

GI SPECIAL 3C84:

HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR? BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



Relatives and family friends look on as soldiers carry the coffin of Lt. Carlos Diaz up the steps from his family home, at the start of his funeral in his hometown of Yauco, Puerto Rico, Aug. 31, 2005. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

Soldier's Mom Says: "They Are All Liars To Me And I Don't Trust Anyone Of Them"

From: D, Wounded Iraq Soldier's Mom

To: GI Special

Sent: October 15, 2005

Subject: Re: GI Special 3C83: "I Definitely Felt Betrayed"

I know how the soldier feels that feels betrayed.

I can't believe this war. Bush said it was over one year ago and they are still coming home wounded and dead.

I bet the American people will not vote Republican again next time - and I am republican but I fell betrayed the way Bush and company lied to the American people - and Clinton sold us out and I can't stand to see Bush Daddy and Clinton together.

They are all liars to me and I don't trust anyone of them. [You got that right. T]

We will see new faces and I hope it isn't Hillary's - anyway I will get off my soap box.

I read the info Debbie Clark wrote. She really works on her part far beyond what anyone else could do - she has been a great support system for my son in the Atlanta area.

He is going to the PTSD classes. He went 2 wks, and then they canceled due to not enough in the classes he is in with Nam Vets and they will resume next year and I heard that the classes were the best this side of the south: well they are wrong again.

Update on my son: he will be having surgery - it has taken letters, calls, to get things going at the VA - but I think of all the ones that don't have a support system that fall through the cracks and then you have all these groups saying there are no homeless Vets but there are in every city, town, country roads, there are homeless Vets that don't get what they deserve.

I have seen it.

Thanks for all your hard work you do.

REPLY: Compared to the struggle you go through every day, and how hard you fight for your son and the other soldiers, GI Special is a vacation trip to Hawaii. Your courage, your determination, and your fierce commitment to getting justice are an inspiration. T

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Patrol Attack At Ramadi; Casualties Not Announced

October 15, 2005 The Associated Press & Reuters

Insurgents attacked a U.S. military patrol in central Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, and fired six mortar rounds at a sports hall being used as a polling center, said police 1st Lt. Mohammed Al-Obaidi.

Witnesses said clashes involving mortars, rockets and machine gunfire were ongoing between U.S. and Iraqi army with insurgents in parts of the Ramadi province.

“The Referendum Here Is Fundamentally An American Military Operation” “The Fight Will Continue Against The Americans, Whether We Vote Yes Or No”

"The Americans are stuck in the middle of the mud, and they're trying to keep their face clean," added Abdel-Wahid.

"There's no stability. The government has no sovereignty," said Mohammed Ahmed, a 38-year-old accountant at Balad General Hospital, who sat with friends this week. "Only the Humvees and the tanks control the situation."

"A government minister can't do anything," said his colleague, Ahmed Marai, 35. "Even an American sergeant could kick him in the rear, and he couldn't do anything."

October 14, 2005 By Steve Fainaru and Anthony Shadid, The Washington Post

BALAD, Iraq, Oct. 13 -- In a dusty room of Qadriya Elementary School, Lt. Col. Jody L. Petery delivered his message: Sunni Arabs should cast their votes Saturday in a referendum on Iraq's proposed constitution. His skeptical audience had other concerns.

The principal whose school would serve as a polling station accused Petery's forces of detaining innocent civilians. A 13-year-old girl, dressed in a denim skirt, asked why there was no electricity or water in her town. The questions and criticisms multiplied: lawlessness, too few schools, unpaved roads and, in particular, the unrelenting violence that has come to order people's lives.

As Petery was pelted with complaints, his heavily armed men chatted outside in the sunbaked courtyard. Then, out of nowhere, a palm-size rock sailed through the air and struck a battalion sergeant major in the shoulder.

Unfazed by the commotion that ensued, Petery stayed on message: "Have faith," he told the Iraqis. [They do. In the resistance fighting a foreign occupation.]

Many Sunnis here said they would turn out to reject the charter as a way of registering their anger at the American military presence; they vowed that the insurgency would go on, whatever the result.

"The fight will continue against the Americans, whether we vote yes or no," said Ahmed Mishhin, a 26-year-old physician from Ishaqi, a restive Sunni Arab town near Balad. His colleague, Sami Hassoun Ali, interrupted. "The constitution will only be ink on paper," he said.

Despite U.S. efforts to put an Iraqi face on the campaign, the referendum here is fundamentally an American military operation. More than three dozen polling stations in Balad and nearby towns are secured by two-story concrete barriers, built at a nearby U.S. base at a cost of \$800,000 and painstakingly installed by American troops. The 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, the unit responsible for security in the area, has mapped out Operation Warpaint Delaware in hour-by-hour detail.

At a planning meeting this week, Petery cautioned his men: "If there is a picture taken of our soldiers near a ballot, we're in failure criteria. **The big conspiracy theory is that this is a U.S.-run election, so don't feed that theory.**" [Hello? The reporter just blew the whole bullshit show out of the water. **"Despite U.S. efforts to put an Iraqi face on the campaign, the referendum here is fundamentally an American military operation."** Duh. Nobody, but nobody, is fooled.]

But in the eyes of many Balad Sunnis, the dominance of the Americans in the process is unquestionable. "The Americans want the constitution approved," said Sinan Abdel-Wahid, a 35-year-old physician from Thuluyah. "If they want it to pass, regardless of what we do, they will pass it."

"The Americans want to say we're making a democratic country, a new government, a constitution. They want to say this to their people. They want to showcase their success," said Ali, the doctor.

"The Americans are stuck in the middle of the mud, and they're trying to keep their face clean," added Abdel-Wahid.

"I'm going to be very sad on the day of the referendum," said Awad Mudhir, a 35-year-old resident of Thuluyah. "I will consider it the first day of Iraq's partition." He shook his head. "My sense is that there's no hope after that."

"There's no stability. The government has no sovereignty," said Mohammed Ahmed, a 38-year-old accountant at Balad General Hospital, who sat with friends this week. "Only the Humvees and the tanks control the situation."

"A government minister can't do anything," said his colleague, Ahmed Marai, 35. "Even an American sergeant could kick him in the rear, and he couldn't do anything."

The men thumbed their worry beads, forgoing tea as they adhered to the dawn-to-dusk fast of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. "What kind of sovereignty is it that dogs sniff our bags when we pass through checkpoints?" Ahmed asked.

Why would they still vote? they were asked.

"So that history can witness that we said no," Marai answered.

One morning this week, a company of American troops arrived in Ishaqi, a garbage-strewn Sunni Arab town near Balad where U.S. forces routinely come under attack. The aim of the operation was to sweep Ishaqi of insurgents ahead of Saturday's vote, which was to be held in a downtown school.

Iraqis were to take the lead, but the Americans arrived unannounced out of concern, U.S. commanders said, that insurgents had infiltrated army and police units.

Once the operation began, the town was sealed off; no one was allowed in or out until the Iraqi soldiers, instructed by the Americans, had searched every block, a process that took about three hours. Residents trying to exit Ishaqi were stopped by U.S. soldiers holding M-16 assault rifles. Also blocking their path was a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, its heavy machine gun pointed at the city.

Capt. Jake Dalton, 28, a good-natured West Point graduate from Topeka, Kan., ordered the Iraqi forces to search a wide sandstone house. Knocking on the steel gate, American and Iraqi troops swept into a courtyard where two small girls were playing. One burst into tears and cowered, terrified, behind a tree. The Americans instructed the Iraqi soldiers to gather the rest of the family, all women and children, in one downstairs room while searching the rest of the house.

"They usually respond much better to Iraqi forces coming in," Dalton said.

His uniform drenched with sweat beneath his bulletproof vest, Dalton moved farther down the street, cheerfully greeting children and shopkeepers who stood by tentatively in the blistering heat. "How's it going there, partner?" he said to a boy holding a toy cell phone. He asked some of the Iraqi men whether they planned to vote and where.

"Al-Amil will be good to vote," Dalton assured one man who said he planned to cast his ballot at a polling site near Ishaqi that had been bombed the night before.

"There are people who see the Americans saying go vote, and they'll refuse to vote just for that reason," Mishhin, the doctor from Ishaqi, said the next day. "One-third of the people will refuse to vote simply because the Americans told them to."

The face of the American occupation is most aggressive in Sunni Arab towns and cities like Ishaqi, where insurgents blend seamlessly into the sympathetic populace and raids, arrests and clashes are commonplace. Two years on, the resentments have gained their own momentum, deepening a divide that seems unbridgeable, regardless of intentions. For Sunnis, the fight here is often cast in

existential terms: Whatever their pledges, the Americans are determined to deprive the Sunnis of their wealth, power and dignity.

"Here, they only hate the Americans," said Latif Feisal Jannabi, 28, a tribal leader with a degree in English. "Really, when I see them, I get angry. They killed my relatives, arrested my friends, and they destroyed our ambitions. Iraq is the best in the entire world -- in my eyes, at least -- and the Americans have destroyed everything."

Last week, Jannabi's cousin, 22-year-old Ahmed Samarrai, was arrested in his village of Aziz al-Balad and, Jannabi believes, sent to Tikrit. Since 2003, U.S. forces have detained, then released, six of his eight brothers, he said. Jannabi estimated that more than 300 of the village's 3,000 residents have spent at least some time in jail.

"We'll continue to live with our problems: kill or be killed," he said.

U.S. commanders said they consider the village to be a locus of insurgent activity in the Balad area. [Only about 314 others in the immediate neighborhood.]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“More Than One Soldier Grumbles This Mission Is Pointless”

[Thanks to Don Bacon, Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

"It's frustrating," says 2nd Lieutenant Ben Wisnioski of Rocky Hill, Conn. "It's like Vietnam, or the French in Algeria. We have the ability to beat these guys militarily, but they won't come out and fight us."

October 13, 2005 By Scott Baldauf, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

KATA SHANG, AFGHANISTAN – For the past three days, the men of the 82nd Airborne's Charlie Company have been chasing ghosts.

Every time they fly into a valley in Chinook helicopters, the Taliban flee at the thumping sound of the rotors.

Every time they walk into a village, Taliban radios crackle with news of their arrival. It's frustrating, and more than one soldier grumbles this mission is "pointless."

"It's frustrating," says 2nd Lieutenant Ben Wisnioski of Rocky Hill, Conn. "It's like Vietnam, or the French in Algeria. We have the ability to beat these guys militarily, but they won't come out and fight us."

It's not that these men are itching to pull their triggers.

But nobody wants to feel like they are wasting their time, particularly in a largely forgotten war where more than 80 US soldiers have been killed in the past six months alone. These men simply want to feel they're making a difference here.

The past four days of this mission have been grueling. Yet most men of the Charlie Company work without complaint. Walking up mountains beats sitting around a garrison all day, these men say.

But knowing that the Taliban are so close, refusing to fight, still eats them up inside.

In the village of Kata Shang, village elder Abdul Bare tells the Americans that he's happy to see them. The Taliban never come to this village, he says. "OK," the elder alters his story a bit, "sometimes the Taliban do come to this village. But they just pass through town. They don't talk with us."

Just a few houses away, ANA soldiers discover 100 rounds of Kalashnikov ammunition, even though none of the villagers has a gun. The owner of the house says the ammo is old, probably from the time of the Soviet occupation. But it's visibly shiny, not even tarnished by one season in the elements.

In the next village, the men take a break in the shade of pomegranate trees and wait for the heat of the day to pass before they press on to their final objective of the day: the village of Spitut.

All along the way, the Taliban play mind games. They get on their radios, knowing that the Americans are listening, and boasting, "we are on the hilltops above them, we can see them, I have an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade)." The Americans used to chase up the hills when they heard such chatter; now they ignore it.

TROOP NEWS

“They Don't Want Us Here, And I Don't Blame Them”

October 14, 2005 By Tony Perry, L.A. Times Staff Writer, [Excerpt]

First comes Saturday's premiere on the Discovery Channel of the second season of "Off to War: The Story of the Arkansas National Guard's Journey to Iraq."

With nearly half of the U.S. troops in Iraq coming from the National Guard and Reserves, "Off to War" has front-page timeliness. In the first nine months of this year, 220 guards and reservists have been killed; almost 500 in all since the U.S. moved to topple Saddam Hussein.

Filmmaking brothers Brent and Craig Renaud have focused on 57 members of the Arkansas National Guard and the families they left behind in rural Clarksville. The result is a realism that is candid and even painful at times to watch.

Some of the Guardsmen believe in the U.S. mission in Iraq. Others do not. None appears to have any faith in the Iraqi army.

"I don't think these people appreciate anything we're doing," Spc. Matt Hertlein says of the Iraqis. "They just want to watch us die. It makes me sick." Spc. Thomas Erp is equally bleak: "They stare at you with those blank faces and empty eyes. They don't want us here, and I don't blame them."

Hovering over the troops and their families is a vague sense of having been tricked by a bait-and-switch scheme. Most never realized that part-time duty in the National Guard could morph into full-time deployment.

Norway's Coalition To Pull Troops From Iraq

October 14, 2005 International Herald Tribune

The left-leaning coalition preparing to form Norway's next government said that it planned to withdraw Norwegian troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“How Many Wounded Or Dead Soldiers Will It Take For The Army To See That It Made A Mistake?”

Letters To The Editor
10.17.05
Army Times

I got the Army Combat Uniform while stationed in Germany. Soon after, I wore the new “all environment” uniform to the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course at Fort Sill, Okla.

During our field training exercise at Camp Eagle, we conducted force-on-force missions in the varying environments that Fort Sill offers — woodland and desertlike environments.

During each mission, no matter how much I tried to camouflage myself, the “enemy” picked me out of the background and opened fire. I “died” every time simply because I failed to blend in.

What will happen to my soldiers in future battles when we must once again blend in to our environment? How many wounded or dead soldiers will it take for the Army to see that it made a mistake?

No uniform can blend into all environments, which is why we have the battle dress uniform and the desert camouflage uniform. It makes sense.

If it's because of money, then raise my taxes or I will buy my uniforms myself to keep me concealed.

The beret is a nuisance; the ACU is just dangerous.

I beg the Army to just suck up the loss and find us a decent uniform.

The tailoring of the uniform is superb, but the pattern and the Velcro need to go.

The entire time in BNCOC I had fellow staff sergeants rip off my patches and name tapes as a joke. What will Joes do? How much will I have to pay for new tapes and patches that are lost in the field, or to pranksters?

Please fix this.

Staff Sgt. Mark T. Hurning
Giessen, Germany

“A Very Young Man Has Died”

October 13, 2005 JUSTIN GEORGE, St. Petersburg Times.

TAMPA - The funeral Mass for Army Pfc. Roberto "Robert" Baez was almost entirely in Spanish.

The memorial program depicted a gleaming Liberty Bell above an American flag. It, too, was printed in Spanish.

Born: 30 de Octubre 1985. Queens, New York.

Died: 3 de Octubre 2005. Iraq.

Baez, 19, was killed in Iraq after an explosion leveled his Humvee.

The Mass Wednesday at Incarnation Catholic Church, attended by 30 family members and friends, recalled Baez's sacrifice in a war that has cut deeply across the nation, stealing sons and daughters from heartland farm towns to Tampa's Dominican community.

Baez's father, Carlos, who works for an airport caterer, and his mother, Jeannette Carrasco, a teacher's aide, came from the Dominican Republic.

They had hoped their youngest son would study psychiatry after the Army.

From Florida, 103 have died, including 12 from Hillsborough, three from Pinellas, three from Pasco and two from Citrus counties, according to a Times analysis of Defense Department information.

Uniformed members of the 260th Quartermaster Battalion from Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., wheeled Baez's casket in and out of the church.

Sgt. Michael Peagler carried a folded American flag for Carrasco, who leaned heavily on her husband, Carlos Baez.

In the pews sat Maj. Gen. Bill Caldwell, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, N.C., where Baez was based. .

In the past 10 days, Caldwell's division has lost eight paratroopers in Afghanistan and Iraq, he said.

They were from North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Maryland, Ohio and Louisiana.

Vermont Private Accused Of Deserting

10.17.05 Army Times

Pvt. Robert J. Hardina Jr.'s wife says he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and needed treatment when he came home from Kuwait in April.

Vermont National Guard officials contend they told Hardina he had to be evaluated by military doctors at Fort Drum, N.Y., but he twice refused to go.

Hardina, 37, is the second Vermont Guard soldier in the past two years to be accused of deserting, Guard spokeswoman Lt. Veronica Saffo said. She declined to name the other Guard soldier, who is still missing.

Rutland police arrested Hardina at his home Oct. 3, and he was to be moved to Fort Dix, N.J., The Associated Press reported.

Heather Hardina said her husband has served about five years with the Guard. He was called up in November and served in Kuwait before coming home on leave in April.

Ordered To Deploy, Reserve Soldier Burns Down Church

10.17.05 Army Times

An Army Reserve soldier who told investigators he was angry with God stands accused of starting a fire that destroyed a southern Ohio church, according to The Associated Press.

Authorities said Spc. Shane Mills, 20, of Chillicothe, Ohio, confessed to starting the fire that burned down a 200-year-old church in July and another that damaged a nearby church Aug. 1.

Fort McCoy, Wis., officials said Mills reported for pre-deployment training there Aug. 9 and was assigned to the 376th Finance Battalion at the time of his arrest.

Army Cuts Recruiting Standards Again

October 14, 2005 By Tony Perry, L. A. Times Staff Writer

To aid in its recruitment program, the Army announced last week that it had increased from 2% to 4% the percentage of recruits it would accept who score near the bottom of the military aptitude test, so-called Category IV recruits."

Also, Army officials said they were lowering from 67% to 60% the Army's goal for signing recruits who scored in the top half on the aptitude test.

“Religious” Assholes Want Soldier Flogged For A Kiss

10.17.05 Army Times

An Indonesian soldier who passionately kissed his girlfriend goodbye as he was boarding a military ship has prompted apologies from military officials because public displays of affection are frowned upon in the Muslim province of Aceh.

About 2,500 troops were leaving Aceh under a peace agreement with rebels when the soldier bussed his sweetie, a tender moment that unfortunately for him was photographed and widely distributed, leading to calls that he be flogged for what some Muslims consider an adulterous act.

The soldier escaped the lash, but he did receive a reprimand.

Indonesia's military commander, Maj. Gen. Supiadin Adisaputra, apologized to the Achnese for the offense, which a military spokesman called “a spontaneous act committed by two lovers.” **[Disgusting. What a capitulation to ignorance. Of course, the Pentagon also punishes troops for having sex with each other. The same kind of vicious superstitious fanaticism is a very large problem right here in the USA too.]**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“This Constitution Was Written By The Occupation And Will Never Change Anything In The Country, Lt. Col. Amir Abdul Karim Said”

"There can be no democracy if it arrives on tanks, and children and women are killed every day."

15 October 2005 Aljazeera & By John Ward Anderson and Jonathan Finer, The Washington Post & October 14, 2005 IslamOnline.net

No matter how Iraqis reacted to the draft constitution as they voted, the document touched off a furious debate about issues as central to democracy as religion and state, national identity and women's rights.

"This is not democracy," Youssef Ibrahim al-Shimiri, 76, a retired male nurse said after voting "no" in a mostly Sunni Arab area of Baghdad.

"There can be no democracy if it arrives on tanks, and children and women are killed every day," he said, referring to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Many Iraqis emerging from the polling centres indicated that they had not even read the draft constitution that was distributed across Iraq.

"The government can't just sew together an outfit and dress the people up by force. We do not see ourselves or see our future in this draft. The Shia and Kurdish authorities who drafted it are promoting their own interests, not those of all Iraqis," said Gazwan Abdul Sattar, 27, a Sunni Arab teacher voting in the northern city of Mosul.

In Tikrit, the home town of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, about 20 Iraqi policemen were the first to vote at a polling station they were responsible for protecting.

"This constitution was written by the occupation and will never change anything in the country," police Lt. Col. Amir Abdul Karim said, explaining his no vote.

Elsewhere in town, Iraqi Army Lt. Mahmoud Nadhum urged his colleagues to reject the charter "because it calls for separation and sectarianism," he explained to a reporter. "We don't want this constitution because we want a unified Iraq."

In Kirkuk, about 150 miles north of the capital, turnout was divided early in the day, with large numbers of voters casting ballots in the Kurdish areas of the city, and polling stations nearly empty in its Arab and Turkoman neighborhoods.

At the Kindi polling station, where voters lined up long before opening in January parliamentary elections, no one had cast a ballot in the first 45 minutes of voting on Saturday, elections officials at the center said. The streets outside were empty except for military patrols and checkpoints.

In Sulaymaniyah, in northern Iraq, turnout was light in the first hours of voting. At the Kanes Kan elementary school polling center, only four people waited in line to vote around 8:30 a.m.

"I do not see the point in voting," Suad Abdul Kader, a mother of two and an English teacher at Baghdad's Mustansiriya University, told Reuters.

"I don't see that this process of politics, or whatever they call it, has brought very much.

"Sometimes I think they have these things, like the election and the referendum, just so they can say they have happened, but then nothing changes," she added.

There were little signs of voting in the Baghdad districts of al-Ghazaliya, al-Mansur, al-Amiriya and Dora.

Iraqi journalist Muhammad Abd al-Rahman told Aljazeera that in Hiyt, in western al-Anbar, some residents did not know where the polling centres were.

Assorted Resistance Action

October 15, 2005 The Associated Press & Aljazeera

A roadside bomb exploded in western Baghdad near a school that had just opened its doors, wounding two policemen, said police Lt. Mohammed Kheyon. No voters had shown up yet, he said.

BAQUBA - Three Iraqi soldiers were killed and three wounded when their convoy was targeted by a roadside bomb near the Iranian border, 80 km (50 miles) east of Baquba, police in Baquba said.

LATIFIYA - Three Iraqi soldiers were killed and two wounded when mortars landed overnight on their checkpoint near Latifiya, south of Baghdad, a police source said.

BAGHDAD - Tight security was not enough to stop a roadside bomb from exploding on al-Madhif street in al-Amiriya area, targeting an Iraqi police patrol stationed near a polling centre.

Two police officers were seriously injured and a police vehicle was damaged, Khalid told Aljazeera.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

What Can We Do?

One thing I learned is that the Dems who say they're anti-war, when you go their websites, they're pro-war. Barack Obama is an example, Lynn Woolsey is another. And then there are Biden, Lieberman, Kerry and Clinton who are out-bushing Bush. So 2006 looks like a pure tactical contest, and 2008 a remake of 2004.

From: Don Bacon" smedleybutlersociety@msn.com
To: GI Special

Sent: October 14, 2005
Subject: Politicians Stink

The President's poll numbers are tanking, the majority of Americans are saying "out of Iraq ASAP," BUT the politicians on both sides of the aisles have dug in their heels.

The Repubs don't want to appear disloyal, and the Dems don't want to appear 'weak on defense.'

The Dem 'Out of Iraq Caucus' is just for photo-ops, and the Progressive Democrats for America (pdamerica.org) are just going through the motions. The 'smart money' is on the war, which is the corporate money, the lifeblood of politicians -- the people (and soldiers) be damned.

I've managed to make myself persona non grata at several Dem blog sites -- they're in bed with the party, which is pro-war. They're not concerned with people or principles, only with party. They don't want to hear the bad stuff.

One thing I learned is that the Dems who say they're anti-war, when you go their websites, they're pro-war. Barack Obama is an example, Lynn Woolsey is another. And then there are Biden, Lieberman, Kerry and Clinton who are out-bushing Bush. So 2006 looks like a pure tactical contest, and 2008 a remake of 2004.

I guess what I'm saying is that we need a new way to get to the politicians, and I don't know what it is. 'Congressman Special?'

Edward Abbey: "What's the difference between a whore and a congressman? A congressman makes more money."

T, I've put a lot of time into this, and you've put in more. and a lot has been accomplished, also with thanks to Cindy, but these politicians aren't getting it.

I don't have the answer, I don't know if anyone does.

Just had to get this 'off my chest.'

REPLY:

They Stopped A War

Maybe its time for civilians and veterans to start talking to the people who can stop a war. Did it before, can do it again. Honor and respect to Stan Goff, who has expressed this theme, but then, surprise, he spent most of his life in the U.S. Army.

Instead of pretending fakers like Woolsey and the rest of the politicians give a shit, and pissing away time and energy whining and begging in their offices, reach

out to the troops. Every part of the USA has its guard and reserve locations within reach, and some have regular armed forces bases nearby.

The refusal of the self-appointed garbage running the various pieces of the “anti-war” movement to call for and help organize reaching out to the bases here in the USA and abroad is nothing but whoring for Bush and treason to the troops. Too strong? OK; how about cowardice in the face of the enemy?

T

Check this out:

THE SUCCESSFUL ANTI-WAR REBELLION OF THE ARMED FORCES

Excerpts from an article by Col. Robert D. Heintz, Jr., North American Newspaper Alliance, Armed Forces Journal, 7 June, 1971

THE MORALE, DISCIPLINE and battleworthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at anytime in this century and possibly in the history of the United States.

By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous.

Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious.

To understand the military consequences of what is happening to the U.S. Armed Forces, Vietnam is a good place to start. It is in Vietnam that the rearguard of a 500,000 man army, in its day and in the observation of the writer the best army the United States ever put into the field, is numbly extricating itself from a nightmare war the Armed Forces feel they had foisted on them by bright civilians who are now back on campus writing books about the folly of it all.

"They have set up separate companies," writes an American soldier from Cu Chi, quoted in the New York Times, "for men who refuse to go into the field. Is no big thing to refuse to go. If a man is ordered to go to such and such a place he no longer goes through the hassle of refusing; he just packs his shirt and goes to visit some buddies at another base camp. Operations have become incredibly ragtag. Many guys don't even put on their uniforms any more... The American garrison on the larger bases are virtually disarmed. The lifers have taken our weapons from us and put them under lock and key...There have also been quite a few frag incidents in the battalion."

"Frag incidents" or just "fragging" is current soldier slang in Vietnam for the murder or attempted murder of strict, unpopular, or just aggressive officers and NCOs. With extreme reluctance (after a young West Pointer from Senator Mike Mansfield's Montana was fragged in his sleep) the Pentagon has now disclosed that fraggings in 1970(109) have more than doubled those of the previous year (96).

Word of the deaths of officers will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units.

In one such division -- the morale plagued Americal -- fraggings during 1971 have been authoritatively estimated to be running about one a week.

Yet fraggings, though hard to document, form part of the ugly lore of every war. The first such verified incident known to have taken place occurred 190 years ago when Pennsylvania soldiers in the Continental Army killed one of their captains during the night of 1 January 1781.

Bounties, raised by common subscription in amounts running anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000, have been widely reported put on the heads of leaders whom the privates and Sp4s want to rub out.

Shortly after the costly assault on Hamburger Hill in mid-1969, the GI underground newspaper in Vietnam, "G.I. Says", publicly offered a \$10,000 bounty on Lt. Col. Weldon Honeycutt, the officer who ordered (and led) the attack. Despite several attempts, however, Honeycutt managed to live out his tour and return Stateside.

"Another Hamburger Hill," (i.e., toughly contested assault), conceded a veteran major, is definitely out."

The issue of "combat refusal", and official euphemism for disobedience of orders to fight -- the soldier's gravest crime -- has only recently been again precipitated on the frontier of Laos **by Troop B, 1st Cavalry's mass refusal to recapture their captain's command vehicle containing communication gear, codes and other secret operation orders.**

As early as mid-1969, however, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publicly sat down on the battlefield. Later that year, another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused -- on CBS-TV -- to advance down a dangerous trail.

While denying further unit refusals the Air Cav has admitted some 35 individual refusals in 1970 alone. By comparison, only two years earlier in 1968, the entire number of officially recorded refusals for our whole army in Vietnam -- from over seven divisions - was 68.

"Search and evade" (meaning tacit avoidance of combat by units in the field) is now virtually a principle of war, vividly expressed by the GI phrase, "CYA (cover your ass) and get home!"

That "search-and-evade" has not gone unnoticed by the enemy is underscored by the Viet Cong delegation's recent statement at the Paris Peace Talks that communist units in Indochina have been ordered not to engage American units which do not molest them. The same statement boasted - not without foundation in fact - that American defectors are in the VC ranks.

Symbolic anti-war fasts (such as the one at Pleiku where an entire medical unit, led by its officers, refused Thanksgiving turkey), peace symbols, "V"-signs not for victory but for peace, booing and cursing of officers and even of hapless entertainers such as Bob Hope, are unhappily commonplace.

Only last year an Air Force major and command pilot for Ambassador Bunker was apprehended at Ton Son Nhut air base outside Saigon with \$8 million worth of heroin in his aircraft. The major is now in Leavenworth.

Early this year, an Air force regular colonel was court-martialed and cashiered for leading his squadron in pot parties, while, at Cam Ranh Air Force Base, 43 members of the base security police squadron were recently swept up in dragnet narcotics raids.

All the foregoing facts – and mean more dire indicators of the worse kind of military trouble – point to widespread conditions among American forces in Vietnam that have only been exceeded in this century by the French Army's Nivelle mutinies of 1917 and the collapse of the Tsarist armies in 1916 and 1917.

Sedition – coupled with disaffection within the ranks, and externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable – infests the Armed Services:

At best count, there appear to be some 144 underground newspapers published on or aimed at U.S. military bases in this country and overseas. Since 1970 the number of such sheets has increased 40% (up from 103 last fall). **These journals are not mere gripe-sheets that poke soldier fun in the "Beetle Bailey" tradition, at the brass and the sergeants. "In Vietnam," writes the Ft Lewis-McChord Free Press, "the Lifers, the Brass, are the true Enemy, not the enemy." Another West Coast sheet advises readers: "Don't desert. Go to Vietnam and kill your commanding officer."**

At least 14 GI dissent organizations (including two made up exclusively of officers) now operate more or less openly. Ancillary to these are at least six antiwar veterans' groups which strive to influence GIs.

Three well-established lawyer groups specialize in support of GI dissent. Two (GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee and new York Draft and Military Law Panel) operate in the open. A third is a semi-underground network of lawyers who can only be contacted through the GI Alliance, a Washington, D.C., group which tries to coordinate seditious antimilitary activities throughout the country.

One antimilitary legal effort operates right in the theater of war. A three-man law office, backed by the Lawyers' Military Defense Committee, of Cambridge, Mass., was set up last fall in Saigon to provide free civilian legal services for dissident soldiers being court-martialed in Vietnam.

Besides these lawyers' fronts, the Pacific Counseling Service (an umbrella organization with Unitarian backing for a profusion of antimilitary activities) provides legal help and incitement to dissident GIs through not one but seven branches (Tacoma, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Monterey, Tokyo, and Okinawa).

Another of Pacific Counseling's activities is to air-drop payloads of sedition literature into Oakland's sprawling Army Base, our major West Coast staging point for Vietnam

On the religious front, a community of turbulent priests and clergymen, some unfrocked, calls itself the Order of Maximilian. Maximilian is a saint said to have been martyred by the Romans for refusing military service as un-Christian. Maximilian's present-day followers visit military posts, infiltrate brigades and stockades in the guise of spiritual counseling, work to recruit military chaplains, and hold services of "consecrations" of post chapels in the name of their saintly draft-dodger.

By present count at least 11 (some go as high as 26) off-base antiwar "coffee houses" ply GIs with rock music, lukewarm coffee, antiwar literature, how-to-do-it tips on desertion, and similar disruptive counsels. Among the best-known coffee houses are: The Shelter Half (Ft Lewis, Wash.); The Home Front (Ft Carson, Colo.); and The Oleo Strut (Ft Hood, Tex.).

Virtually all the coffee houses are or have been supported by the U.S. Serviceman's Fund, whose offices are in New York City's Bronx.

While refusing to divulge names, IRS sources say that the serviceman's Fund has been largely bankrolled by well-to-do liberals. One example of this kind of liberal support for sedition which did surface identifiably last year was the \$8,500 nut channeled from the Philip Stern Family Foundation to underwrite Seaman Roger Priest's underground paper OM, which, among other writings, ran do-it-yourself advice for desertion to Canada and advocated assassination of President Nixon.

"Entertainment Industry for Peace and Justice," the antiwar show-biz front organized by Jane Fonda, Dick Gregory, and Dalton Trumbo, now claims over 800 film, TV, and music names. This organization is backing Miss Fonda's antimilitary road-show that opened outside the gates of Ft. Bragg, N.C., in mid-March.

Describing her performances (scripted by Jules Pfeiffer) as the soldiers' alternative to Bob Hope, Miss Fonda says her case will repeat the Ft Bragg show at or outside 19 more major bases.

Freshman Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) runs a somewhat different kind of antimilitary production. As a Congressman, Dellums cannot be barred from military posts and has been taking full advantage of the fact. At Ft Meade, Md., last month, Dellums led a soldier audience as they booed and cursed their commanding officer who was present on-stage in the post theater which the Army had to make available.

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Occupation Political Stooges Looking Forward To Having Women Beaten By Husbands

October 15, 2005 By Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington Post Foreign Service

Female lawmakers from the governing Shiite religious parties talk with relish of establishing a husband's right to beat wives -- albeit subject to regulation. Female officials speak with approval of a woman in the southern city of Najaf who was denied a judgeship because of her sex.

The Occupation Follies Roll On: Centers Of Opposition To Occupation Constitution Not Allowed To Vote

Oct 15 (KUNA) & Reuters & October 14, 2005 Pepe Escobar Asia Times

The Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission declared Saturday that about 70 ballot stations have not opened in Anbar, western Iraq for security reasons.

Member of the commission, Hussein Al-Hindawi said that the commission did not receive confirmed reports on the number of the stations that have opened in Mosul in northern Iraq.

After polls opened elsewhere for a constitutional referendum, a Reuters reporter in Ramadi, 110 km (70 miles) west of Baghdad, saw no sign of polling stations being open.

Sheikh Jawad al-Khalessi, the imam of the Kazimiya mosque in Baghdad, said that the constitution "answers to American objectives, but not the aspirations of Iraqis". He personally called for a boycott, "but I know that George W Bush is already preparing his declaration on the success of the constitution".

MORE:

October 15, 2005 Riverbend, Baghdad burning. [Excerpt]

The referendum is only hours away and the final version of the constitution still hasn't reached many people.

Areas with a Sunni majority are complaining that there aren't polling stations for kilometers around- many of these people don't have cars and even if they did, what good would it do while there's a curfew until Sunday? Polling stations should be easily accessible in every area.

THIS IS NOT A SATIRE

10.15.05 By John Ward Anderson and Jonathan Finer, The Washington Post & Aljazeera

Despite vows that U.S. soldiers would maintain a low profile, U.S. Marine Humvees in Ramadi were blaring tape-recorded messages from loudspeakers urging people to vote from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The messages warned that any private vehicles and motorcycles spotted breaking the ban on travel in the streets would be shot at.

US warplanes were hovering over Ramadi city at low altitude.

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

Wow! Democracy!

Iraqis Got To Vote On “Constitution” That Doesn’t Exist Any More

Many people in Iraq have not even seen a copy of the draft constitution. And it went through so many published drafts no one really knows what still stands. The "official", UN-printed final draft - 5 million copies of which started to be distributed less than two weeks before the vote - is already history.

October 14, 2005 Pepe Escobar Asia Times

Iraqis desperately need security, electricity, water, food rations, health care, education, jobs. Instead they get a referendum on a constitution few of Iraq's theoretical 15.7 million voters have debated and fewer still have even seen.

Why?

Because the occupying power said so.

So forget about the real priorities needed to make life liveable. No constitution will be able to rule over a battlefield.

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So caught between resistance crossfire and yet one more US-imposed deadline, Iraqis are essentially voting for a ghost few have seen, and even if they have, it is not the genuine article: it will certainly be amended after a new parliament is elected on December 15.

***How Bad Is It:* Occupation Needs Subterfuge To Deliver Ballots**

October 14, 2005 Washington Times

Joint Iraqi and U.S. security forces foiled an attempt to ambush a truck delivering ballots,

A decoy convoy-disguised to look like it was carrying ballots from the Iraqi Electoral Commission and heavily armed with Iraqi forces-drew fire from resistance fighters hiding in a palm grove outside of Baqouba.

Unknown to the enemy, three ordinary pickup trucks carrying the real ballots already were delivering the precious cargo to the city of Muqtadiya, an hour's drive away.

Somebody Finally Noticed: **U.S. Command Caught In More Criminal Acts Against Iraqis**

October 15, 2005 Reuters

A United Nations human rights investigator has accused US and British forces in Iraq of breaching international law by depriving civilians of food and water in besieged cities as they try to flush out militants.

Jean Ziegler, who is UN special rapporteur on the right to food, said the Geneva Conventions banned military forces from using "starvation of civilians as a method of warfare".

He said that in Fallujah, Tal Afar and Samarra, Iraqi and US-led forces had cut off or restricted food and water to encourage residents to flee before assaults on entrenched Sunni insurgents over the past year.

"A drama is taking place in total silence in Iraq, where the coalition's occupying forces are using hunger and deprivation of water as a weapon of war against the civilian population," Mr Ziegler said.

Two 1977 protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which lay down rules of conduct in armed conflicts, ban using deprivation of food or water as a weapon of war.

They also prohibit destruction of food stocks or interruption of food supply lines.

Mr Ziegler said he hoped the General Assembly would "condemn this strategy of the coalition forces" when he presents his report on the right to food in New York on October 27. **[Don't hold your breath. The UN is nothing but the world assembly of the privileged elites from everywhere on earth. Since their own people go hungry, in every country, without exception, why should they give a shit about Iraqis?]**

Don't Like The Occupation On Your Roof? Go Back Where You Came From

10.17.05 Army Times

Iraqis hit ceiling as GIs take roofs

One problem with fighting a 2½-year insurgency in Iraq is that 25 million people happen to live in the crossfire.

Among the problems Iraqis have to deal with when living in the war zone is the phenomenon of American soldiers commandeering their rooftops, according to the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, a London-based nonprofit media group.

Rooftops in the Middle East tend to be flat with raised concrete walls that provide U.S. troops with good vantage points for surveillance or for cover. Troops occupy the roofs for a few minutes, sometimes for hours, occasionally for a day or more.

Along with roadblocks and power outages, rooftop GIs are a wartime hassle that Iraqis find more than a little irritating, IWPR reports. Iraqis often use their rooftops to dry laundry, and on hot summer nights rooftops are often the coolest spot for families to sleep during frequent power outages.

But American troops using rooftop vantage points usually order Iraqis to stay downstairs.

Many American patrols ask permission, but Iraqis don't feel they can turn down such requests, the report says. [Duh.]

In one instance last winter, a family's TV reception cut out, and the family's 10-year-old jokingly blamed it on Americans. Turns out the boy was right — when the father went up to investigate, he found a patrol of six American soldiers asleep while a seventh stood guard.

Welcome To The Free Press In Liberated Iraq: U.S. Major Rooker Says What Is “Permitted”

[Thanks to Marakuja who sent this in, and writes: Now, at last, Iraq has a free and independent media. "After decades of repression, new media outlets are popping

up all over Iraq, many of them funded by the U.S. Army...While the Army does not actively edit content, it does not allow its funded outlets to speak out...against coalition forces." I understand they don't allow supporting violence against coalition forces but hello! U.S. Army funded and no anti-U.S. media?

[Free my ass. Just like operation Iraqi Freedom. Free Iraq's oil. Free Iraqis from the blood in their veins. Free soldiers from their homes and their brains. And now a free media. Thank god for an independent media.]

October 05 , 2005 By Erik Slavin, Stars and Stripes Mideast edition

Iraq — Journalism in Saddam Hussein's Iraq amounted to little more than stenography. "Our mouths were closed for 35 years," said Maitham Hussain, owner of Balad Radio and the Al-Khardra newspaper.

With U.S. military aid, Hussain and other Iraqi journalists are attempting to create an independent media in a country that has little tradition of free speech and even less training on journalistic standards and principles.

Hussain's content could more aptly be described as "mostly free." Hussain and several other outlets take money disbursed through the U.S. Army. **While the Army does not actively edit content, it does not allow its funded outlets to speak out or incite violence against coalition forces.**

However, factual stories where the coalition makes a mistake are permitted, said Maj. Rob Rooker, 39, of Richmond Hill, Ga. [Hitler or Stalin would be proud of this kind of "sovereignty."]

Collaborator Forces Shoot Civilians, And Each Other

BAGHDAD - Four civilians were wounded when police opened fire near a referendum polling centre in the southwestern Amil district of Baghdad, a police source said.

The source said the police units had fired on each other.

BAGHDAD - Police said a woman was injured when Iraqi soldiers shot at a car in the western Ghazaliya district of Baghdad. They had suspected the car was carrying militants.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Bush Fucks Up Again: Using Soldiers As Military Wallpaper Flops

15 October 2005 By Maureen Dowd, The New York Times

On Thursday, again with weird and stilted body language, and an earpiece that kept falling out, W. held a teleconference and tried to use 10 American soldiers from the Army's 42nd Infantry Division in Tikrit and one Iraqi soldier as props to offer a more upbeat assessment of the security preparations for the weekend vote.

The surprise wasn't that it turned out to be rehearsed, although that angered some uniformed officers at the Pentagon who felt the troops were being politicized and used as military wallpaper.

If these brave young men and women can be trusted to carry guns and kill insurgents, these officers reasoned, why can't they be trusted to speak into a microphone without stage-managing and a rehearsal from a civilian Pentagon spin doctor?

The surprise was how inept the event was. The White House was always able to pull off these stagey, scripted events during the campaign and when selling the Iraq war.

It was hard to tell whom that teleconference was aimed at impressing - unless it was just meant to cheer up the edgy W. Instead, it just made him seem more lost than ever.

Each one praised the president, the war and the progress in training Iraqi troops. Most spoke in a dull monotone, as if reciting memorized words.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Class War In New Orleans

October 15, 2005 dennis kyne. [Excerpt]

Yesterday the Forest Park HUD Housing project held a protest and press release to address the forced eviction that property owners are pushing. It is unlawful, it is not even legal by HUD Standards.

Funny how these rules are only for the convenience of the money bags.

I was there, I can tell you it is a f_____ sham that the Mayor of this city told residents to come home, and when they got here they were welcomed with an owner authorized eviction notice. Even the local courthouse can't enforce this.

I went in to the project managers office and asked if I could rent a place. Two women said they needed to restore it, no body can rent, and the people are leaving. I asked why the renovation was happening now, considering that Algiers never flooded? Why would you rennovate after a non flood, when the people were here to work and do it before? Sounds like an Insurance scam to me.

They asked me if I was with the ACTIVISTS outside. Activists, I am white, they MUST have known I wasn't from the neighborhood. Categorized me. I said, "I am a relief worker looking for a place to sleep. I have been here six weeks and I need to find a home." They got upset with me and asked me to leave. They didn't know I am home, as an activist and relief worker, as a member of the human race, as a citizen of the world, that this is common ground.

I was standing with citizens of New Orleans who came home on the Mayors orders and got an eviction notice as the welcome home card.

I am reminded of something I learned on the battlefield, we are all in this together.

Algiers is the front line. Come feel it.

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.

Received:

Support For Petra; Loss Of Iraq Veteran Friend

From: Lietta & Arthur Ruger
Sent: October 15, 2005 10:49 AM
Subject: Support for Petra; loss of Iraq Veteran friend.

Dear all,

Petra in Arizona, MFSO, phoned me last night to report their friend died Wednesday of his burn wounds received in Iraq. Petra's husband recently returned home from his Iraq deployment, and M/Sgt Hunt was a close friend.

Petra has been several times to the hospital with M/Sgt Hunt's wife since July. I have received her phone calls, her tears, her utter sense of the horrific as she has described what she has witnessed at the hospital. I wouldn't presume to tell of her experiences, that is her own story to tell.

This is a difficult time for her and her husband just now, and supportive emails from MFSO friends would help her to know she is not alone. email PROesner@aol.com

Excerpt below was in GI Special today.

Lietta



Master Sgt. Kenneth Hunt Jr. died Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2005, of a cardiac arrest stemming from burns he suffered during combat in Iraq. Hunt, 40, a machine-gunner, sustained burns over 60 percent of his body July 24 when the vehicle he was riding in

struck an anti-tank mine. He died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. (AP Photo/Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma)

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

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

www.williambowles.info/gispecial,

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

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