

GI SPECIAL 3D23:



“We Have No Offensive Capability In The Most Dangerous City On Earth”

“There Should Be Jail Terms For This”

Recently, I got an email from a very close buddy of mine currently serving as an officer in Ramadi, Iraq. He speaks with a candor and level of frustration that you won't hear from the Generals regurgitating White House talking points on TV. Check this out:

Paul,

I wish I had the time or energy or memory capacity to describe to you how wrong this whole thing has gone. It's just as you described it a couple years ago.

We *can* make a difference here, and i believe in the mission as it looks on paper. But your president and his brain-dead colleagues aren't even trying to give us what we need to do it.

the add-on armor HMMWVs are a joke. The terrorists target them b/c they know they offer no protection. The M1114s have good armor, but every time we lose one (i had one blown up monday, driver had his femoral artery cut -- will recover fully -- b/c there apparently is no armor or very weak armor under the pedals) it's impossible to replace them. So now I have to send yet another add-on armored vehicle outside the wire daily.

The M1114s also have certain mechanical defects, known to the manufacturer, for which there is apparently no known fix. For example, on some of them (like mine) if it stalls or you turn it off, you cannot restart it if the engine is hot. We have to dump 3 liters of cold water on a solenoid in order to start it again. Not that much fun when your vehicle won't start in indian country. I wonder if DoD is getting a refund for the contract.

Speaking of contracts, KBR is a joke. I can't even enumerate the problems with their service, but I guarantee they do not receive less money based on how many of the showers don't work, or how many of us won't eat in the chow hall often because we get sick every time we do.

There is so much. I could go on forever. the worst thing, which we have discussed, is that they are playing these bullshit numbers games to fool America about troop strength. If they stopped paying KBR employees \$100,000 to do the job of a \$28,000 soldier, maybe they'd have enough money to send us enough soldiers to do the job.

As it stands we have no offensive capability in the most dangerous city on earth. General Shinseki should write an Op/Ed that basically says, "I told you so." Idiots.

Where are the AC-130s? The apaches? They have them in FAR less active AOs (areas of operations). All we ever get is a single Huey and Cobra team, both of which are older than I am. it's such a joke. They're not even trying. At all. They have apaches in Tikrit but Hueys in Ramadi.

I wish every american could see this for him/herself.

Registering your frustration at the ballot box isn't nearly enough. There should be jail terms for this.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Task Force Baghdad Soldier Dies

November 23, 2005 MNF

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Task Force Baghdad Soldier died of a gunshot wound Nov. 23 in central Baghdad.

Freedom's Pvt. Dylan Paytas Remembered As Happy, Friendly And Well Liked



Pvt. Dylan Paytas

11/18/2005 By: April Johnston, PowerOne Media, Inc.

Ashley Rettig saw the maroon sport utility vehicle driving down Fourth Avenue in Freedom on Wednesday. She saw the two women inside. Then she saw their U.S. Army patches.

And she knew.

"Something happened to Dylan."

Pvt. Dylan Paytas, like Rettig, was a 2003 graduate of Freedom Area High School. He was killed in Baqubah, Iraq, on Nov. 16 after suffering multiple gunshot wounds, according to Army Public Affairs. He is the fourth Beaver County resident to die while serving in Iraq.

Paytas, 20, was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Benning, Ga.

Paytas' father, when reached by telephone at his New Sewickley Township home on Thursday, said he wasn't ready to talk about his son. But at Freedom Area High School, where flags were flying at half-staff against a blue sky, everybody wanted to talk about Dylan Paytas, the boy who was friends with everyone.

Paytas was also an athlete, playing guard and forward on his high school basketball team. Friends said he liked to hunt, he liked to laugh, and he was handsome. Just ask any girl who lived along Fourth Avenue in Freedom.

"When he was home, all the girls in the neighborhood, even if they were 10 years old, were running around saying, 'Oh, Dylan's home! Dylan's home!' "Rettig said with grin as she stood outside her Fourth Avenue home with her husband, John.

And Paytas loved the attention.

Rob Seekford, who had known Paytas since the seventh grade, called his buddy a "ladies' man."

"He was always after the girls," Seekford said with a chuckle. "He was one of the biggest flirts in Freedom."

The two friends were supposed to join the Army together after high school, but Seekford backed out and decided to attend college instead. Friends called him at California University of Pennsylvania on Wednesday to tell him about Paytas.

"I was breaking up last night," Seekford said. "He was an awesome guy. He was always happy. He enjoyed life everyday."

Rettig shared Seekford's sentiments, and his pain. She knew Paytas well, having been in the same homeroom with him for eight years at Freedom, and had spent much of Thursday morning crying. That's when she knew for sure that Paytas had died.

She suspected trouble when she saw the Army officers in the SUV on Wednesday and called another high school friend, Amy Lindstrom, to see if she had heard anything about Paytas. She hadn't. But Lindstrom knew he could be reached through the popular blogging Web site My Space and tried to contact him there.

Instead, she found messages saying, "Rest in peace, Dylan."

Lindstrom called Rettig back on Thursday.

"Ashley, you were right," she said. "Dylan did die in Iraq."

It's the second friend 21-year-old Rettig has lost to the war. She also knew Freedom graduate and Army Pfc. Timothy Brown, 21, who was killed Aug. 12, 2003, when the armored personnel carrier he was driving went over a roadside bomb.

Nearly 200 people attended his funeral in the auditorium of Freedom Middle School. Staub said no such arrangements have been made for Paytas. The family isn't even sure yet when the body will arrive from Iraq.

School Superintendent Ron Sofo said the district will do whatever it can to help the grieving family, especially since Paytas' two sisters are still students there. One is a junior at the high school, the other a third-grader at Big Knob Elementary.

"We're going to fly these flags at half-staff until Dylan's body returns and is buried properly," Sofo said. "This young man died for all of us. There's not much else you can do."

Nixon Native Dies In Combat



Marine Cpl. John Longoria. Courtesy photo

11/17/2005 Roger Croteau, Express-News Staff Writer

The small town of Nixon was stung by the terrible cost of war when Marine Cpl. John Longoria, 21, a graduate of Nixon-Smilely High School, was killed in Iraq Monday.

Longoria was taking part in Operation Steel Curtain, an offensive against insurgents in western Iraq, near the Syrian border. He died of wounds from small-arms fire in the Euphrates River town of New Ubayadi.

Longoria was part of a Marine expeditionary force at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Longoria was a mentor to elementary school students and a starting running back on the Nixon-Smilely High School football team.

The school has about 300 students and Nixon itself is a town of about 2,000.

Necia Kinnison taught Longoria consumer and family science and described him as "a sweetheart."

"He always had a smile on his face and never saw the bad side of anything or anyone," she said. "He said he always wanted to join the military and he said the best branch for him would be the Marines because they would teach him discipline. I said 'John, you don't need discipline.'"

Kinnison said Longoria was an excellent student with a good sense of humor.

"We were talking about vitamins one day and I told them that when you fry a potato it loses its vitamins, especially if you put it in cold oil and it's all limp and I flopped my arms around to kind of demonstrate a limp french fry," she said. "From then on he always asked me to do the french fry dance."

Longoria lived with a foster family in Nixon. They declined to comment.

Longoria, who joined the Marines straight out of high school, was about two months into his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Services are pending at Finch Funeral Chapel in Nixon.

He was killed the same day as fellow Texan Lance Cpl. Christopher M. McCrackin, 20, of Liverpool.

Brownsville-Born Marine Killed

11.17.05 BY KEVIN GARCIA, The Brownsville Herald

Surrounded by family Wednesday at her home in Liverpool, Texas, Belinda McCrackin prepared to say goodbye to her son.

"It's moment by moment," she said. "We have our highs and lows."

Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher M. McCrackin, who was born in Brownsville and lived in Liverpool, was killed Monday Nov. 14 while on duty in Iraq.

Christopher McCrackin was conducting combat operations as part of Operation Steel Curtain when an improvised explosive device destroyed the vehicle he was driving near New Ubaydi, Iraq. His identical twin brother, Michael McCrackin, continues to serve with the U.S. Navy.

"Christopher, my Marine, just had a 10-month old baby," his mother said. "We're all going to look after him and (Christopher's wife) Natalie is a pretty strong young lady."

Christopher McCrackin, who moved away from Brownsville when he was 3, came back every summer before he graduated from Alvin High School and married in 2004.

Relatives here plan to join the family in Liverpool for a funeral service and hope to have a local memorial later this month.

The family learned of the Marine casualties on Monday but didn't know if Christopher McCrackin was among them.

"On Monday night, close to midnight, there was a knock on the door," his mother said. "It was very surreal. I thought it was my daughter but when I came out I heard a male voice say 'Mrs. McCrackin,' twice."

She saw the figures standing tall and straight on her front porch and refused to open the door.

"I yelled at my husband and said the Marines were at the door. We just knew when we saw them."

At the same time, Natalie McCrackin was receiving a visit at her mother's house, where she and son Ethan have been staying. At her request, the Marine officers drove her and the baby to her mother-in-law's home. "It's a very big family that I'm proud to be a part of," Natalie McCrackin said Wednesday. "They always help out."

Belinda McCrackin called her sister Rosie Briseño in Brownsville to alert relatives, including her son's grandmother Aurora Ramirez and cousin Missy Briseño.

Missy Briseño, a student at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, thought she was late for class when her mother came to wake her.

"I said, 'OK Mom, I'm getting up,' but then she sat on my bed and I said, 'something's wrong,'" Missy Briseño, 18, said. "When she told me, I couldn't breathe."

Missy Briseño called friends with the news. "They were in shock, they couldn't believe it," she said.

Some were angry. "I'm mad," Missy Briseño said, "but it was his choice to go over there."

At a dock in San Diego, Calif., Seaman Michael McCrackin was on shore leave when sailors pulled him aside.

"About midnight and they pulled me into a room," Michael McCrackin said. "My dad asked them not to tell me, he wanted to tell me himself."

He spoke to his father by phone.

He's now on two weeks leave to attend his brother's funeral and spend time with his family in Liverpool.

Former Brandon Resident Killed

Initially Roman-Cruz believed in the war in Iraq, but sometimes he questioned its purpose, his wife said.

November 18, 2005 By SAUNDRA AMRHEIN, St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

Alexis Roman-Cruz was always taking care of other people.

The former Brandon resident was a doting father and son, a best friend to his wife. When Roman-Cruz, a construction worker, decided to join the military, he told his wife he wanted a better job with benefits to care for her and their two children.

She disagreed. But she understood.

Army Spc. Roman-Cruz, 33, died in Balad, Iraq, Wednesday from injuries suffered the day before after a bomb detonated near his Humvee. Three other soldiers died as well.

The four were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, Ky.

Fort Campbell lost nine soldiers in the span of a week in late October and early November. With the latest casualties, 83 soldiers based at Fort Campbell have died in the Iraq war.

"He was very caring with everybody," said Roman-Cruz's wife, Johan Roman, 35, speaking from their home in Clarksville, Tenn.

Roman-Cruz lived with his wife and children in Brandon, near Kingswood Elementary School, for a year between 2002 and 2003 before moving to Tennessee, she said.

Before then, they were in Puerto Rico, where they were both born and raised in the same town. They didn't meet until after high school. Her cousin's husband introduced them and they married 13 years ago, she said.

The two had a beautiful marriage, she said. They had a son, now 11, and a daughter, now 7.

He worked in construction both in Puerto Rico and when they moved to Florida. He joined the military to secure a better-paying job with benefits to improve their economic standing.

"He was a fighter, a very positive person," she said. "He was a great father."

With his salary from the military, they were able to buy a house and car, she said.

Initially Roman-Cruz believed in the war in Iraq, but sometimes he questioned its purpose, his wife said.

Johan Roman didn't want her husband to join the military and the war. "But I'm someone who supported him in everything," she said.

He was very grateful for what military life was able to give him, she said.

"Although he sacrificed for it," she added.

New Jersey Staff Sgt. Killed



Staff Sgt. Edward Karolasz, 25, of Powder Springs, N.J., with the 101st Airborne Division, was killed Nov. 19, 2005, in a roadside bombing in Iraq. (AP Photo/Karolasz Family via Fort Campbell)

Michigan Guardsman Killed



Michigan National Guard Pfc. John Dearing was killed in Iraq when his vehicle ran over a land mine. Dearing grew up in Oscoda, Mich., and graduated from Oscoda High School in 2003 and moved to Hazel Park, Mich., in 2004. (AP Photo/Dearing Family)

Area Soldier Fights For His Life After Bomb Blast

11/23/05 By Dale Killingbeck, Cadillac News

TUSTIN - A Tustin-area mom and dad wait for a phone call that will send them to Texas to be with their critically burned soldier-son.

Don and Carol Akers learned their son Spencer, 35, of Traverse City was on patrol Monday morning when his Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device while on patrol near the town of Al-Habbaniyah, Iraq.

“It flipped over and burst into flames,” Don Akers said. “One died and four are critical.”

Akers said his son is burned on more than 75 percent of his body. The U.S. Army veteran of the first Gulf War and sergeant with the Michigan National Guard now battles for his life at a hospital in Germany.

“We've been talking to the doctors in Germany. It's just a case if he can get through the infection,” Don Akers said. “The biggest part of the burn is his face.” The odds are not in his favor.”

A team of specialists from Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, were flown to Germany to help provide care for Spencer Acres and other buddies injured in the blast. They could be airlifted to Texas soon.

One soldier died from the explosion, Don Akers said.

A single man, Spencer Akers volunteered for the Iraq duty to spare some married soldiers the assignment, his dad said. Although assigned to a guard unit in Big Rapids, he joined with a Flint-area unit for the Iraq deployment. Following training, he arrived in Iraq in June.

“He was due to rotate back for a two-week leave,” Don Akers said. “He was due to leave on Thanksgiving Day to be home on the 30th.”

A team leader and sometimes turret gunner in the Humvee, Spencer Akers communicated with his dad often. They talked briefly by phone two weeks before the incident and by Yahoo Messenger on the computer just the day before the blast, Don Akers said.

The Akers showed their son lots of support. “We just mailed out some packages Wednesday,” he said.

Don Akers said he hopes people continue to show support for the troops through packages and letters. He appreciates all those offering prayers for his son in church prayer chains across the state and nation.

"Everybody I talk to says I've got you in our prayer chain," he said.

The attack on Spencer Akers' Humvee is in the same area that claimed the life of a Cedar Springs soldier earlier this month.

IED Attack On U.S. Embassy Convoy

Two US officials on a trip in Baquba were also exposed to the country's instability.

A convoy transporting embassy staff and a high-ranking Iraqi election official was hit by a small makeshift bomb, witnesses and officials said.

Izz al-Din al-Muhammadi, chairman of the board of directors of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, was in the middle of the convoy with the embassy officials when the manually detonated bomb went off. "Thank God we are alive," al-Muhammadi said.

No one was hurt but one US military Humvee was slightly damaged.

TROOP NEWS

Back Injuries Disabling Iraq Troops

November 21, 2005 USA Today

More than half the U.S. troops who have been medically evacuated from Iraq and treated at two of the military's large pain treatment centers suffer not from battle wounds but from back pains.

Pentagon Traitors Choose Ineffective, Expensive Bandages Rather Than Ones That Can Save Lives

November 20, 2005 Baltimore Sun

The Army has begun a multimillion-dollar campaign to equip all its combat troops with a futuristic bandage designed to stop massive bleeding from battlefield injuries, *despite doubts about its effectiveness and the development of a cheaper product that many scientists believe works better.*

[If you still think your enemy is in Iraq, you are out of your mind. These people are the enemy.]

LETHAL ENVIRONMENT: NO HONORABLE MISSION: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



US soldier at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad Oct. 6, 2005 near a U.S. military convoy. (AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

Combat Soldier Points Out Anti-Gay Policy Really Stupid

More important, the Defense Department claims that the policy is to prevent homosexuals from working in close quarters with other soldiers who are not gay.

So why is it sending gay soldiers into combat (definitely a lack of privacy here), then discharging them when they come back to a garrison environment? It makes no sense except as blatant discrimination.

Letter To The Editor
Army Times
11.21.05

Army Times recently published a small article claiming that an Army spokesperson stated the Guard and Reserves are sending soldiers overseas who “came out” to get out of deployment, but they are being sent anyway, to be “dealt with” when they get back (“Gay troops in war zone,” Frontlines, Oct. 10).

If the military would drop its “don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t pursue, don’t harass” policy, it wouldn’t have to worry about losing soldiers to this policy.

More important, the Defense Department claims that the policy is to prevent homosexuals from working in close quarters with other soldiers who are not gay.

So why is it sending gay soldiers into combat (definitely a lack of privacy here), then discharging them when they come back to a garrison environment? It makes no sense except as blatant discrimination.

The Army is going to send these soldiers into a combat zone, then when they come back as combat veterans, or are killed or wounded in action, it is going to take away their benefits and discharge them because they came out before they went to war.

If you want to keep the gay soldiers in the combat zone, drop the policy.

As the policy is in effect, the military has an obligation not to let these soldiers serve, because it is policy. The military has shot itself in the foot with this scenario, and it is time to lift the ban.

With or without “don’t ask, don’t tell, don’t pursue, don’t harass,” the same rules apply to everyone: No sex in the combat zone (gay or straight — prosecute them both), and no unwanted sexual advances or harassment.

**Sgt. Cristina Frisby
Forward Operating Base Speicher, Iraq**

U.S. Air Force Commander Exposed As Paranoid Idiot

November 20, 2005 Wall Street Journal

Air Force Lt. Gen. Walter E. Buchanan III said that reports of civilian casualties in Iraq as a result of military action were exaggerated. Buchanan said he is aware that some casualties have been staged to make the U.S. military look bad. **[Brilliant. Let's make sure all the Iraqis who have had their kids, wives, and husbands butchered at checkpoints read this one. That should recruit another 5,000 to the resistance overnight.]**

MORE:

And He Has An Equally Psycho Battle Buddy In Iraq!

21 November 2005 Aljazeera

Fawzi al-Hariri, a Kurdish representative and Iraqi Foreign Ministry official, told Reuters *"We do not believe there is a resistance because they lack any political ideology or strategy or aim."*

Predator Alert: The Latest Fraud

[This scam was sent to GI Special, and who knows who else. The usual bullshit.]

From: <delgadoway@virgilio.it>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 6:40 AM
Subject: FROM DELGADO ISMAEL

FROM: Sgt. Delgado Ismael
Important Message
E-
mail:delgadoismael@yahoo.com

To President / Managing Director.

Good day,

My name is Delgado Ismael, I am an American soldier, I serve in the Military of the 1st Armored Division in Iraq, as you know we have being attacked by insurgents everyday and car bombs. **[But English mine being not so hot, maybe my name not Delgado Ismeal, maybe it Asshole Thief from Uzbekistan. Or Nebraska.]**

We where lucky to move funds belonging to Saddam Hussein's family hopping it was a bomb in the box, later we find out it was a fiscal cash. **[Glad you where lucky, what with all that hopping. But hopping for a bomb in the box? Right. Just what**

everybody is really hopping for. “Hey, I’m really hopping we find the bomb in a box today, how about you.?” “Shit no, I’d rather find a fiscal cash, myself.”]

The total amount is US\$25,000,000

Twenty Five Million United State dollars in cash, mostly 100 dollar bills which is still in our co sturdy at the military base camp, now we find it as a Big Risk on us if our commandant nor the Iraqis People get to find out about this box of money because we are not allowed to have any money in our position for that **[Good idea! The MPs will for sure never look in your co sturdy.]**

We are seeking for a trustworthy foreign business partner who can help us in receiving this box of money so that He/She may invest it for us and keep our share for banking.

This is our plan of sharing my partner and I will take 60%, you take the other 40%.

No stress attached, for we have made all necessary arrangement for shipping it out of Iraq,

Iraq is a war zone. We planed on using diplomatic courier service for shipping the money out in one large silver box declaring it as family valuables using diplomatic immunity.

If you are interested I will send you the full details, my job is to find a good partner that we can trust to assist us. Can I trust you? **[Sure, but send me a few thousand just to close the deal first, OK?]**

When you receive this letter, kindly send me an e-mail signifying your interest including your most confidential telephone/fax numbers for quick communication also your contact details. This business is risk free. The box can be shipped out in 48hrs. **Please send your reply to my private mail box: sgtdelgadoismael@netscape.net**

Respectfully,
Sgt. Delgado.

[If anybody feels like sending an appropriate response, there it is. Maybe a bomb in the box? T]

IF YOU LIKED THAT ONE, HERE’S ANOTHER:

From: Bush W. George
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005 6:40 AM
Subject: Bush W. George

My name is the Bush W. George.

I am the mirror twin of George W. Bush.

Although I am not know to you, here is how you can help me.

Three years and 5 months ago, I was imprisoned in Agua Basura Della Bicho, a small island near Honduras. However, having advance information of my impending arrest, I transferred the funds belonging to me to a trusted friend at the Banco De Bunco, an offshore financial house so exclusive only 34 sentient beings and 13 camel spiders know of it.

If you will help me access the funds and take possession of its, in order to transfer them to memberings of my family, I will pay you a transfer fee of 7.493% of the funds, which means you will receive \$7,903,888.34 for your services. Ha ha, isn't that good?

All that is necessary is that I have at my disposal \$5,000 to bribe my guard, so the paper wherok may be compleated.

Please let me know if this business proposition mek an interests to you.

You may reach me at my private email account, which is monitored by friendly guard: sadamhusnremnant@evldoer.com

Please do not leave me hanging.

Bush W. George

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

November 23, 2005 By CHRIS TOMLINSON, Associated Press & Reuters & Aljazeera

Gunmen blocked the road leading to the Communist Party's branch office in the mostly Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City in Baghdad just after the party began its election campaign, the party said in a statement. The unidentified men broke into the party building and killed two activists in the reception area, it added. [This "Communist" Party supports the U.S. occupation and is part of the collaborator government.]

BAGHDAD - Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb hit a police patrol in southwestern Baghdad, a police source said.

Three security guards were killed by armed men in al-Ghadir, 10km west of Karbala, a police source said.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

“I Am Going To Get Rid Of My Police Badge. From Now On I Will Be A Terrorist”



Iraqi women mourn near the lifeless body of Khadim Sarhid al-Hemaiyem, the leader of the Sunni Batta tribe and the brother of a candidate in the Dec. 15 election, in Baghdad, Nov. 23, 2005. Gunmen wearing Iraqi army uniforms broke into the home of al-Hemaiyem Wednesday and killed him, his three sons and his son-in-law on the outskirts of Baghdad, his brother and an interior ministry official said. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

11.23.05 By Yasser Faisal, Reuters

Gunmen in Iraqi army uniforms shot dead a 70-year-old Sunni Arab tribal leader and three of his sons as they slept in their home, relatives said on Wednesday.

In the latest attack, an Interior Ministry official said 40 men wearing army uniforms had come to the victims' house in the night. Relatives said they were shot in their sleep.

One victim was holding his daughter. "The gunmen told the girl to move then shot the father," said a relative.

The slain elderly man, Kathim Sirheed Ali, was the head of the Batta tribe, his family said.

Sunni leaders accuse the Shi'ite-dominated Interior Ministry of sanctioning death squads run by Shi'ite militias which attack Sunnis.

"I saw it with my own eyes. They were soldiers," said Thair Kathim Sirheed of the men who killed his father and three brothers in the shooting attack.

Sirheed said he and two of his slain brothers had worked as policemen.

"I am going to get rid of my police badge. From now on I will be a terrorist," said Sirheed. Last month gunmen killed another brother and then stole his car and money, he said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

DC Opportunists Somewhat Against This War, For Now

If the Pentagon had been able to subdue the Iraqi population, few in Congress or on editorial pages would be denouncing the war. Countless pundits and politicians continue to decry the Bush administration's failure to come up with an effective strategy in Iraq. But the war has not gone wrong. It was always wrong. And the basic problem with the current U.S. war effort is that it exists.

November 21, 2005 NORMAN SOLOMON, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

This week began with the New York Times noting that "all of Washington is consumed with debate over the direction of the war in Iraq." The debate -- long overdue -- is a serious blow to the war makers in Washington, but the U.S. war effort will go on for years more unless the antiwar movement gains sufficient momentum to stop it.

There has been no outbreak of conscience in editorial offices or on Capitol Hill. Deadly forms of opportunism are still perennial in the journalistic and political climates that dominate official Washington.

The center of opportunistic gravity may have shifted in a matter of days, but the most powerful voices in U.S. media and politics are still heavily weighted toward the view reiterated by President Bush on Sunday: "An immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq will only strengthen the terrorists' hand in Iraq and in the broader war on terror."

On Capitol Hill and among the punditocracy, the failure of the Bush administration to show military progress in Iraq has made the war politically vulnerable.

If the Pentagon had been able to subdue the Iraqi population, few in Congress or on editorial pages would be denouncing the war. As in so many other respects, this is a way that the domestic U.S. political dynamics of the war on Iraq are similar to what unfolded during the Vietnam War. With the underpinnings of war prerogatives unchallenged, a predictable response is that the war must be fought more effectively.

That's what the great journalist I. F. Stone was driving at when he wrote, a few years into the Vietnam War, in mid-February 1968: "It is time to stand back and look at where we are going. And to take a good look at ourselves. A first observation is that we can easily overestimate our national conscience. **A major part of the protest against the war springs simply from the fact that we are losing it. If it were not for the heavy cost, politicians like the Kennedys and organizations like ADA would still be as complacent about the war as they were a few years ago.**"

Countless pundits and politicians continue to decry the Bush administration's failure to come up with an effective strategy in Iraq. But the war has not gone wrong. It was always wrong. And the basic problem with the current U.S. war effort is that it exists.

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.

Burden Of Proof???

How stupid does cheney, that ugly, bald mother fucker, think the American people really are????!!!

From: H
To: GI Special
Sent: November 22, 2005
Subject: Burden of Proof???

Nov 22 By TOM RAUM, Associated Press Writer

Vice President Dick Cheney on Monday accused critics of "corrupt and shameless" revisionism in suggesting the White House misled the nation in a rush to war, the latest salvo in an increasingly acrimonious debate over prewar intelligence.

Cheney also denounced proposals for a quick U.S. withdrawal from Iraq as "a dangerous illusion" and shrugged off the failure to find weapons of mass destruction.

"We never had the burden of proof," he said, adding that it had been up to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to prove to the world that he didn't have such weapons.

Burden of proof???

So, saddam had to prove that he didn't have weapons of mass destruction, in order to avoid having his country attacked?.

Even though anyone within the average intelligence range, who knew anything about Iraq, could've figured out that saddam's direct threat potential to the United States was pretty slim, to say the least; the idea that saddam could have actually proven his way out of this mess is a really interesting assertion.

I mean, is it really even possible to prove that you don't have something like that?!

We all know that this WMD babble was just a pretext for war, for those who thought they could slaughter people with impunity but - think about the situation saddam was in for a moment - and wonder to yourself if he could have done anything at all, to prevent the invasion of Iraq.

I mean, someone could certainly prove that they DO have WMDs; by simply showing them to inspectors, or whoever else cares.

How can you really prove that you DON'T have WMDs though?

I guess you could say that you destroyed what stockpiles of chemical weapons, or whatever other beginnings you might have had of possible WMDs, years ago; and you could let lots of inspectors into your country to look any place they want, if people were suspicious of your claims; and you could let the inspectors then grill your top scientists and military personnel for discrepancies in their stories, if there is anything inconsistent with their denials; and then I guess you could invite the president of the country that was accusing you of harboring such things, to a live debate on television, to debunk those accusations - if the accusations were false, and the inspectors not finding anything wasn't good enough.

But, other than that, what the fuck was saddam suppose to do?

He had already played all of those "games", and many more.

Bear in mind that I'm no saddam lover but, I'm really having a hard time answering that question.

Was he suppose to grab a shovel and dig a pit in some random place of the desert, have the international inspectors out there and say to them, "Back in the 1980s, when donald "the torturer" rumsfeld was giving me large quantities of chemical weapons, I was then thinking that this place in the desert here was a good place to store WMDs but, now that you inspectors are out here, you can clearly see that there are no WMDs in this pit."

How stupid does chenev, that ugly, bald mother fucker, think the American people really are????!!

I think we were around three years ago and can remember what happened. Does it ever occur to some of these people, that if anyone is unaware of what happened in the lead up to this war, that they either seriously don't care about the politics of this war, or they are living somewhere deep within the Appalachian wilderness; and either way - probably won't come out to vote for the war mongers next time!

I know chenev doesn't give a rip about votes because, he's already made killer profits off this war; and probably thinks he'll have enough money to buy his way in Washington until he drops dead.

What the chenevs of the world should know real well though, is that there is no mercy from the grave, for someone who is directly responsible for burning thousands of people to death - and starving to death over a million others. In fact, there's usually not a lot of mercy on the way to the grave either, for people like that.

Solidarity,
H

“The War In Iraq Is Now, And Always Was, Unwinnable”

22 November 2005 By Marc Ash, Truthout Commentary [Excerpt]

Leaving Saigon was hard, but we had no choice, the time had come.

The war in Iraq is now, and always was, unwinnable. We will leave. The only question is how many men, women and children will die as we come to that conclusion.

In 1971, a young Navy Lieutenant returning from duty in Vietnam sat before the US Senate and challenged the entire premise for the war, and in doing so laid the groundwork for peace. He said:

"Someone has to die so that President Nixon won't be, and these are his words, 'the first President to lose a war.' We are asking Americans to think about that because how do you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam? How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

“It’s The Iraqi People Themselves Who Have Joined The Ranks Of The Nationalists”

November 22, 2005 Via Dave Collins VVAW Net

By Charlie Jackson, Texans for Peace [Excerpts]

In my three visits to Iraq I have traveled throughout the country and seen it all...from Saddam's mass graves in Karbala to the lack of repairs at the al-Dora Electrical plant in Baghdad. While some progress has been made, particularly in the areas of schools, water and sewer, and free expression, the overall situation continues to worsen.

It’s not just a bunch of foreign jihaddists who are killing our troops; it’s the Iraqi people themselves who have joined the ranks of the nationalists fighting U.S. occupation. They’ve experienced directly the effects of Abu Ghraib, the operations in Fallujah, Tal-Afar, and Karabilah and the frequent killings at military checkpoints.

Iraqis have given up hope that America will stand by its promise to let them freely manage their own affairs. After watching the aftermath of Katrina, they opine that Washington would milk the wrong end of a camel.

Rather than being “irresponsible” or causing harm to U.S. troops serving in Iraq, the demonstrations against the war actually provide some safety for Americans while encouraging Iraqis who want their own freedom.

It helps them to see Americans as individuals, often at odds with their own government, which is why I can still freely walk around many parts of that country when I visit. Iraqis know even our troops are only there at the bidding of our own “Supreme Leader.”

Regardless of how we got into the war, it was a mistake. Admitting wrong would go a long way towards making things right. But, it looks like we have some folks who’d argue with a stop sign before they would make a change.

Time for tar and feathers.

<p>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.</p>

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

THE FUTURE CONFRONTS THE PAST



A Palestinian student faces down a Zionist soldier at a checkpoint in the occupied Palestinian city of Hebron on November 22, 2005. REUTERS/Nayef Hashlamoun



Palestinians hurl stones at a Zionist army vehicle during clashes in the occupied Palestinian city of Jenin, Nov. 23, 2005. Zionist army bulldozers on Wednesday began knocking down walls of a four-storey building in Jenin. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ballas)

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**“Corrupt And Shameless”
“Dishonest And Reprehensible”
Crazy As A Shithouse Rat:
The Face Of The Enemy**



Cheney Nov. 21, 2005. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

November 22, 2005 Washington Post

Vice President Cheney protested that he was misunderstood when he said last week that critics of the White House over Iraq were "dishonest and reprehensible."

What he meant to say was that those who question the White House's use of prewar intelligence were not only "dishonest and reprehensible" but also "corrupt and shameless."

Senators Clinton & Biden Love Dick

November 22, 2005 New York Daily News

Senators Hillary Clinton and Joseph Biden are on the same page with Vice President Cheney when it comes to not wanting a date set for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

Another Rat Abandons The Sinking Shit: **Rumsfeld: I Didn't Advocate Iraq Invasion**

2005-11-21 Middle East Online

WASHINGTON - US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Sunday led administration resistance to mounting calls for a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq.

However, Rumsfeld seemed to distance himself from advocating the idea of invading Iraq.

He asserted Sunday that he did not press for the US-led invasion of Iraq, as public disaffection for the US military operation there reaches new highs.

"I didn't advocate invasion," Rumsfeld told ABC television, when asked if he would have advocated an invasion of Iraq if he had known that no weapons of mass destruction would be found there.

The US Defense chief added: "I wasn't asked," when asked whether he supported the March 2003 invasion.

But Rumsfeld's insistence that he had not advocated an invasion of Iraq appears to contradict several media reports, and at least one book by a former White House counter-terrorism chief.

CBS News has reported, citing notes by Pentagon officials, that Rumsfeld told his aides to come up with plans for striking Iraq hours after the September 11, 2001 attacks on Washington and New York.

The notes, cited by CBS, quote Rumsfeld as saying he wanted "best info fast. Judge whether good enough to hit S.H. (Saddam Hussein)".

Former White House terrorism czar, Richard Clarke, said in his book "Against all Enemies" that days after the September 11 attacks, Rumsfeld was pushing for retaliatory strikes on Iraq, despite questions over Iraq's links to Al-Qaeda.

Clarke suggests the idea took him so aback, he initially thought Rumsfeld was joking.

"Rumsfeld was saying that we needed to bomb Iraq," Clarke has said in describing White House deliberations after the September 11 attacks.

RAT



[photos1.blogger.com]

Notes From A Lost War:

Battalion Commanders Report Rumsfelds' Lies To Senators

November 21, 2005 Ray McGovern, Tompaine.com

Listening to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on ABC yesterday, I was reminded of his infamous "long, hard slog" memo of October 16, 2003, to top Pentagon brass.

The memo mentioned that he had asked our regional combatant commanders, "Is our current situation such that 'the harder we work, the behinder we get?'" That memo was leaked to the press almost immediately, but we never learned what those commanders told Rumsfeld.

Two years later, Rumsfeld has now heard, indirectly, from the commanders fighting the war in Iraq.

The silver-tongued defense secretary seemed blindsided yesterday, when he was asked by ABC News to explain why the colonels apparently departed so sharply from the official line that they have all the troops they need in Iraq. The interviewer referred Rumsfeld to a Time magazine report yesterday about an unusual closed-door

meeting last week at which 10 battalion commanders were asked for their unvarnished views on the situation in Iraq.

The colonels made their splash in a private, uncensored hearing with concerned senators John Warner, R-Va., chair of the Armed Services Committee, and Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Mark Dayton, D-Minn. Congressional staff members took part, but apparently absent were the civilian minders from Rumsfeld's office who normally tag along.

The Army and Marine commanders reportedly were chosen for their experience on the battlefield rather than in the political arena. Battalion commanders represent the crucial link between operations and strategy and, as a group, are ideally positioned to deliver a reality check to Congress. They are at once close to their troops, responsible for implementing the strategy in Iraq, and, at the same time, somewhat insulated from the civilians in the Pentagon.

So their credentials are impeccable.

They told the senators not only that they needed more troops, but that their repeated requests had been “turned down flat.”

The battalion commanders indicated that, as a result, their units had to “leapfrog” around Iraq to keep insurgents from going back into towns that had been cleared by U.S. forces. They added that there are never enough explosive experts to deal with the roadside bombs responsible for the majority of U.S. casualties.

When confronted by ABC about the Time report, Rumsfeld roundly denied he had ever turned down a request for troop reinforcements in Iraq and claimed there are enough U.S. troops in Iraq to fight the insurgency. Said Rumsfeld, “Is it correct to suggest that General Vines or General Casey or General Abizaid have ever asked for more troops and got turned down? That is flat not true.”

Indeed, Rumsfeld may be technically correct, since the colonels themselves complained to the senators that no general officer had been willing to go on record complaining about the need for more troops.

It all seems so surreal.

It is abundantly clear that there are hardly enough U.S. troops in Iraq to defend themselves and the Green Zone, much less cope with the armed resistance forces.

But where would reinforcements come from?

The Army and Marines—active duty, reserve and National Guard—are stretched exceedingly thin, and all the money the Pentagon has plowed into national missile defense and the Navy are of little or no help.

Rumsfeld Says Resistance Taking Responsibility For Iraq Security

2005-11-21 Middle East Online

"More and more Iraqis are taking the fight to the enemy, and day-by-day, they're assuming more responsibility for their own security" Rumsfeld told ABC television.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Welcome To Abu Ghraib, Colorado

June 2005 Prison Legal News

Colorado: On January 3, 2005, Douglas Wilson, 45, pleaded guilty in Colorado Springs to possession of contraband and was sentenced to three years in prison for passing out cheese sandwiches to other prisoners in the jail, in violation of jail rules.

A jail guard testified he told Wilson not to pass the sandwiches to other prisoners and when Wilson ignored him, he shocked Wilson with a stun gun, tackled and handcuffed him.

Received:

“Religious” Conflict?

From: RL
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2005
Subject: Religious conflict

Concerning what the press calls religious conflicts in Iraq, religion is always and everywhere a question of class. That's because man created God in his own image.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

<http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,
www.williambowles.info/qispecial, http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/,

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

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