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry, shed a tactical holster, black jacket and balaclava mask, then walked out of the building and allegedly pointed to an area away from the building and told MPs at the site he had seen a man running in that direction, the soldier said.

The MPs arrested the soldier on the spot and placed him in confinement.

The 101st Airborne Division is in the process of deploying for its second rotation in Iraq and the Thursday shooting harked to a deadly incident two and a half years ago.

According to the source, the suspect in Thursday's shooting is a member of 326th Engineer Battalion, the same unit of former Sgt. Hassan Akbar, who was convicted of a grenade attack that killed two soldiers and wounded 14 others in the 1st BCT.

The fragging incident took place March 23, 2003, in Kuwait, hours before the division crossed the berm into Iraq.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

10/13/2005 By THOMAS WAGNER, The Associated Press & Reuters & Aljazeera

A car bomb hit an Iraqi police patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing two policemen and wounding two, said police Brig. Sarhad Qadir.

BAIJI - A policeman from the Facility Protection Service, a government-run security force, was killed by armed fighters in Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Eight policemen were wounded when two mortar rounds landed on Aadamiya police station in northern Baghdad, police said. They said one of the wounded was Brigadier Khalid, the director of the police station.

An explosion damaged the offices of a Sunni Arab political group in Falluja after the Iraqi Islamic Party broke ranks on Wednesday and agreed to back the constitution as part of a U.S.-brokered deal.

Other Sunni leaders accused their former allies of being duped, arguing that even a new round of negotiations in the next parliament, to be elected on December 15, may disappoint them.

Months of negotiations with more moderate Sunni leaders have failed to produce a national consensus on the constitution, and many Sunni politicians reacted angrily to the Islamic Party's last-minute decision to back the new charter in return for a number of immediate amendments and a promise of a full review of the constitution by a new parliament next year.

"We are calling on our people to take part effectively and cast a 'No' vote to reject the constitution," said Adnan al-Dulaimi, one several Sunni leaders.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

If I want to watch terrorist propaganda I'll turn on FOX NEWS; it justifies the war of terror that Bush and Co. are conducting. Paul Meuse, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, October 13, 2005

A Common Enemy

[This is from a longer story about Andrea Ulm, a soldiers wife who visits the severely wounded at Walter Reed, as well as working a full time job, and how important her work is.

[The paragraphs below are one more example of the attitude of the politicians in Washington DC to troops too fucked up to be useful to the Empire. It makes two obvious points: 1. There are a lot of families who don't have the money to visit their wounded loved ones, and 2. The importance to successful healing of having those visits.

[Of course the scum in DC running the government for their own benefit have billions to pass along to their friends, the war profiteers. But if you got seven kids and no money, and a wounded soldier in the hospital, you can go eat shit, as far as the elite who control the government are concerned.]

[Said it before, say it again: the enemy of the troops is in DC, not Iraq. Iraqis and American troops have a common enemy, and it's not each other. T]

Oct. 13, 2005 by Katherine Heerbrandt, Staff Writer, The Gazette (Maryland)

One mother who flew across the country to be with her son, Ulm said, had seven other children at home. Many families do not have the resources to stay with their injured loved ones for more than a few days.

"It's really sad," she said. "A lot of them don't really push themselves in physical therapy because there is no one to visit. We would take cookies around and try to spend time with them. Some of them just don't want to talk at all."

Wounded Soldier's Mom Needs Information For Her Son For Christmas

[Any replies to Wounded Soldier's Mom will be forwarded on to her. To avoid retaliation from command, her email address is not printed here. She is helping pass along GI Special to troops at the base near her. Like a lot of badly wounded Iraq vets, her son has been waiting forever for the VA to act on his disability claim, and he is having a very hard time surviving financially.]

From: Wounded Iraq Soldiers' Mom
Sent: October 13, 2005
Subject: question

Hey, you know I just vent or speak my mind.

I seen my son come home to mothers' funeral and he couldn't walk, he has a cane, he went from a wheelchair to a walker to a cane but he is still on a waiting list for surgery????

What is happening in this country???

We need to take care of the VETS.

And if there is a program for the holidays, he has a son 7 that will need help?

Since the Government has not processed his claim he has no money to get Christmas presents.

Is there going to be a program to help wounded soldiers that haven't got processed through the VA yet to help them and their children at Christmas time??

The program in Atlanta VA with the PTSD is just a few - I have heard the younger Iraq Vets are having a harder time with this program from all states - it should be looked into.

Let me know about that if you know or find a program.

I am not doing good right now I just want to run away from everything.

Thanks for all your advise during my time of need.

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupations Finest Collaborator Division Looks Forward To Mass Murder Of Sunnis; And Killing U.S. Troops Too

Some Iraqi troops went a step further, saying they were only awaiting word from the marja'iyah before turning on American forces.

Oct. 12, 2005 By TOM LASSETER, Knight Ridder Newspapers. [Excerpts]

The Bush administration's exit strategy for Iraq rests on two pillars: an inclusive, democratic political process that includes all major ethnic groups and a well-trained Iraqi national army.

But a week spent eating, sleeping and going on patrol with a crack unit of the Iraqi army - the 4,500-member 1st Brigade of the 6th Iraqi Division - suggests that the strategy is in serious trouble.

Instead of rising above the ethnic tension that's tearing their nation apart, the mostly Shiite troops are preparing for, if not already fighting, a civil war against the minority Sunni population.

Ghilan's army unit is responsible for security in western Baghdad, where many Sunnis live. But the soldiers are overwhelmingly Shiite, and, like Ghilan, they're seeking revenge against the Sunnis who oppressed them during Saddam Hussein's rule.

American commanders often refer to the 1st Brigade as a template for the future of Iraq's military. It was the first in the nation to get its own area of operations, the tumultuous western side of the Tigris River in Baghdad, and one of the first to take over a base from U.S. forces. It's one of the rare Iraqi units with a command competent at the brigade level, instead of just smaller company or battalion-based units.

The Iraqi troops consult with American advisers daily. On big raids in dangerous areas, the Americans often take the lead with their superior firepower.

But day to day, the Iraqi officers mostly run their own show, carrying out most of the patrols and running checkpoints without help. Increasingly, however, they look and operate less like an Iraqi national army unit and more like a Shiite militia.

The brigade last week raided the home of Saleh al-Mutlak, one of the most prominent Sunni politicians in the country, a day after an Iraqi soldier was shot and killed in the neighborhood. Soldiers said some gunfire had come from the direction of Mutlak's house during the raid on his neighborhood.

Arab satellite news stations carried images of a car with its windows smashed in Mutlak's driveway, and Mutlak held a news conference, saying that the soldiers who came into his home were thugs.

Sgt. Maj. Asad al-Zubaidi said Mutlak was lucky he wasn't shot.

"When we are in charge of security the people will follow a law that says you will be sentenced to prison if you speak against the government, and for people like Saleh Mutlak there will be execution," Zubaidi said. "Thousands of people are being killed by Saleh Mutlak and these dogs."

The soldier who was gunned down in Mutlak's neighborhood was with a group manning a checkpoint when he went to a nearby shop to buy cigarettes. A dark BMW with gunmen pulled up; three shots to the head later, the soldier was on the ground.

The brigade leader, Brig. Gen. Jaleel Khalif Shwail, drove to the site less than an hour after the shooting. The sidewalk was covered in blood, "like a sheep had been slaughtered," Shwail said.

"These people in Amariyah are cowards," he said, his voice full of rage as he stood at the spot where his soldier had fallen. "I swear, I swear I'll have revenge."

The shop owner was roused from bed. He said over and over that he had nothing to do with the killing and he begged the soldiers for mercy.

Maj. Saad al-Mousawi, an intelligence officer with the brigade, shouted at the man to shut his mouth.

"Even if you people, you Sunnis, roll tanks on our heads we will not give this country back to you," Mousawi said. "It's ours now."

The brigade and its sectarian leanings has alarmed not only Sunnis in the area but also other Iraqi military commanders.

They said they worry that a mostly Shiite military unit will follow religious clerics before national leaders, risking a breakdown in the army along sectarian lines.

Although the U.S. military hasn't released statistics, anecdotal evidence from reporting in the field over two years suggests that a disproportionate number of soldiers are Shiite, except for a few units that are mostly Kurdish.

"It is a mistake," said Col. Fadhil al-Barawary, the Kurdish commander of the Iraqi army's commando battalion, housed on the same base with the 1st Brigade. "The danger is that when there is strife between Sunnis and Shiites in the neighborhoods it creates problems" with loyalties.

Barawary continued: "It's a total mistake to have soldiers taking orders from the marja'iyah. It puts us all in danger." Barawary was referring to the ruling council of Shiite clerics, whose word is law for most Shiites in Iraq.

Shwail, the 1st brigade's top officer, regularly reviews important decisions, including troop distribution, with a prominent local Shiite cleric who's closely aligned with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the top Shiite religious figure in Iraq.

During a recent meeting with his officers, several of them asked Shwail why he didn't send more troops to the troubled Sunni neighborhoods of Amariyah and Ghazaliyah when he has more than 1,000 patrolling the streets of Kadhemiya, the Shiite neighborhood where the brigade is based and the site of a major Shiite shrine.

Shwail told the officers that Ayatollah Hussein al-Sadr had informed him that the troops must stay in Kadhemiya to protect the Shiite faithful.

"Sayyid Hussein al-Sadr has more influence than (Prime Minister) Ibrahim Jaafari," Shwail said, using an honorific title. "The battalion in Kadhemiya won't be moved from there for the next 100 years."

The officers looked at each other, dismayed. Their men, stretched thin in the insurgent hotspots, are shot and killed regularly.

"But sir, we need more troops," one officer said.

"The problem," Shwail said, "is convincing Sayyid Hussein al-Sadr."

Some Iraqi troops went a step further, saying they were only awaiting word from the marja'iyah before turning on American forces.

Although many Shiites are grateful for the overthrow of Saddam, they also are suspicious of U.S. motives. Those suspicions partly stem from the failure of the first Bush administration to support a U.S.-encouraged Shiite uprising against Saddam in 1991. Saddam suppressed it and slaughtered thousands.

"In Amariyah last week, a car bomb hit a U.S. Humvee and their soldiers began to shoot randomly. They killed a lot of innocent civilians. I was there; I saw it," said Sgt. Fadhal Yahan. "This happens all the time. If they keep doing this, the people will attack them. And we are part of the people."

Sgt. Jawad Majid chimed in: "We have our marja'iyah and we are waiting for them to decide when the time to fight (the Americans) is, when it is no longer time to be silent."

Posters and flags of Shiite religious figures adorn trucks and office walls throughout the brigade.

A senior U.S. military official in Baghdad familiar with Iraqi army operations said American officers are concerned about the lack of Sunnis in the Iraqi forces and have started a massive recruiting campaign. In the past three months, some 4,000 Sunnis have been recruited and are undergoing training, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

"We never intended to create a Shiite army," the official said. "Clearly, one of our number one concerns going forward ... is sectarianism ... that revenge mentality."

The official said he was unaware of any Sunnis being rounded up and killed by the army.

When they roll through the Shiite neighborhood of Kadhemiyah in pickup trucks, the Iraqi troops see men saluting them and yelling, "Heroes! Heroes!" Little children salute and smile.

But as soon as they cross into nearby Sunni neighborhoods, the troops lean out of the trucks with AK-47s and shoot above the cars in front of them to clear traffic. When they jump out of the trucks to clear crowds, the men frequently mutter, "Shit on Saddam."

Riding in one of the trucks is a chilling experience. The trucks have no armor, exposing men in the back to AK-47 fire. Hitting a roadside bomb, a favorite insurgent weapon, would probably kill most on board, as would a car bomb.

At least 300 of the brigade's roughly 4,500 troops - the numbers fluctuate with casualties and resignations - have been killed and 1,350 have been wounded during the past two years. They take gunfire daily and frequently are targets of suicide car bombers and mortar barrages.

Adhemiya, on the eastern bank of the Tigris, across from the 1st brigade's base, is a Sunni neighborhood. Snipers on rooftops shoot at troops sitting in courtyards in front of their barracks.

In the Sunni stronghold of Amariyah, where guerrilla fighters control entire blocks, snipers shoot around troops' flak vests, targeting faces and, from the side, vital organs. The results are horrific - soldiers are brought back to the base in ambulances and on the backs of pickups trucks with blood pumping out of their necks.

Last week, as Sgt. Hussein Jabar manned a checkpoint underneath a bridge, a sniper's bullet pierced his left side, tore through his organs and flew out his right side. Iraqi troops carried him away, his body limp and pouring red onto the sidewalk.

His fellow soldiers screamed and threw their AK-47s on the ground in frustration as Jabar was taken first into a medical triage unit and then to an American helicopter, which took him away for surgery. He's still under U.S. care.

Two days after the shooting, Sgt. Ahmed Sabri stood outside the Umm al Qura mosque, home to the militant Sunni Muslim Scholars Association. The mosque is just down the road from where Jabar was shot.

"Every man we've had killed and wounded is because of that mosque. Thousands and thousands of Shiites are being killed, which is why they're joining the army," Sabri said.

"Just let us have our constitution and elections in December and then we will do what Saddam did - start with five people from each neighborhood and kill them in the streets and then go from there."

Asked if he worried about possible fighting between his men and the Sunnis at Umm al Qura, the brigade's command sergeant major, Hassan Kadhum, smiled.

"Your country had to have a civil war," he said. "It will be the same here. Everything in this world has its price. In Iraq the price for peace will be blood."

Kadhum thought the matter over for a few more moments.

"There will be a day when we take that mosque and make it an army headquarters," Kadhum said.

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***
**U.S. Occupation Commands'
Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit**

Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



US soldiers search through the belongings of a house. (Aljazeera.net 10-4-2005)

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

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

October 13, 2005 Anna Badkhen, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer

Ouja, Iraq -- It had been a frustrating morning for U.S. Army Lt. Jeff Halladay. He had already gone through three houses, searching in vain for a mustachioed man suspected of planting roadside bombs. Intelligence suggested the man lived in this neighborhood of neat stucco compounds.

So now, Halladay was resorting to a more urgent measure, one that U.S. military officers acknowledge can do more harm than good: trying to gather the needed information by intimidating the suspect's neighbors.

Halladay thrust a photograph of the suspect at Muhammad Abdul Karim, a slender teenage boy in a brown dishdasha shirt, who was cowering in the corner of one of the compounds. "Where the f -- is this guy?" bellowed Halladay, 28, from Buffalo, N.Y. He towered over Karim, his feet slightly apart and planted firmly on the ground. Halladay was clutching the photograph of a man in his mid-30s in one hand, an M16 rifle in the other.

The boy started saying something to Halladay's Iraqi interpreter, shaking his head "no," his brows arched plaintively. Halladay cut him off.

"Don't f -- ng interrupt or I'll break your f -- ng finger!" the American roared. "Where the f -- is he? He's your f -- ng neighbor! Do you wanna see your brother and your father go to jail? Where the hell is he?"

The tactic brought the Army unit no closer to finding its target in Ouja, former President Saddam Hussein's home village just outside Tikrit. Karim, like his two older brothers and father Halladay would question later, insisted he did not know the man.

It's a scene that is repeated often. American soldiers looking for suspected insurgents not only find themselves thwarted in their mission but have left a civilian population more alienated by their presence than they already had been.

As commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Lt. Col. Todd Wood is well aware of the negative consequences of such a seemingly heavy-handed approach.

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

U.S. soldiers reimburse civilians -- usually immediately -- for everything they break during a raid. A broken gate, for example, is worth \$60 -- about half an average monthly salary in the area.

But they cannot compensate for the emotional scars of civilians they scare in the process, Wood said.

On a typical raid, soldiers leave their humvees a block away from the suspected hideout, then sprint, silently, toward the targeted house, crouching beside stucco walls of Iraqi compounds, their guns drawn. If the compound's metal gate is shut, they kick it down and run into the house loudly.

Some soldiers separate men from women and children, while others run through the rooms with their guns at the ready, peering cautiously into shadowy corners, shining their flashlights at unfinished meals, pet squirrels, pewter trays, Kalashnikov rifle magazine clips, children sleeping on the floor. Sometimes, they bring bomb-sniffing dogs. Other times, they go through closets and cupboards, looking under mattresses and in ovens. Large, glossy brown cockroaches skitter out of drainpipes as the soldiers lift up heavy lids, looking for hidden weapons.

"You gotta go on one of those raids with the assumption that the guy's barricaded in there and that he's ready to kill anyone going through the door," Wood said. "You can't come in with a relaxed posture and then step it up, 'cause you'll get hurt."

But as they yank residents out of their houses at all hours of the day -- at this time of year interrupting Ramadan meals -- the soldiers often leave civilians terrified and angry, seeming not to understand the purpose of the Americans' mission.

"Why? Why?" repeated Karim's mother, an older woman wrapped in a black abaya covering, as Halladay took her three sons and husband aside, one by one, yelling at them, swearing, demanding they tell him the whereabouts of the man in the picture.

At another compound, where an awning of flowering vines cast odd shadows on the tiled floor, an old man in a white dishdasha and thick glasses tried to persuade Halladay to take extra dishdashas for the man's two sons, whom Halladay was about to take away. "They don't need another dishdasha, guy," Halladay said.

"They need to have a dishdasha," the man begged. "Let me give them a dishdasha."

In the darkened kitchen, a woman with two infants in her arms cried, soundlessly.

"They won't let them have an extra dishdasha in detention," Halladay said, and turned around to leave. The man walked out after him and stood at the gate as the soldiers carefully loaded his blindfolded, handcuffed sons into an armored humvee.

In the third house Charlie Company raided that morning, an elderly woman, seated on a long mattress in the living room, seemed to have an anxiety attack when the soldiers came. She pressed her hands against her chest and moaned. Outside, her son, Yousef Ali Hussein, who appeared to be in his late 20s, sat on the curb, his hands bound behind his back, a strip of white gauze over his eyes. Flies swarmed on his feet clad in plastic flip-flops.

"Her blood pressure was way up, 260 over 140 -- that's stroke level," said Spc. James Morris, 38, a medic from Las Vegas. "She wasn't taking her blood pressure pills because of Ramadan. I told her that God wasn't going to look after her if she stopped taking her pills."

Charlie Company soldiers helped Hussein into one of their armored humvees, then got in themselves and took off, leaving behind distraught families.

"These raids can do more harm than good if we don't select the targets and if the soldiers don't treat the people in the area with respect," said Wood. "This is a very tough environment for soldiers who may not have the maturity or experience to understand the complexity of the consequences of these raids." [He understands this much, and he lets it go on. He might as well be killing his troops himself. Eliminate the middle-man.]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Tells Troops Iraqi Resistance Can't Be Stopped

October 13, 2005 By Tom Raum, Associated Press

“We put in motion something that can’t be stopped, and that is the march of freedom,” Bush said in a video conference with soldiers from the New York Army National Guard’s 42nd Infantry Division, based in Tikrit, hometown of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

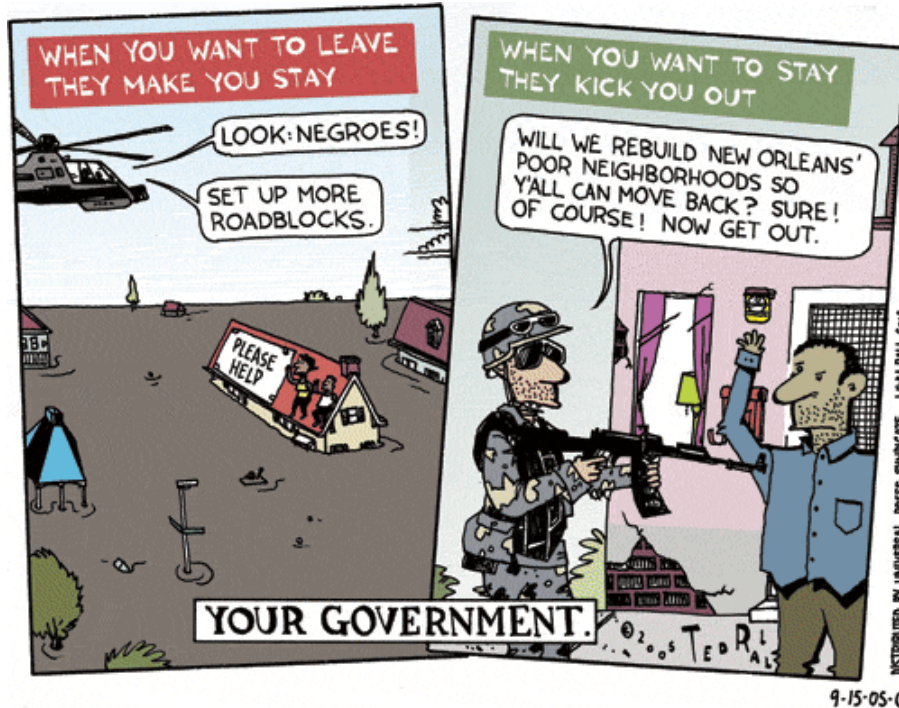


CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

You Thought It Was Bad Before?

Perfect Hell In New Orleans:



Despite orders to release prisoners, state and local corrections officials are not releasing them unless someone can transport them out of town. Lawyers have to file lawsuits to force authorities to release people from prison who have already served all of their sentences! Judges are setting \$100,000 bonds for people who steal beer out of a vacant house, while landlords break the law with impunity.

October 12, 2005 by Bill Quigley, ZNet

Bill Quigley is a professor of law at Loyola University New Orleans where he directs the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center and the Law Clinic and teaches Law and Poverty. He can be reached at duprestars@yahoo.com

They are doing it again!

My wife and I spent five days and four nights in a hospital in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. We saw people floating dead in the water. We watched people die waiting for evacuation to places with food, water, and electricity. We were rescued by boat and waited for an open pickup truck to take us and dozens of others on a rainy drive to the underpass where thousands of others waited for a bus ride to who knows where.

You saw the people left behind. The poor, the sick, the disabled, the prisoners, the low-wage workers of New Orleans, were all left behind in the evacuation. Now that New Orleans is re-opening for some, the same people are being left behind again.

When those in power close the public schools, close public housing, fire people from their jobs, refuse to provide access to affordable public healthcare, and close off all avenues for justice, it is not necessary to erect a sign outside of New Orleans saying “Poor People Not Allowed To Return.” People cannot come back in these circumstances and that is exactly what is happening.

There are 28,000 people still living in shelters in Louisiana. There are 38,000 public housing apartments in New Orleans, many in good physical condition. None have been reopened.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimated that 112,000 low-income homes in New Orleans were damaged by the hurricane. Yet, local, state and federal authorities are not committed to re-opening public housing. Louisiana Congressman Richard Baker (R-LA) said, after the hurricane, “We finally cleaned up public housing in New Orleans. We couldn’t do it, but God did.”

New Orleans public schools enrolled about 60,000 children before the hurricane. The school board president now estimates that no schools on the city’s east bank, where the overwhelming majority of people live, will reopen this academic school year.

Every one of the 13 public schools on the mostly-dry west bank of New Orleans was changed into charter schools in an afternoon meeting a few days ago.

A member of the Louisiana state board of education estimated that at most 10,000 students will attend public schools in New Orleans this academic year.

The City of New Orleans laid off 3,000 workers. The public school system laid off thousands of its workers. The Archdiocese of New Orleans laid off 800 workers from its central staff and countless hundreds of others from its parish schools. The Housing Authority has laid off its workers. The St. Bernard Sheriff’s Office laid off half of its workers.

Renters in New Orleans are returning to find their furniture on the street and strangers living in their apartments at higher rents – despite an order by the Governor that no one can be evicted before October 25. Rent in the dry areas have doubled and tripled.

Environmental chemist Wilma Subra cautions that earth and air in the New Orleans area appear to be heavily polluted with heavy metal and organic contaminants from more than 40 oil spills and extensive mold. The people, Subra stated, are subject to “double insult – the chemical insult from the sludge and biological insult from the mold.” Homes built on the Agriculture Street landfill – a federal toxic site – stewed for weeks in floodwaters.

Yet, the future of Charity Hospital of New Orleans, the primary place for free comprehensive medical care in the state of Louisiana, is under furious debate and discussion and may never re-open again. Right now, free public healthcare is being provided by volunteers at grassroots free clinics like Common Ground – a wonderful and much needed effort but not a substitute for public healthcare.

The jails and prisons are full and staying full.

Despite orders to release prisoners, state and local corrections officials are not releasing them unless someone can transport them out of town. Lawyers have to file lawsuits to force authorities to release people from prison who have already served all of their sentences! Judges are setting \$100,000 bonds for people who steal beer out of a vacant house, while landlords break the law with impunity.

People arrested before and after the hurricane have not even been formally charged by the prosecutor. Because the evidence room is under water, part of the police force is discredited, and witnesses are scattered around the country, everyone knows few will ever see a trial, yet timid judges are reluctant to follow the constitution and laws and release them on reasonable bond.

People are making serious money in this hurricane but not the working and poor people who built and maintained New Orleans. President Bush lifted the requirement that jobs re-building the Gulf Coast pay a living wage. The Small Business Administration has received 1.6 million disaster loan applications and has approved 9 in Louisiana.

A US Senator reported that maintenance workers at the Superdome are being replaced by out of town workers who will work for less money and no benefits. He also reported that seventy-five Louisiana electricians at the Naval Air Station are being replaced by workers from Kellogg Brown and Root – a subsidiary of Halliburton.

Take it to the courts, you say? The Louisiana Supreme Court has been closed since the hurricane and is not due to re-open until at least October 25, 2005. While Texas and Mississippi have enacted special rules to allow out of state lawyers to come and help people out, the Louisiana Supreme court has not. Nearly every person victimized by the hurricane has a price-gouging story. Yet, the Louisiana Attorney General has filed exactly one suit for price-gouging – against a campground. Likewise, the US attorney has prosecuted 3 people for wrongfully seeking \$2000 FEMA checks.

No schools. No low-income apartments. No jobs. No healthcare. No justice.

A final example? You can fly on a plane into New Orleans, but you cannot take a bus. Greyhound does not service New Orleans at this time.

You saw the people who were left behind last time. The same people are being left behind all over again.

You raised hell about the people left behind last time. Please do it again.

Received:

"Everybody Is Terrified To Breathe."

From: Paul O'Hanlon
To: GI Special
Sent: October 12, 2005
Subject: RE: GI Special 3C78: "Three More Sides To Fill"

Hello from a wet and windy Edinburgh, Scotland.

I was particularly interested in the GI Special 3C78 which had a piece about the FBI:

Whitehurst says his respect for authority began to disintegrate in Vietnam and was destroyed during his subsequent career as an FBI chemist, which ended when he exposed corruption and malpractice in, among other investigations, the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

The uber-patriot became one of America's most celebrated whistleblowers. "The FBI HQ is like something out of an old movie about the Soviet Union," he wrote afterwards. "Everybody is terrified to breathe."

The FBI under J Edgar Hoover ran a programme for many years called COINTELPRO (COunter INTElligence PROgramme) which destroyed the careers of many people including that of the 60's actress Jean Seberg who was popular on both sides of the Atlantic.

**I wrote a piece about her demise by Hoover and thought you might like to see it:
<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/london/2005/03/306991.html>**

Best wishes from Scotland,

Paul O'Hanlon
(Edinburgh Stop the War)

Young Chickenhawks

From: JL
To: GI Special
Sent: October 13, 2005
Subject: The Young Chickenhawks

Dear GI Special,

Thought you might be interested in a survey taken by The Nation.

"The Young Chickenhawks" by Clarisse Profilet
http://www.thenation.com/doc/20051031/the_young_chickenhawks

Both YAF and College Republicans have staged prowar demonstrations on college campuses across the country. Prior to the invasion of Iraq, the College Republican National Committee released a statement proclaiming, "As our troops prepare for battle, the College Republican National Committee and its 100,000 members are prepared to show the world that the majority of students support the efforts of the president and our troops to liberate the people of Iraq and to rid the world of this murderous dictator and his weapons of mass destruction."

The CRNC's website praises George W. Bush for "defending the peace by taking the fight to the terrorists."

"The even more zealous YAFers have made it clear that they not only support the war but are openly hostile to those who oppose it. Their rowdy prowar rallies have attracted plenty of press.

In March 2003, CBS news reported on a YAF event held in Minnesota at which the chapter's executive director Chris Hill had strong words for antiwar activists: "The top of the antiwar movement is led by communists, and I will call them that," he said. "Unlike these communists, we have truth on our side.... We say to those who oppose this war, Go to France."

Hill's YAF chapter has also publicly denigrated antiwar demonstrators as "cowards." All of this raises the question: If opponents of the war should go to France, shouldn't Hill--and other members of YAF and College Republicans--go to Iraq? In response to a query by The Nation about whether any leaders have volunteered to fight the war in Iraq, Shauna Moser, the chairman of Penn State YAF, said only that information on YAF officials could be found with a simple "search in a search engine."

"Indeed, YAF chairman Erik Johnson, vice chairman Darren Marks and fourteen other national officials have posted brief autobiographies on YAF's website. According to these bios, not one of them has served in the military or has any intention to do so in the future.

"When The Nation queried the College Republicans about the military record of its senior officers, it received a similar reaction. And none of these board members--the controversial chairman Paul Gourley and officers Jess Beeson, Nathaniel Harding, Britton Alexander, Dan Schuberth and Tom Robins--boast any military experience. Their posted bios do not refer to any past, present or future military service, though they do describe in detail the postgraduate work and political aspirations of these young right-wingers. "

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