

GI SPECIAL 3C91:



Tim Goodrich, right, an Air Force veteran and co-founder Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Army veteran John McNamara, left, await the arrival of the motorcade carrying President Bush in Simi Valley, Calif. Oct. 21, 2005. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon)

82% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Gone: 45% Want Them Dead

Oct 22, 2005 (Reuters) & The Sunday Telegraph (UK)

Forty-five percent of Iraqis believe attacks on U.S. and British troops are justified, according to a secret poll said to have been commissioned by British defense leaders and cited by The Sunday Telegraph.

[In case you're wondering, 45% is about 7 million Iraqis, if you subtract kids too young to bear arms. Seven million vs. 140,000 occupation troops. Do you like those odds? There is not the slightest hope of defeating the Iraqi resistance. There is only endless death in a war already lost commanded by Imperial politicians in Washington DC too cowardly and murderous to admit it. They must

all go, peacefully if possible, by any means necessary if not. Be aware, the patience of the troops is not inexhaustible, and as Vietnam showed, if the politicians won't end a hopeless, lost war, our troops will stop the slaughter by acting for themselves.]

Less than 1 percent of those polled believed that the forces were responsible for any improvement in security, according to poll figures.

Eighty-two percent of those polled said they were "strongly opposed" to the presence of the troops.

The paper said the poll, conducted in August by an Iraqi university research team, was commissioned by the Ministry of Defense.

The results come as it was disclosed yesterday that Lt Col Nick Henderson, the commanding officer of the Coldstream Guards in Basra, in charge of security for the region, has resigned from the Army.

He recently voiced concerns over a lack of armoured vehicles for his men, another of whom was killed in a bomb attack in Basra last week.

67 per cent of Iraqis feel less secure because of the occupation.

72 per cent do not have confidence in the multi-national forces.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

MARINE KILLED BY EXPLOSION NEAR HAQLANIYAH

October 22, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release 05-10-29C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action while conducting combat operations against the enemy when he was hit by an explosion in the vicinity of Haqlaniyah on Oct. 21.

TWO MARINES KILLED BY IED NEAR AL AMARIYAH

October 22, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release 05-10-30C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action while conducting combat operations against the enemy when their vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device near al Amariyah on Oct. 21.

**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers after a car bomb exploded in Baghdad August 14, 2005. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

Falluja Car Bomb Destroys Humvee: Casualties Not Announced

10.22.05 Reuters

FALLUJA - A car driven by a bomber exploded in central Falluja targeting a U.S. patrol in an attack that Iraqi police officer Saif Sami said had destroyed a Humvee. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military.

US Troops Fighting Losing Battles: “They Heard Nothing, They Saw Nothing, Same As Fucking Usual”

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

Lt Col Gary Brito, the battalion's commanding officer, said that in recent months the number of roadside bombs targeting his men had increased by a third - even though journeys out of base have been cut back. They are having a more devastating effect too.

"Before only two out of 10 used to be effective," he said. "Now four or five have a catastrophic effect, blowing away a vehicle or causing casualties." In the past few months at least four American soldiers in this battalion alone have been killed. Another 39 have been wounded.

22/10/2005 By Adrian Blomfield, Telegraph Group Limited & Reuters

Four U.S. contractors for the U.S. military were killed in Iraq last month, the military said on Saturday.

A military spokesman said the attack occurred on Sept. 20 when insurgents fired rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at a convoy guarded by U.S. troops after it made a wrong turn in Duluiya, near Balad north of Baghdad.

It had taken just one wrong turn for disaster to unfold.

Less than a mile from the base it was heading to, the convoy turned left instead of right and lumbered down one of the most anti-American streets in Iraq, a narrow bottleneck in Duluiya town, on a peninsular jutting into the Tigris river named after the Jibouri tribe that lives there.

As the lorries desperately tried to reverse out, dozens of Sunni Arab insurgents wielding rocket launchers and automatic rifles emerged from their homes.

They were almost certainly emboldened by the fact that the American soldiers escorting the convoy would not have been able to respond quickly enough.

"The hatches of the humvees were closed," said Capt Andrew Staples, a member of the Task Force Liberty 1-15 battalion that patrols Duluiya and other small towns on the eastern bank of the Tigris, who spoke to soldiers involved.

Within minutes, four American contractors, all employees of the Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root, the biggest U.S. military contractor in Iraq, were dead. The jubilant crowd dragged their corpses through the street, chanting anti-US slogans.

At least two of the men were dragged alive from their vehicle, which had been badly shot up, and forced to kneel in the road before being killed, it said.

"Killing one of the men with a rifle round fired into the back of his head, they doused the other with petrol and set him alight," the newspaper report said.

"Barefoot children, yelping in delight, piled straw on to the screaming man's body to stoke the flames."

An investigation has been launched into why the contractors were not better protected.

"Task Force Liberty soldiers responded to assist the convoy, administered first aid to two wounded contractors and evacuated the remains of four contractors killed in the attack," a military spokesman said in a statement.

No reason was given why the military had not released information on the attack earlier.

Perhaps fearful of public reaction in America, where support for the war is falling, US officials suppressed details of the Sept 20 attack, which bore a striking resemblance to the murder of four other contractors in Fallujah last year.

Duluiya is much smaller than Fallujah but no less opposed to the occupation, even if events here rarely make the news.

The resistance here seems to encapsulate the growing difficulties the US military is facing in trying to defeat the insurgency, pinned down by a constant stream of hit-and-run attacks.

The isolated towns east of the Tigris supply the resistance fighters and their allies and provide a haven where they can regroup after American offensives on their urban strongholds.

But hopes for progress are growing more remote. The insurgency in eastern Salahuddin province is growing more intense, more deadly and more sophisticated.

Lt Col Gary Brito, the battalion's commanding officer, said that in recent months the number of roadside bombs targeting his men had increased by a third - even though journeys out of base have been cut back. They are having a more devastating effect too.

"Before only two out of 10 used to be effective," he said. "Now four or five have a catastrophic effect, blowing away a vehicle or causing casualties." In the past few

months at least four American soldiers in this battalion alone have been killed. Another 39 have been wounded.

Even routine patrols are fraught with danger.

"What the hell was that," shouted Lt Chris Baldwin as a huge explosion rocked Baker Company's convoy of humvees trundling along a street in Dour, another town under Lt Col Brito's watch.

"Contact! Contact!" he bellowed into his radio as the gunners opened fire on a row of nearby houses from where the rocket-propelled anti-tank missile was fired.

As the gunfire died down, the soldiers burst into house after house, their facades peppered with bullet holes. But, as is so often the case, the attacker had vanished down one of Dour's maze-like alleys.

Instead the Americans were confronted with sullen Iraqis, holding their terrified children to their sides. An old woman sat on her bed, clutching her heart, as the soldiers interrogated the family.

"They heard nothing, they saw nothing, same as fucking usual," said Sgt Jody Miller. Taking another deep drag from his cigarette, he turned to the company's translator.

"Tell them to tell us where the bad guys are so we stop frigging shooting up their houses," he said.

Nobody was hurt but the mutual distrust between the Americans and the local community deepened just a little bit more.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A US soldier walks by destroyed shop windows at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baqouba Oct. 20, 2005. (AP Photo/Mohammed Adnan)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

21 October 2005 Aljazeera

Attacks by suspected Taliban fighters have killed a local aid worker and two senior provincial officials, Afghan officials say.

The attacks on Thursday killed the employee of the Western-funded Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) relief agency in the northwestern province of Faryab, provincial CHA head Khan Mohammad Sameem said.

Three other aid workers were wounded.

In another attack, also on Thursday, Taliban fighters blew up a car, killing Nafas Khan, police chief for Zaranj, the provincial capital of Nimroz in the south.

Khan's aide was also killed in the blast triggered by a remote-controlled device, a senior provincial official said, who accused the Taliban of carrying out the attack.

An intelligence official was killed in a roadside bomb in the eastern province of Kunar, officials said.

Mohammad Yousuf, a spokesman for the Taliban, confirmed his group was behind the blast in Zaranj, but had no information about the attack on CHA.

The Taliban has vowed to drive out foreign forces from Afghanistan and topple President Hamid Karzai's government that was installed after the ousting of the Taliban government.

TROOP NEWS

Non-Invasive Brain Damage The Most Significant Injury Coming Out Of The War

10/22/2005 By Marianne Love, Staff Writer, Whittier Daily News

GLENDORA -- He made it six months into his second tour of duty in Iraq before a sniper's bullet found him as he stood guard on top of a police station.

The bullet never actually entered his body, rather it zipped around the inside of his helmet and back out, shaking his head violently and injuring his brain.

In the next few weeks, Army Staff Sgt. Jarod Behee, 26, will face more surgery at a private hospital in Pomona.

Doctors will insert a permanent shunt to drain the fluid on Behee's brain. After that, a cranioplasty will be performed to relieve pressure on his brain.

His right eye won't stay open, so he'll face a third surgery.

And when he moves from the hospital setting into a transitional living center at Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation, that's when his wife, Marissa, says she's not sure his insurance will pay for his treatment.

"That's why we are fund-raising. We are unsure what the military will continue to cover," said Marissa, 26.

Marissa transferred her husband from the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital in Northern California two months ago to the private Pomona hospital, because she said the Palo Alto facility was not equipped to treat serious head injuries.

"They deal with a lot of strokes. Jarod had so many more needs, it was like he was a guinea pig," Marissa said.

Casa Colina spokesman Fred Aronow said "closed-head" injuries represent the most significant injury coming out of the Iraq war because of improved armor.

"It stops bullets. Bullets have a tremendous amount of force. ... There's no break in the skull, but the brain is moved around inside from the velocity just as when someone is in a car crash and they hit the windshield," Aronow said.

As The 2000th Death Comes Ever Closer: Gold Star & Military Families Available For Interviews

10.22.05 Gold Star Families For Peace & MFSO

Gold Star Families, in speaking out about their loved ones who have been killed in Iraq, demonstrate the true human cost of this war.

Military Families with loved ones currently deployed to Iraq, show the urgency by which it must end.

"Each day I wake up is a potential nightmare, as I dread that knock on my door that far too many families have already received," said MFSO member Anne Roesler, whose son in the 82nd Airborne Division is serving his third deployment to Iraq.

"The fear I live with is a fact of life for military families with loved ones deployed in a war that should never have happened. It is a reality that far too few politicians understand."

Available For Interviews:

The following families and others whose loved ones died in Iraq or are currently deployed to Iraq are available for interview.

For a complete list of families who are available for interview, go to <http://www.mfso.org>.

Families Whose Loved Ones Died in Iraq:

Vickie Castro of Corona, Calif. whose only child, Cpl. Jonathan Castro, age 21, was one of 14 service members killed in a suicide bombing at a mess tent in Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq on Dec. 21, 2004.

Melanie House of Simi Valley, Calif., whose husband, Petty Officer 3rd Class John D. House, age 28, was killed in a helicopter crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq on Jan. 26, 2005.

Dede Miller of Bellflower, Calif., whose nephew, Spc. Casey Sheehan, age 24, was killed in action in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq on April 4, 2004. She is a co-founder of Gold Star Families for Peace.

Jean Prewitt of Birmingham, Ala., whose son Pvt. 2nd Class Kelley S. Prewitt, age 24, was killed in action on April 6, 2003 near Baghdad. He served with the 103rd Infantry based out of Ft. Benning, Ga.

Annette Pritchard of Oregon City, Ore., whose nephew, PFC William Ramirez, age 19, was killed in action in Baghdad. He was the 538th US troop officially killed in action in Iraq.

Diane Davis Santoriello of Penn Hills, Pa. whose son, 1st Lt. Neil Santoriello, age 24, served in the Army's 1 Division 34th Armored A company and was killed in action near Fallujah, Iraq on Aug. 13, 2004.

Families Whose Loved Ones Are Currently Serving In Iraq:

Mimi Evans of W. Barnstable, Mass. whose son serves with the U.S. Marine Corps and was newly deployed to Iraq in August 2005. He is expecting his first child in April 2006.

Elizabeth Frederick is a student in Washington, D.C., originally from Boise, Idaho, whose boyfriend of almost 4 years, a former Marine, is currently serving in Iraq under stop-loss orders with the New York National Guard. His New York National Guard unit had not deployed overseas since the Korean War until this deployment to Iraq.

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

Deborah Regal of Pinckney, Mich., whose son is a Marine, currently serving his first deployment to Iraq.

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

Gold Star Families for Peace <http://www.gsfp.org> is an organization of families whose loved ones died in war who are seeking an end to the occupation of Iraq; Military Families Speak Out <http://www.mfso.org> is an organization of over 2,600 military families opposed to the war in Iraq, with loved ones who are serving, or have served in Iraq, may deploy or re-deploy, or have died as a result of the war in Iraq.

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: Dreamland”
**“This Is Fallouja. Not Another
City. Be Careful”**

They engage in public relations, talking via translators to individual Iraqis, not knowing how to respond when confronted by a man who says that Americans promise a lot, "but all we see is guns."

Mostly they are sad and pessimistic, not seeing the situation as being fixable any time soon.

October 14, 2005 By Kenneth Turan, L.A. Times

The longer American troops stay in Iraq, the more the hunger grows for a sense of what it's really like there. The war on the ground has become the worst kind of international traffic accident, something we are increasingly compelled to look at as the damage levels increase.

The excellent "Occupation: Dreamland" is not the first fly-on-the-wall documentary about life in the Iraqi combat zone — the strong "Gunner Palace" was released earlier this year — but it has several points of interest its predecessor did not.

For one thing, "Dreamland" takes place not in Baghdad but Fallouja, one of the most dangerous cities in Iraq, in the months before the pitched battle that almost leveled the place.

As one of its residents menacingly says on camera, providing a window into the intensity of local feeling, "This is Fallouja. Not another city. Be careful."

Co-directors Garrett Scott and Ian Olds spent six weeks with the same small group of men, a squad of the Army's 82nd Airborne, taking hostile fire with them and sharing down time, which includes a debate about whether Cher is scary or hot. Because of that hard-earned rapport, "Dreamland" has an intimate, personal quality.

Rather than showboating for the camera, the soldiers get to a deeper level, conveying a surprisingly reflective and aware sensibility.

"Dreamland," named for the former resort the squad is housed in, also illuminates the lure of the Army for capable men who were previously at a loss, individuals who were not doing anything with their lives they could take pride in as civilians. It offers a look at the kind of Americans not often put on movie screens.

When it comes to how these men function in Iraq, "Dreamland" is especially effective visually.

We see the Americans, almost invisible under helmets, knee pads, body armor and a huge amount of gear, wandering across the local desert landscape like spacemen on the far side of the moon.

Dressed so differently, not speaking the language, not understanding the mores, they must look more like space aliens than fellow human beings to perplexed local residents.

Though many of these men came to Iraq hoping to do some good, they found themselves overmatched by the situation. The gap between these profoundly different cultures is all but overwhelming: bringing in a woman for interrogation, for instance, may seem like standard operating procedure for Americans, but it infuriates the very traditional Falloujans.

Also clearly not going down well are the numerous raids against civilians. The troops kick down doors, arrest people seemingly at random, inevitably inflaming local sensibilities as they simply do what soldiers have always done.

Though they never hesitate to risk their lives, the soldiers are increasingly unsure that their efforts are bearing fruit.

They engage in public relations, talking via translators to individual Iraqis, not knowing how to respond when confronted by a man who says that Americans promise a lot, "but all we see is guns."

Mostly they are sad and pessimistic, not seeing the situation as being fixable any time soon.

By Rumor Releasing. Directors Garrett Scott, Ian Olds. Producers Scott, Selina Lewis Davidson.

Is Refusing A Shot A Crime? "It's Completely Preposterous" "I Can't Think Of A More Asinine Application Of A Federal Law"

"It's pretty consistent with the mind-set that 'people who disobey orders will do anything, so get them all,' " says Michels, a former Air Force prosecutor who taught in the military's school for lawyers.

October 8, 2005 Daily Press

Marine Cpl. Ocean Rose refused an anthrax vaccination in 2001, after military doctors told him that EKGs after his first two shots indicated he was having heart attacks at age 20 for no apparent reason.

Lt. Erick Enz, a Marine helicopter pilot and combat veteran of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, says he refused his shot in 2002, after hours of prayer, soul-searching and study about the vaccine convinced him that as a Christian, God didn't want him vaccinated with that drug.

The same year, Sgt. James Muhammad - a Muslim and a Marine at Camp Lejune, N.C. - says he prayed and studied the Quran and medical reports, finally deciding that taking the anthrax vaccine would violate Allah's command to keep harmful substances out of his body.

Their refusal to obey orders to take the vaccine was the only blot on their military records. Otherwise, they were gung-ho, exemplary Marines with careers on the rise, records show.

Are these the people you'd want to keep tabs on as suspects for a violent or serious crime - or force to give up their right to privacy over their DNA? The government says yes and has ordered Enz, Rose, Muhammad and others who refused anthrax shots to submit blood samples for inclusion in the FBI's DNA database of criminal offenders. Refusal could mean further punishment - up to five years in prison, letters sent by military courts last month told them.

A change in federal law and a decision by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also add to the DNA database those people court-martialed for various offenses not found in the civilian world.

They include fraternization, faking an illness to get out of work, showing disrespect to a superior officer or making a false statement when enlisting - even if it meant altering a birth certificate or other document so you could serve your country.

"It's completely preposterous," says Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice. That's a group of lawyers and legal scholars dedicated to the study of military justice issues and educating the public about how the system works.

"I can't think of a more asinine application of a federal law."

The safety and effectiveness of the anthrax vaccination has been a hot topic in the military since the shots became mandatory in 1998. Hundreds of troops say the shots have brought them health problems, an allegation that the Pentagon adamantly denies.

A federal judge ruled last year that the mandatory shots must stop because the vaccine was never licensed for its use in the military, allowing only voluntary inoculations. If Rose, Enz and the others refused to take the shots after his Oct. 27, 2004, ruling, they would not have been punished. The military has appealed the decision and wants to reinstate the mandatory shot program - along with punishments for refusal.

John J. Michels is a former military lawyer who represents troops in that case. He says the military won't say how many have been court-martialed for refusing the vaccine since the program started, but he estimates that 100 to 150 were court-martialed and 400 to 500 more received other punishments.

Some who refused weren't punished at all. That created a double standard that's now being compounded, he says.

As for the FBI database, he says Rumsfeld had no choice because Congress mandated that he include anyone convicted of an offense that is - at least in theory - punishable by a year or more in jail or prison. Refusing an order can bring a five-year sentence.

When Congress enacted the Justice for All Act of 2004, it added dozens of additional civilian offenses to the list of crimes where DNA samples are taken. The changes expanded on the database's existing 2.7 million-sample collection of people convicted of murders, rapes, a variety of sex crimes, arson and other serious violent offenses. It added such crimes as "malicious mischief" on federal property, attempts to interfere with tax laws, violations of Pacific salmon and halibut fishing laws, and harming an animal used in law enforcement, among others.

At the same time, Congress told the secretary of defense to consult the U.S. attorney general and develop a list of offenses "comparable" to the civilian crimes, the law says.

Several lawyers who have looked into the issue say their reading of the law did give Rumsfeld a choice, but he didn't take it.

"It's pretty consistent with the mind-set that 'people who disobey orders will do anything, so get them all,' " says Michels, a former Air Force prosecutor who taught in the military's school for lawyers.

Putting people into the database who've refused the anthrax vaccine doesn't make sense, especially in light of the federal court ruling striking down the military's mandatory anthrax vaccine program and the pending appeals of those who refused, says U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind.

"These men are not hardened criminals, they are soldiers who stood up for their rights in the face of a questionable order," Burton wrote in a letter to Rumsfeld on Monday.

"It would be a travesty of justice - especially before all appeals in this matter have been exhausted - to require these men to submit their DNA."

The DNA orders illustrate two big differences between civilian and military courts, Michels says.

First, there's a long list of behavioral offenses that carry prison terms of one or more years in the military with no equivalent for civilians.

Second, though the top concern of civilian courts is justice, the military system has two objectives: maintaining discipline and ensuring justice. And they have equal weight. Michels says he taught his military law students to appreciate this.

While a military prosecutor, he says, he often found cases weak in the law or of questionable fairness taken to trial, anyway, because commanders ordered it.

"Sometimes, they look around and say, 'We have to send a message to the troops' " by charging or punishing someone, he says.

Enz led Bible study groups in the Marines and was described by co-workers as a devout Christian during court-martial proceedings. He says that "it made me feel sick to my stomach" when the order to submit a DNA sample came in the mail last week. " They basically threw me in the lot with some pretty bad criminals."

Zachary Johnson, a Navy aviation technician who refused to take the shot and was court-martialed, says he had a similar reaction.

He says he fears that his DNA sample will end up in the FBI laboratory where a technician committed more than 100 errors in processing samples in criminal cases - mistakes that could lead to him or some other innocent person being charged with a crime like rape or murder.

Given the strength of DNA evidence before juries and judges, he says, he could go to prison for life for no reason - other than refusing the anthrax shot.

"Everybody says they don't make mistakes," he says, "but they seem to, quite frequently."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

October 23, 2005 geo.tv, Oct 22 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & (Xinhuanet)

Two roadside bombs hit police patrols in southern Baghdad on Saturday, killing two policemen and wounding one, said police 1st Lt. Thaeir Mahmud.

A makeshift bomb killed a policeman south of Baghdad early on Saturday, while mortar fire targeted northern and western areas in the capital, injuring another, an interior ministry source said.

In Al-Madaan, south of Baghdad, a bomb blast slammed an Iraqi police patrol, killing the policeman.

Meanwhile, three mortar rounds exploded in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Yarmuk, injuring another officer near a local police station.

A militant group Army of Ansar al-Sunna said it had killed six Iraqis, according to Internet statements posted late on Friday.

The group said it killed four contractors who worked for U.S. forces and shot dead two members of the National Guard, one in Ramadi and one in the northern city of Mosul.

Two Iraqi soldiers were wounded when insurgents hurled grenades at their patrol in central Baghdad.

A car bomb went off in the flash point city of Fallujah near an Iraqi army patrol on Saturday, causing casualties, witnesses said.

"A car bomb parking on the side of a road near the industrial district in Fallujah detonated near an Iraqi army patrol at about 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT)," Abdula Rahman, a local journalist who fled the scene unhurt, told Xinhua.

The powerful blast destroyed an army vehicle, killing and wounding all the soldiers aboard, and damaged another vehicle nearby, he said, without giving detailed figures.

US and Iraqi troops rushed to the area and sealed off the scene as helicopters flew overhead, said witnesses.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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**

“Bogged Down In A War That Should Never Have Been Started, And Cannot Be Won”

From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace
To: GI Special
Sent: October 21, 2005
Subject: Who is learning disabled, the government, or us?

I must have a learning disability? How else could one possibly explain my voluntarily spending half a dozen years in the National Guard after 1,096 days of the Regular Army?

I was reminded of this by an email from my youngest brother who is a state policeman in another state. He mentioned that budget cuts had changed their firearms training to only loading 5 rounds in a 15 round pistol magazine or a 30 round rifle magazine.

When he suggested that such training might have officers ejecting a 2/3 full pistol magazine or a 5/6 full rifle magazine under stress in a real situation, he was told to shut up. After all, everyone knows that budgets are tight. Money has been diverted to pay for \$3/gallon gasoline, tax cuts for the zillionaires, and Operation Iraqi Plunder.

It at first reminded me of the year the supply sergeant for our NG division HQ company forgot to bring to annual training the blank adapters for the two .50 cal "unit organic anti-armor weapons." It made training a tad slow when the M-2 Brownings required the bolt to be pulled to the rear to eject the case for every blank round fired. At least we got a lot of practice in clearing stoppages.

It could have been worse.

The state of the budget in the 1980's when Reagan was dumping cash on the Defense Department still only meant that we actually had a bolt in our M-16's for a single day of the year in training. On that day we actually got 42 real bullets in order to both zero our rifle and conduct annual qualification with it. Never mind if you don't get it zeroed. There was always next year, and another 42 rounds.

But then next year didn't happen. The April drill weekend on the schedule said we would draw weapons and go to the range on Saturday, and clean weapons on Sunday.

As a last minute unannounced change, the only day of the year we actually fired our personal weapon for qualification was cancelled.

Instead we spent all Saturday hauling in folding chairs and setting them up in the morning. In the afternoon we rehearsed being a mandatory audience for the retirement ceremony of some colonel that we did not know, was not in our unit, and we could have cared less about. Just how much rehearsal does one require to be able to march in and sit in rows of folding chairs?

Apparently the Division Commander thought most of the afternoon would make us sufficiently prepared to impress HIS friend the colonel? Sunday consisted of the 30 minute ceremony and then removing the folding chairs.

To add insult to injury, when I attended the post training meeting for NCO's and complained about the range training being cancelled, and not being re-scheduled for that fiscal year, I too was told to shut up.

The Sergeant Major then went on to direct us to document that weekend's training as "supply hand receipt procedures."

His justification was that the folding chairs were borrowed.

Twenty years have passed since then.

Instead of learning from the mistakes of Viet Nam, our government has sent a new generation of National Guardsmen to be bogged down in a war that should never have been started, and cannot be won.

I'm sure the cannon fodder being sent to Iraq are highly skilled in the required paperwork for borrowing folding chairs as a result of their pre-deployment training.

David Honish
Chapter 106 North TX VFP
<http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

Did You See This One?" "How Many More People Died While They Thought About This?"

From: John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace
Sent: October 14, 2005
Subject: RE: Did you see this one?

Very helpful guide is a study on Middle Eastern public opinion - conducted in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine - and released by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

"...the war in Iraq, combined with prisoner abuses at Abu Ghraib, has deeply damaged America's image in the rest of the world. "There is deep and abiding anger toward U.S. policies and actions,..."

"...the growing perception of the United States as a hostile force, then in the scale of the diplomatic problem that must be solved: bridges rebuilt and new links forged. Put simply, we have lost the goodwill of the world, without which it becomes ever more difficult to execute foreign policy."

Yes, I realize it is not a joke, I was being facetious.

It is something we all knew all along.

Are the politicians really so thick?

How much \$\$\$ did it take them to come to these conclusions?

How many more people died while they thought about this?

How many more homes were destroyed?

How many more U.S. taxpayer \$\$\$ were spent on military fuel, equipment, and someone to polish the general's shoes?

I can't stand it...

I am getting a stomach ache!

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

“The Armed Resistance Is Iraqi Resistance”

14-Oct-2005 Stefano Chiarini, Il Manifesto, Interview with Salah Almkhtar. [Excerpt]

Salah al Mukhtar had worked at the Iraqi mission to the United Nations, then, in the years 1990-1991, at the Arab League as assistant to the Secretary General holding responsibility for Information. In the years 1993-1998 he headed the main Iraqi daily, al Gumhuriya. From 1999 he was Iraqi Ambassador to India and in 2003 to Vietnam.

The whole Iraqis fully aware that the armed resistance is Iraqi resistance, prepared by Iraqis, organized by Iraqis, financed by Iraqis, performed by Iraqis, directed by Iraqis.

This fact was supported by American officials and general's, in Iraq, when they said repeatedly, that the number of foreigners fighting in Iraq is not more than 10% of the Iraqi resistance whole number.

It is well known that the armed revolution in Iraq against American colonialism is motivating all freedom lovers, all over the world, as it was the case of armed revolutions in other countries, such as Palestine, Spain, Vietnam, Cuba, in which many volunteers went to these countries to participate in the fighting against colonial invasion or against reactionary forces.

Yes there are some hundreds of Arabs fighting in Iraq, against American occupation, those volunteers are defending Iraq as well as Arab homeland, because all Arabs, from north Africa to the Arabic gulf, are belonging to one nation, therefore they have the duty of joining their brothers Arabs of Iraq to kick out American colonialism.

The Only Debate On Intelligent Design That Is Worthy Of Its Subject

Thanks to Mary Runnells, who sent this in. Source unknown.]

Moderator: We're here today to debate the hot new topic, evolution versus Intelligent Des---

(Scientist pulls out baseball bat.)

Moderator: Hey, what are you doing?

(Scientist breaks Intelligent Design advocate's kneecap.)

Intelligent Design advocate: YEAAARRRRGGGHHHH! YOU BROKE MY KNEECAP!

Scientist: Perhaps it only appears that I broke your kneecap. Certainly, all the evidence points to the hypothesis I broke your kneecap. For example, your kneecap is broken; it appears to be a fresh wound; and I am holding a baseball bat, which is spattered with your blood.

However, a mere preponderance of evidence doesn't mean anything. Perhaps your kneecap was designed that way. Certainly, there are some features of the current situation that are inexplicable according to the "naturalistic" explanation you have just advanced, such as the exact contours of the excruciating pain that you are experiencing right now.

Intelligent Design advocate: AAAAH! THE PAIN!

Scientist: Frankly, I personally find it completely implausible that the random actions of a scientist such as myself could cause pain of this particular kind. I have no precise explanation for why I find this hypothesis implausible --- it just is. Your knee must have been designed that way!

Intelligent Design advocate: YOU BASTARD! YOU KNOW YOU DID IT!

Scientist: I surely do not. How can we know anything for certain?

Frankly, I think we should expose people to all points of view.

Furthermore, you should really re-examine whether your hypothesis is scientific at all: the breaking of your kneecap happened in the past, so we can't rewind and run it over again, like a laboratory experiment. Even if we could, it wouldn't prove that I broke your kneecap the previous time. Plus, let's not even get into the fact that the entire universe might have just popped into existence right before I said this sentence, with all the evidence of my alleged kneecap-breaking already pre-formed.

Intelligent Design advocate: That's a load of bullshit sophistry! Get me a doctor and a lawyer, not necessarily in that order, and we'll see how that plays in court!

Scientist (turning to audience): **And so we see, ladies and gentlemen, when push comes to shove, advocates of Intelligent Design do not actually believe any of the arguments that they profess to believe.**

When it comes to matters that hit home, they prefer evidence, the scientific method, testable hypotheses, and naturalistic explanations.

In fact, they strongly privilege naturalistic explanations over supernatural hocus-pocus or metaphysical wankery.

It is only within the reality-distortion field of their ideological crusade that they give credence to the flimsy, ridiculous arguments which we so commonly see on display.

I must confess, it kind of felt good, for once, to be the one spouting free-form bullshit; it's so terribly easy and relaxing, compared to marshaling rigorous arguments backed up by empirical evidence. But I fear that if I were to continue, then it would be habit-forming, and bad for my soul. Therefore, I bid you adieu

OCCUPATION REPORT

As U.S. Troop Deaths Escalate, Occupation Idiocy Escalates Also

21 October 2005 By Larry Johnson, Talking Points Memo Café. [Excerpt]

What Rice and other folks out of touch with reality ignore is that the increased number of Sunnis who voted came out to defeat the constitution. Unfortunately, the fix was in. Vote fraud was rampant.

US TV crews caught one Shia on tape casting seven yes votes. That's sort of an old style American politics a la Chicago's Daley machine - you know, vote early, vote often. And, results are now, once again, being withheld to "investigate" the irregularities.

Oh, speaking of the war. The road from downtown Baghdad to the International Airport still has not been secured and remains the most dangerous road in the world.

Meanwhile, as of 21 October, Americans are dying in Iraq at a rate of almost three per day. This is the highest loss of life since January 2005. So much for Rosy Scenario and the dawn of peace and understanding.

Finally, there is the ham handed attempt to pass off as legitimate a letter allegedly written by Bin Laden's number two guy, Ayman Zawahiri, to the Jordanian terrorist, Abu Musab Zarqawi.

This appears to be a rather crude "Information Operation" designed to sow confusion in the ranks of the jihadists battling US forces in Iraq.

While well intentioned (i.e., trying to create confusion among the insurgents) the execution of this op was pitiful. Having the newly christened National Director of Intelligence release this travesty ends up calling into question the professionalism and competence of the organization that was supposed to fix the mess in the intelligence community. Rather repairing damage, Negroponte and his crew seem to be causing more mayhem.

More Lame Lies From Bush Regime

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

Oct 21 Emad Mekay (IPS)

The Waxman report assesses reconstruction work in three key sectors of the Iraqi economy -- oil, electricity and water.

It found that the administration's actual results on the ground are far less than what is publicised.

"Oil production remains below pre-war levels, electricity production is unreliable and well below the goal of 6,000 megawatts of peak electricity output, and a third of Iraqis still lack access to potable water," says the report. "Billions of taxpayer dollars have been spent, but there is little to show for the expenditures in Iraq."

Reporter Experiences Blinding Flash Of The Obvious

Oct 22, 2005 CBC

An Irish journalist who was kidnapped in Iraq while covering the trial of Saddam Hussein says the police in Baghdad have been infiltrated by militia.

Rory Carroll, a correspondent for The Guardian newspaper of Britain, was released unharmed on Thursday after being held for 36 hours.

Carroll, 33, says his kidnapping is a symptom of a larger problem in the country. "There is a serious question mark over elements of the police, and that they cannot be relied upon all the time."

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A US soldier makes an Iraqi man open the doors of his shop during an overnight raid in Mosul. (AFP/Cris Bournoncle)

[Hey, if he doesn't like it, he can go back where he came from. Oops, he's an Iraqi, and he's in his own country. Imagine that. Well, fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses in the middle of the night, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and go around making U.S. citizens unlock their doors at gunpoint. That's called an exchange program.

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to occupy their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that?]

U.S. Military Commanders In Iraq In Violation Of

U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10 (1956) Liable To Arrest Any Time Enough Troops Decide To Do It

October 14, 2005 Francis A. Boyle, uruknet.info. [Excerpt]

Francis A. Boyle, Professor of Law, University of Illinois, is author of Foundations of World Order, Duke University Press, The Criminality of Nuclear Deterrence, and Palestine, Palestinians and International Law, by Clarity Press.

The United States government's installation of the so-called Interim Government of Iraq during the summer of 2004 did not materially alter this legal situation.

Under the laws of war, this so-called Interim Government of Iraq is nothing more than a "puppet government." As the belligerent occupant of Iraq the United States government is free to establish a puppet government if it so desires. But under the laws of war, the United States government remains fully accountable for the behavior of its puppet government.

These conclusions are made quite clear by paragraph 366 of U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10 (1956):

366. Local Governments Under Duress and Puppet Governments

The restrictions placed upon the authority of a belligerent government cannot be avoided by a system of using a puppet government, central or local, to carry out acts which would be unlawful if performed directly by the occupant. Acts induced or compelled by the occupant are nonetheless its acts.

As the belligerent occupant of Iraq, the United States government is obligated to ensure that its puppet Interim Government of Iraq obeys the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949, the 1907 Hague Regulations on land warfare, U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10 (1956), the humanitarian provisions of Additional Protocol One of 1977 to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the customary international laws of war.

Any violation of the laws of war, international humanitarian law, and human rights committed by its puppet Interim Government of Iraq are legally imputable to the United States government.

As the belligerent occupant of Iraq, both the United States government itself as well as its concerned civilian officials and military officers are fully and personally responsible under international criminal law for all violations of the laws of war,

international humanitarian law, and human rights committed by its puppet Interim Government of Iraq such as, for example, reported death squads operating under its auspices.

Furthermore, it was a total myth, fraud, lie, and outright propaganda for the Bush Jr. administration to maintain that it was somehow magically transferring "sovereignty" to its puppet Interim Government of Iraq during the summer of 2004.

Under the laws of war, sovereignty is never transferred from the defeated sovereign such as Iraq to a belligerent occupant such as the United States. This is made quite clear by paragraph 353 of U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10 (1956): "Belligerent occupation in a foreign war, being based upon the possession of enemy territory, necessarily implies that the sovereignty of the occupied territory is not vested in the occupying power. Occupation is essentially provisional."

If there were any doubt about this matter, paragraph 358 of U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10 (1956) makes this fact crystal clear:

358. Occupation Does Not Transfer Sovereignty

Being an incident of war, military occupation confers upon the invading force the means of exercising control for the period of occupation. It does not transfer the sovereignty to the occupant, but simply the authority or power to exercise some of the rights of sovereignty. The exercise of these rights results from the established power of the occupant and from the necessity of maintaining law and order, indispensable both to the inhabitants and the occupying force

Therefore, the United States government never had any "sovereignty" in the first place to transfer to its puppet Interim Government of Iraq.

In Iraq the sovereignty still resides in the hands of the people of Iraq and in the state known as the Republic of Iraq, where it has always been. The legal regime described above will continue so long as the United States remains the belligerent occupant of Iraq. Only when that U.S. belligerent occupation of Iraq is factually terminated can the people of Iraq have the opportunity to exercise their international legal right of sovereignty by means of free, fair, democratic, and uncoerced elections.

So as of this writing, the United States and the United Kingdom remain the belligerent occupants of Iraq despite their bogus "transfer" of their non-existent "sovereignty" to their puppet Interim Government of Iraq.

This brings the analysis to the so-called Constitution of Iraq that was allegedly drafted by the puppet Interim Government of Iraq under the impetus of the United States government.

Article 43 of the 1907 Hague Regulations on land warfare flatly prohibits the change in a basic law such as a state's Constitution during the course of a belligerent occupation: "The authority of the legitimate power having in fact passed into the hands of the occupant, the latter shall take all the measures in his power to restore, and ensure as far as possible, public order and safety, while respecting, unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country." This

exact same prohibition has been expressly incorporated in haec verba into paragraph 363 of U.S. Army Field Manual 27-10 (1956).

To the contrary, the United States has demonstrated gross disrespect toward every law in Iraq that has stood in the way of its imperial designs and petroleum ambitions, including and especially the pre-invasion 1990 Interim Constitution for the Republic of Iraq.

George Bush Jr. and Tony Blair are heading towards their own Judgment at Nuremberg whose sixtieth anniversary the rest of the world gratefully but wistfully commemorates this year. Never again!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

‘COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF’ SUTHERLAND: BUSH “WILL DESTROY OUR LIVES”



“They did not care. They do not care. They do not care about Iraqi people. They do not care about the families of dead soldiers. They only care about profit.”

OCT 02, 2005 DRUDGE REPORT

Choking back tears, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF star Donald Sutherland warned this week: President Bush "will destroy our lives!"

The star of the new ABC drama, which follows the first woman President of the United States, lashed out at the real White House during a dramatic sit down interview with the BBC.

Sutherland ripped Bush and his administration for the war and Hurricane Katrina fallout.

"They were inept. They were inadequate to the task, and they lied," Sutherland charged.

"And they were insulting, and they were vindictive. And they were heartless. They did not care. They do not care. They do not care about Iraqi people. They do not care about the families of dead soldiers. They only care about profit."

At one point during the session, Sutherland started crying: "We've stolen our children's future... We have children. We have children. How dare we take their legacy from them. How dare we. It's shameful. What we are doing to our world."

Sutherland went on rip Karl Rove's "methods and means" against people like Cindy Sheehan.

"We're back to burning books in Germany," Sutherland said of NBC's editing out of Kanye West's comment on Bush during a hurricane relief telethon.

The Deadly Democrats

<p>Voters are not apathetic! They are very realistic in fact. They are the wiser for not showing up at this phony circus that presents itself as 'democracy'. The truly apathetic, in fact, are the ones who show up to vote for more of the same.</p>

October 11, 2005 Reza Fiyouzat, RevolutionaryFlowerpotSociety. [Excerpt]

As Zeltzer points out in his article, Business Unionism & the AFL-CIO's Crisis, "US capitalists, and the Democrats and Republicans whom they control no longer need their alliance with the trade union bureaucracy. They have shifted production out of the United States using NAFTA and the WTO and they have instituted a tough-going deregulation and privatization program supported by the Democrats that has destroyed or whipsawed heavily unionized sectors from trucking, airlines, rail and communication," (Labor Action Coalition, February 2005).

In other words, the union base of the Democrats has disintegrated due to the improved conditions for a higher degree of mobility for capital; at the earliest signs of diminishing returns on profits, the U.S. capital can (with very little cost that can in turn be recovered very quickly) take flight, if they so desire, to a mere six feet south of the border into Mexico, and enjoy a far higher rate of profit.

Now, at the same time that the Democrats helped the U.S. capital-owning classes along the path of more mobility — thereby destroying the historical social conditions for the long-term survival of their own social base — the party functionaries had to start raising increasing percentages of the money needed for their political campaigning from the corporations; as opposed to from a popular social base.

In doing this, they naturally are more overtly beholden to the corporations, at the same time that they have helped to hand over the political campaigning, i.e., the 'getting out the vote' process, to advertising agencies; as opposed to allowing the

real issues of concern to people to find their way into the public discourse that matters most to the lives of the citizens of the United States.

Isn't it amazing? It's all basically a road show, yet the pundits are astounded at the level of 'apathy' among the voters!!

Voters are not apathetic! They are very realistic in fact. They are the wiser for not showing up at this phony circus that presents itself as 'democracy'. The truly apathetic, in fact, are the ones who show up to vote for more of the same.

Democrats are so ideologically bankrupt at the moment that they simply cannot formulate any new ways that would further the interests of their ultimate paymasters, the ruling capitalist classes in the U.S.A.

And the corporations know this.

The U.S. corporations know that one of the best ways to beat the 'diminishing returns' game is to acquire monopolies, and the only way to get monopolies is to act through the state (including the armed forces part of the state). And the political party that is representing this stance least ambiguously and most forcefully right now is the Republican Party. It is that simple.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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